



LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

## NIET partners,

This year, we continued to see building instructional skill and leadership as the key lever for improving student outcomes. The research-based practices at the core of our work — building the instructional practices of every teacher through collaborative professional learning teams and individual classroom coaching — have many complementary benefits, including creating cohesion in mission, creating clarity around school goals, and building relationships. The power behind these practices is their proven impact on helping districts and schools *to build instructional skill and leadership* in the profession to increase student achievement.

Additionally, we know a comprehensive approach

to increasing teacher and leader effectiveness such as our TAP System has longer-term positive impacts on economic and social measures. In a study released this year by the National Bureau of Economic Research, the authors found the benefits of the TAP System provide a return on investment of a remarkable 14 to 1.

While we continue to see results across our partnerships, the most successful learning gains are evident in states, districts, and schools that invested in teacher leaders as part of a system for instructional excellence and improvement. With our partners, we continue to prove that building the capacity of teachers and leaders is the most effective way to support student success.

Drawing on our more than two decades of work, we continue to see new needs in schools. This year, we focused our innovation efforts to address

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those needs through three new initiatives that will be released for 2024. Our *BRIDGE* initiative (Building Rigorous Induction and Development to Grow Educators) expands effective mentoring and induction to better support individuals entering the classroom through different certification routes. The *Teacher Leadership Solution* supports all levels of leadership to create an aligned and coherent system that takes advantage of the skills and knowledge of teacher leaders to improve instruction at scale. And NIET's upcoming book, *Unleashing Teacher Leadership*, provides a toolkit for developing skills as a teacher leader.

These new innovations combine with our proven impact in partnerships to allow us to scale the most effective practices and advance statewide priorities that include literacy, high-quality curricula, increased teacher compensation, and opportunities

for teacher leadership.

For example, in Tennessee, NIET expanded support for districts implementing high-quality instructional materials through the Tennessee Literacy Network and Tennessee Math Implementation Grant, bringing our high-impact training and on-site support to help districts reach their goals. In Texas, we continue to expand our support in Strong Foundations for Literacy and Math.

This year, we once again observed our partner schools achieve results substantially different from those around them, including being recognized among the finalists for the World's Best School Prize, as Blue Ribbon Schools, and for best-in-state, best-in-district, and best-in-nation performance. We also saw NIET-supported schools consistently achieve higher teacher retention rates compared to schools around them.

These accomplishments were the direct result of your focus on cultivating highly talented teachers and establishing an environment where teachers can work and flourish through the support of highly effective leaders.

Together, we look forward to expanding on this foundation of success to continue creating opportunities for all students.

*Louise Miller    Joshua H. Barnett*

