



A Network of Teachers Leading in Policy, Practice & Advocacy

We are a network of State Teachers of the Year and Finalists who use our teacher leadership to ensure that every student receives an outstanding education. We do this through our focus on practice, policy and advocacy.

Practice. We focus our time, resources, and expertise on strengthening our own practice and that of colleagues by mentoring, coaching, sharing and offering professional learning in teacher leadership.

Policy. We work with policymakers, influencers and education administrators to promote the conditions, capacity and culture needed to improve great teaching and learning for all students.

Advocacy. We seek to involve the nation's outstanding educators in decisions that affect teaching and learning. We advocate for critical reforms that improve learning for all students, especially those who are most at risk.

How we accomplish our work

- We engage in meaningful, high-quality research and publish papers that answer critical questions in education such as: How well are state tests measuring up? What professional development best supports teacher growth? How do we recruit and retain excellent teachers of color? What are best uses of data about social and emotional learning? What continuums of professional practice best serve teaching and learning?
- We provide meaningful models of teacher leadership and facilitate highly-respected teacher leadership courses that are grounded in the latest research and that build teachers' capacity to lead positive change.
- We provide exemplars of accomplished teaching and resources for teachers, including videos showing how to implement rigorous standards, a monthly webinar series, fellowship circles for specific groups and topics, and a social justice reading list for all grades.
- We lead the profession by working with partners to develop professional standards, including the Model Code of Ethics for Educators and the Teacher Leader Model Standards.
- We serve as trusted, nonpartisan resources for lawmakers and policymakers, who benefit from the perspectives of classroom educators recognized by states for their effectiveness.
- We facilitate networks of educators who collaborate through NNSTOY fellowships, state chapters and partnerships with education organizations to expand teacher leadership and improve policy, practice and advocacy locally.
- Through our writing, our speaking, our research and our practice, we regularly advocate for educational equity and work to create the conditions, capacities and cultures that ensure that all students are prepared for college, careers and life.

Why teacher leadership?

- No one individual can improve a school or system, but a supported team of teacher leaders can connect an organization, making sure everyone owns the mission, goals and initiatives.
- Teacher leadership helps school systems develop a collective responsibility for the learning of each child, where all of the educators understand their role in that learning.
- Strong teacher leadership transforms the profession, bringing top talent in and keeping them, providing opportunities for educators to continue to grow and lead.

"We use our teacher leadership to transform our profession so that all students get the education they deserve."

—Daniele Massey,
2013 State Teacher of
the Year



“Teacher leadership is important for improving learning on a large scale. You can’t transform schools and systems without talking about teacher leadership.”

– Josh Parker,
2010 State Teacher of
the Year



Some of Our Partners:

- ACT
- American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
- American Federation of Teachers
- American Institutes for Research
- ASCD
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Council of Chief State School Officers
- Center on Great Teachers and Leaders
- Clowder Consulting
- College Board
- Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation
- Dollywood Foundation
- ECET2
- Education Counsel
- Education Post
- Educational Testing Service
- Educators for Excellence
- Hunt Institute
- Hope Street Group
- Kellogg Foundation
- Learning Forward
- Microsoft
- Mount Holyoke College
- National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
- National Council on Teaching Quality
- National Education Association
- National Education Network
- NEA Foundation
- No Kid Hungry: Share our Strength
- Pearson
- Raikes Foundation
- Rockefeller Foundation
- Teaching Partners
- Teach to Lead
- University of Phoenix
- Voya
- Walden University

What is a Teacher Leader?

A teacher leader is a highly effective educator who is trained in and practices teacher leadership. Teacher leaders mobilize peers to work individually or collectively to improve practice and advocate for policies and systems that improve teaching and learning.

Teacher leaders may take on a variety of roles, such as:

- Planning and facilitating professional learning
- Coaching colleagues to improve professional practice
- Advising policymakers and administrators on strategies to improve education
- Leading colleagues to create a data culture and use data to solve educational challenges
- Advocating for students and the profession
- Accessing and using research to improve practice and student learning
- Partnering with families and communities on behalf of students

We Believe...

- Every student has a right to a high-quality education, regardless of background, race, gender, disability or socio-economic status.
- To achieve educational excellence for all students, we must transform and support the teaching profession.
- It is imperative that we involve our nation’s expert teachers in conversations about improving education.
- Teacher leaders will transform the teaching profession and create, implement and sustain systems to solve our toughest educational challenges.
- We must prepare our country’s future workforce to be competitive in a global economy and participate in a diverse, democratic country.
- Educators must partner with families and communities on behalf of our nation’s children.

Need to get in touch?

KATHERINE BASSETT

President and CEO
609.992.5532

PEGGY STEWART

Director of Professional Learning
201.317.0018

MEGAN ALLEN

Director of Partnerships
813.748.1709

JANE WEST

Education Policy Advisor
202.812.9096



www.nnstoy.org