

NIET 2025

SUMMER INSTITUTE

25 YEARS OF IMPACT



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WELCOME.



Dr. Joshua Barnett

Chief Executive Officer

Joshua H. Barnett is chief executive officer of the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET), a not-for-profit organization that has trained and supported more than 35,000 teacher leaders for 25 years. With a firm belief in educators as the difference, Josh's leadership includes working across federal, state, district, and university initiatives to apply NIET's research-based strategies that lead to recognized growth and improvement in educator practice and student achievement. He works with NIET partners to improve educator effectiveness and student learning by investing in teacher leadership as a lever for change and creating the systems and structures that enable teacher leaders to be successful. His work supports teachers to develop leadership skills, take on new leadership roles, and contribute to the improvement of teaching and learning in their schools and districts. Prior to becoming CEO, Barnett served as Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of Research and Evaluation at NIET, leading the research agenda and production of evidentiary support for all initiatives and programs. He earned his doctorate in education at the University of Arkansas and served as an assistant professor of education policy at Arizona State University. His work has been published in a variety of outlets, including *Educational Leadership* and *Issues in Teacher Education*. He is the co-author of "Learning on the Job: Teacher Evaluation Can Foster Real Growth," and the author of the book "Unleashing Teacher Leadership: A Toolkit for Ensuring Effective Instruction in Every Classroom."

Welcome to the NIET Summer Institute! We are excited to share this time together and prepare for a strong 2025-2026 school year. We know that having a high-quality teacher in the classroom - supported by an effective school leader - is the most important in-school factor for student success. The Summer Institute will provide you and your team the opportunity to work together with support from NIET to plan for the next school year and strengthen your practice as an educator and a leader. The training and collaboration we have planned are specifically designed to help you transfer learning and impact the educators and students in your schools. We appreciate your continued partnership with NIET, and we look forward to learning collaboratively and setting your team up for a successful school year.

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Lowell Milken Founder

[Lowell Milken's](#) commitment to strengthening K-12 education has led to some of the country's most innovative means to dramatically advance educator effectiveness. As founder of the [National Institute for Excellence in Teaching](#)

and [TAP: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement](#), Lowell leads educators, research and policy experts who forge partnerships that create leadership and professional development opportunities for educators to thrive. For a quarter century, more than 100 research studies have pointed to the success of NIET and TAP.

Since 1982, Lowell co-founded and has chaired the [Milken Family Foundation](#) to discover and advance inventive, effective ways of helping people help themselves and those around them lead productive and satisfying lives. In 1987, Lowell launched the [Milken Educator Awards](#) to celebrate, elevate and activate exceptional educators. Hailed as the "Oscars of Teaching," the Awards have surprised more than 3,000 recipients with unrestricted \$25,000 prizes, presented during all-school ceremonies. Recipients are selected in early to mid-career for what they have achieved and for the promise of what they will accomplish.

The [Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes \(LMC\)](#), established by Lowell in 2007 with 1992 Kansas Milken Educator Norm Conard, discovers, develops and communicates the stories of Unsung Heroes who have positively influenced the course of history. Through project-based learning, students and communities learn that each person has the responsibility to create change by improving the lives of others. LMC has reached over 3,000,000 students around the world.

[ARTEFFECT](#), founded by Lowell in 2016, invites middle and high school classrooms to interpret Unsung Heroes' stories through the visual arts. The initiative offers opportunities for advocacy, recognition, exhibitions, educational resources and professional development through its Ambassadors Program—all to create a world-class art collection by students that honors the profound impact of one individual to inspire the many.

Championed by Lowell in 2014, the [Hoffmitz Milken Center for Typography \(HMCT\)](#) at California's Art Center College of Design is dedicated to setting the global standard of excellence in typography and design education at a time of rapidly changing visual communication methods and devices.

By setting new standards in business law education, the [Lowell Milken Institute for Business Law and Policy \(LMI\)](#)—established in 2011 by UCLA School of Law and Lowell—prepares students for outstanding careers and leadership in law as well as business and government service. LMI provides expanded studies in business law and policy, clinical experience and additional research opportunities for faculty, along with faculty fellowships, student scholarships, awards and business law conferences. The Lowell Milken Institute-Sandler Prize for New Entrepreneurs is a cross-disciplinary business plan competition offering substantial financial prizes.

Established by Lowell in 2023, the [Lowell Milken Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofits \(LMPN\)](#) at UCLA School of Law is a central hub for education, thought leadership and scholarship at a time when the generational wealth shift is transforming philanthropy and giving.

Among other business leadership roles, Lowell chairs the National Realty Trust, the largest property owner of early childhood centers in the U.S., and London-based Heron International, a worldwide leader in property development.

Lowell's accomplishments have been acknowledged with honors from the National Association of State Boards of Education, the Horace Mann League, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, Kappa Delta Pi international honor society and UCLA School of Law. In 2017, he was presented with the Education Commission of the States' James Bryant Conant Award for his significant individual contributions to improving education.

Lowell was privileged to have talented teachers in the California public school system, which he attended from elementary through graduate school. At UC Berkeley, he graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude, receiving the School of Business Administration's Most Outstanding Student Award.

He received his law degree from UCLA, where he was awarded the academic honors of Order of the Coif and UCLA Law Review. In 2009, Lowell was named UCLA Law Alumnus of the Year for Public Service. Both Chapman University and Hebrew Union College have presented Lowell with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

TUESDAY, June 24, 2025

Rooms		9:30 am - 12:00 pm	1:30 - 2:30 pm	2:45 - 4:15 pm
		Session A: Deep Dive	Session B: Team Reflection	Session C: Breakout
Salon A-B	McArthur Ballroom Welcome & Opening 8:30 - 9:15 am	Transforming Schools Through Integrated Reflective Practice Angela Davis, Carrie Pullins	Team Reflection and Application Carrie Pullins, Karen Grose	Increasing Coaching Effectiveness Through Reflective Practice Andrea Divine, Claire Murray
Salon C-D		Transforming Schools Through Integrated Reflective Practice Lindsey Parker, Tiwanaha Washington	Team Reflection and Application Tiwanaha Washington, Claire Murray	Strengthening the ILT Through Leader Reflection and Learning Betsy Fera, Erin Foster
Salon G-H		Transforming Schools Through Integrated Reflective Practice Devon Willis-Jones, Andrea Divine	Team Reflection and Application Tracy Hypolite, Jill Crossley	Increasing Coaching Effectiveness Through Reflective Practice Tracy Hypolite, Karen Grose
Salon I-J		Transforming Schools Through Integrated Reflective Practice Lydia Stevenson, Christina Hulin	Team Reflection and Application Tanjela Sims, Betsy Fera	Leader Reflection as the Key to Maximizing Cluster Impact Tanjela Sims, Jill Crossley

WEDNESDAY, June 25, 2025

Rooms		9:15 - 10:45 am	11:00 am - 12:30 pm	1:45 - 3:45 pm	
		Session D: Breakout	Session E: Breakout		Session F: Team Planning
Salon A-B	McArthur Ballroom General Session 8:00 - 9:00 am	Strengthening the ILT Through Leader Reflection and Learning Tiwanaha Washington, Christina Hulin	Leader Reflection as the Key to Maximizing Cluster Impact Tanjela Sims, Jill Crossley	McArthur Ballroom Lunch 12:30 - 1:30 pm	Team Collaboration and Planning Andrea Divine, Claire Murray
Salon C-D		Leader Reflection as the Key to Maximizing Cluster Impact Patti Cruz, Carrie Pullins	Increasing Coaching Effectiveness Through Reflective Practice Andrea Divine, Claire Murray		Team Collaboration and Planning Tiwanaha Washington, Jill Crossley
Salon G-H		Strengthening the ILT Through Leader Reflection and Learning Betsy Fera, Erin Foster	Leader Reflection as the Key to Maximizing Cluster Impact Angela Davis, Carrie Pullins		Team Collaboration and Planning Betsy Fera, Tanjela Sims
Salon I-J		Increasing Coaching Effectiveness Through Reflective Practice Tracy Hypolite, Karen Grose	Strengthening the ILT Through Leader Reflection and Learning Erin Foster, Christina Hulin		Team Collaboration and Planning Lindsey Parker, Karen Grose

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

SESSION A

Deep Dive

Transforming Schools Through Integrated Reflective Practice

This session empowers educational leaders and instructional teams to transform school practices through a reflective approach. Participants will gain insights on how integrated reflective practices enhance leadership, collaboration, and school improvement.

SESSION B & F

Team Planning

Team Reflection and Application

Participants work collaboratively to discuss takeaways from the session's learning and determine next steps for leader and teacher learning.

Team Collaboration and Planning

Participants work collaboratively to analyze artifacts from the previous academic year, identifying strengths and needs to enhance leadership practices, teacher effectiveness, and student achievement for the upcoming school year.

SESSION C, D, & E

Breakout Sessions

Increasing Coaching Effectiveness Through Reflective Practice

This session highlights the importance of leader reflection and its impact on coaching practices. Participants will examine how reflection, by both leaders and teachers, can enhance coaching opportunities and better meet the individual needs of educators.

Leader Reflection as the Key to Maximizing Cluster Impact

This session helps the ILT enhance its impact through leader reflection. By focusing on reflective practice, this training will equip leaders with tools to segment learning and optimize cluster implementation. Participants will learn to reflect on field-testing practices to design and sequence new learning that is more relevant and impactful.

Strengthening the ILT Through Leader Reflection and Learning

This session equips teams to enhance reflective practice and continuous learning. Participants will gain insights into their roles, identify areas for growth, and explore best practices to enhance their leadership and support others, ultimately making a lasting impact on the school's teaching and learning environment.

EVENT NOTES

SUMMER INSTITUTE REGISTRATION CHECK-IN

Summer Institute general registration check-in will be in the entry of the McArthur Ballroom meeting space of the Arizona Biltmore at the registration desks on Monday, June 23, from 3:00 - 7:00 pm and again on Tuesday, June 24, from 7:30 am - 3:30 pm. Early registration check-in is highly encouraged.

General Summer Institute questions will be handled at the registration counters throughout the training. In addition, staff members will be available during sessions and meal functions. They can be identified by an orange staff lanyard and will be happy to assist you.

MEETING ROOMS

The trainings will take place in the Frank Lloyd Wright Ballroom in the following rooms: Salon A-B, Salon C-D, Salon G-H and Salon I-J.

TRAINING ASSIGNMENTS

Participants will be assigned to training rooms by district or school for all sessions, including Breakout Session Blocks B & F for Team Planning time. All attendees will receive all the training offerings during the institute.

MEALS

A morning coffee break and lunch will be provided on both Tuesday and Wednesday. Dinner is on your own for all days while attending the Summer Institute. Dining options may be found on the following pages.

PARKING

Self-parking at the Arizona Biltmore is \$28 per night and valet is \$35 per night. For those traveling in each day, there is an hourly rate: 4-8 hours is \$14, and 8-12 hours is \$18.



ITINERARY

Century of Great Taste

The Arizona Biltmore presents a diverse array of dining options ranging from casual cool to sophisticated chic. The one thing they all have in common is the pure enjoyment of eating great food.

For reservations, menus and more information, please visit arizonabiltmore.com/dining

Renata's Hearth

Ancient Latin Fire. Modern Latin Cuisine. An enchanting setting for lively Latin evenings; the place to gather and share the delights of fire and flavor, spirit and aromatic wonder. Advanced reservations are recommended.

FULL FOOD & DRINK MENU • OPEN DAILY 5PM – 10PM

The Spire Bar

Your social headquarters of fun; the perfect spot for networking, watching the game or just seeing the sun go down with friends and an elaborate cocktail in hand.

LOUNGE SEATING • FOOD & DRINK MENU • OPEN DAILY 4PM – 12AM

Saguaro Pool

The Saguaro Pool is pure Biltmore glamour with a distinctly grown-up sense of splendor. Indulge in artfully crafted cocktails and eclectic plates paired with vivid design, mosaics and lush greenery.

FOOD & DRINK MENU • LOUNGE SEATING • CABANAS • 21+ ONLY
SUNDAY – THURSDAY: 11AM – 4PM • FRIDAY – SATURDAY: 11AM – 6PM

Cup & Cone

Start the day with a variety of breakfast pastries, coffee, sandwiches and grab n' go options. In the evening, enjoy gelato overlooking Piestewa Peak and Spire Lawn.

OPEN DAILY 6AM – 9PM

McArthur's

Named in honor of the Biltmore's visionary architect, Albert Chase McArthur, this relaxed bistro serves breakfast, lunch and dinner with welcoming portions of American classics and local daily specials in a radiant setting.

FULL FOOD & DRINK MENU • PATIO • OPEN DAILY 7AM – 10PM

The Wright Bar

The Wright Bar embodies the renegade spirit of Hollywood's Golden Age that says anything might happen and probably has – and is bringing back the night as it was meant to be enjoyed.

LOUNGE SEATING • LITE BITES & FULL BAR • OPEN DAILY 4PM – 12AM

Paradise Pool

Paradise Pool sets the stage for a glorious day with the whole family. Race down one of our three waterslides or cool off on our splash pad. Enjoy classic American meals, kids menu, drinks and sweets.

FOOD & DRINK MENU • LOUNGE SEATING • CABANAS
SUNDAY – THURSDAY: 11AM – 4PM • FRIDAY – SATURDAY: 11AM – 6PM

In-Room Dining

Enjoy a curated selection of the resort's cuisine on our in-room dining menu. Located in your guest room, please order using the QR code.

BREAKFAST: 6AM – 11AM • ALL DAY: 11AM – 11PM

Dining Nearby

Phoenix is known for a unique culinary scene mixing vibrant flavors of the Southwest with traditional American fare. We recommend the following restaurants for guests of the Arizona Biltmore. Reservations are recommended for the following restaurants.

Ocean 44

Seafood reinvented in a vibrant, upscale atmosphere specializing in excellent seafood and great steaks.

Steak 44

High-end steakhouse featuring gourmet filets, seafood & classic entrees in an elegant, modern venue.

Marcellino Ristorante

This classy bar/restaurant with wood accents & brick walls features high-end Italian cuisine.

Fat Ox

Spacious, sleek Italian spot offering housemade pastas & roasted meats, plus a global wine list.

Flint by Baltaire

Wood-fired contemporary American fare accented with coastal Mediterranean and bold Middle Eastern flavors & craft cocktails in an upscale setting with an elegant midcentury-modern feel.

SumoMaya

Combining the magnificent flavors of Asia with the robust culinary traditions of Mexico and essences of South America into a dynamic fusion concept featuring craveable tapas-style plates.

Toca Madera

Toca Madera re-imagines traditional Mexican cuisine by taking a modern approach pairing locally-sourced ingredients with bold flavors centered around an elevated cocktail program.

Mastro's City Hall Steakhouse

Posh, upscale restaurant & lounge serving steak & seafood in an elegant, contemporary space.

Barrio Queen

Award-winning authentic Mexican fine-dining from scratch. World-class tequileria and legendary cocktails with locations across the Valley.

El Chorro

This 1937 landmark offers upscale cuisine that is fresh, seasonally inspired and innovative while offering breathtaking mountain views.

Café Monarch

Sophisticated, prix-fixe New American meals in an elegant, chandelier-lit space with outdoor tables.

Richardson's

For a quick trip to New Mexico without leaving Central Phoenix, proprietor Richardson Browne has been dishing up hearty New Mexican-inspired fare since 1988.

Roaring Fork

In the Old West, the best food was prepared on a simple wood fire. This same spirit, freshness and flavor are at the heart of every dish served.

Tomaso's

Chef Tomaso Maggiore embraces the lifestyle of Italian cuisine. Voted best Italian Restaurant in the valley since 1977, Tomaso's celebrates simplicity & quality of authentic Italian food & wine with humor & hospitality.

The Collins Small Batch

Bright, spacious eatery offering modern American dishes, daily happy hour & a bar with TVs.

Vincent on Camelback

Local landmark known for its chef-driven, upscale French & Southwestern fusion menu & elegant vibe.

MAP

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Arizona Biltmore
2400 E. Missouri Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85016



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EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

National Institute for Excellence in Teaching
7333 East Doubletree Ranch Road, Suite 250
Scottsdale, AZ 85258
800.575.NIET | NIET.org