



THE **TEACH** FACTOR

by Dr. Gary Stark

Reflect on the feeling when you attained a school goal, improved your school's state rating or hit your stride on a challenging lesson. It's the rush that motivates you to start a new day. How are you going to best prepare your students for bright futures?

Structured and tiered teacher leadership has not only paved the way for their schools to achieve real progress, but has afforded teachers powerful opportunities to advance in the profession.

Teachers are in the driver's seat in helping students excel and compete in school and in life. Yet their voices are often missing in major national conversations about equipping young people with the skills to be employable and competitive. We can do better to bridge the gap, and we are.

The National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) has launched the Teach Factor Campaign to spark dialogue around the principles that affect educator effectiveness and the teaching profession at large. Through shining a light on America's educators, we will form a collective of concrete solutions that will advance and support educators.

Based on our work spanning two decades, we are producing reports, traveling the nation conducting educator focus groups, developing a teacher leadership series and offering planning grants to state agencies — all toward a goal of making educator quality front and center in improving student achievement.

UNLEASHING TEACHER LEADERSHIP

The high levels of support among our NIET network for career pathways in schools inspired our 2018 campaign theme of teacher leadership. To set the stage, NIET has released a report, which provides recommendations for creating formalized roles and responsibilities for school-based teacher leaders. Accomplished educators in our partner locations connect the advice to real-world applications, explaining how structured and tiered teacher leadership has not only paved the way for their schools to

achieve real progress, but has afforded teachers powerful opportunities to advance in the profession without leaving the classroom.

In conjunction with the paper's release and other studies to come, we encourage you take part in this exciting work. Behind every educational success is a teacher who has worked tirelessly and diligently to realize it. So, we ask, what are your essential "teach factors?" What are the strategies that influence your decisions every day? How is your school infrastructure designed to meet the specific needs of your teacher and student populations? How are you analyzing data more effectively than ever before? How has your instruction improved through a research-based rubric of best practices?

Your voices will join a chorus of America's brightest and most experienced teachers, principals and superintendents to inform decision-making. With your help, we can ensure teachers are at the forefront of change in our nation's schools. 

Take action now: teachfactor.niet.org

