



OUR FIVE KEY LEARNINGS:

- 1 Teachers are and always will be the most critical factor for student success. Continued investment in teachers is non-negotiable.**
- 2 We must build coherence in core instructional elements: standards, curriculum, instruction, assessment, and evaluation and feedback.**
- 3 Schools need to be structured to prioritize instructional excellence.**
- 4 Teacher preparation sets the foundation for effectiveness.**
- 5 District and school leaders are the key to sustained success.**



NIET's Next 20 Years: Continuing to Lead

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NIET was born out of innovation. We grew out of a need for a bold and effective response to the persistent problems facing students, teachers, and communities. While much of our approach may seem like common sense now, when we first started sharing these ideas 20 years ago, they were radical. Create an evidence-based definition of great teaching. Give educators regular and high-quality feedback based on those principles. Develop teacher leaders and empower them to support their peers. Move away from structures that pay teachers purely based on years of experience or advanced degrees, and reward those who are changing students' outcomes and taking on more responsibilities. Make professional learning more collaborative and relevant to teachers' daily work and do away with sit-and-get seminars. Connect what students are expected to learn with how teachers are expected to teach. Listen to what the research says, even if it means taking a hard look at what we have been doing.

It was a shift that recognized this underlying truth: if we want to gauge teachers' effectiveness, we have to look at what students are learning. That is what matters.

As this magazine outlines, NIET has helped our partners make great classroom teaching the central focus of their school. We have been responsive to research, addressed educators' needs, seen what is happening in classrooms across the country, and shown proven results.

We have been successful because the cornerstone of our approach is learning and working together with our

partners. And that is what will allow us to continue to innovate for years to come.

In 2020, we are launching the next phase of NIET's work. We have a suite of resources and trainings focused on principals, district administrators, higher education faculty, and other leaders to help them align to the excellence we have articulated for teachers. We have been digging into tools and strategies that can create instructional coherence across standards, curriculum, classroom practice, assessment, and evaluation and feedback. We have been listening to educators about what they most need and actively collaborating with the education community to address the challenges of our classrooms today – and in the future. These reflections have given us vision for what is next.

The next year – and the next 20 – hold tremendous promise.

Our commitment is to continue to reflect, grow, and achieve success alongside our partners – in other words, to innovate. We will always be the lead learner and continuously push ourselves to reach the next level of excellence. We are passionate about giving more students the chance to receive a world-class education through equipping and empowering the adults that work with them every day, and we know if we do that, anything is possible. We can truly create opportunities for all students.

We can't wait to share the next 20 years with you. ●