NIET works with 75 universities to prepare the next generation of great teachers and school leaders. By strengthening the connection between K-12 and higher education institutions, our partnerships effectively prepare aspiring teachers and aspiring leaders — and they understand what is expected from Day 1.

We work closely with every educator involved in the system, from training faculty and coaching site coordinators to developing resources for aspiring teachers and designing programs for aspiring leaders. We have a tailored higher education portal, called NIET PREP, that equips higher education institutions with resources and data management tools that support their work. Graduates report that they feel ready, and districts often find that educators who are prepared by NIET partner programs are more equipped to meet their expectations.

“Our candidates are graduating equipped for the demands of teaching today. They understand high-quality instruction, feel confident in their classroom management, and are eager for feedback and collaboration. They are given a depth of knowledge in their preparation that truly makes them ready to be effective in their first year.”

— Dr. LaTonya Turner, Dean, Marian University, Indianapolis
How we work alongside higher education leaders:

NIET designs a tailored plan based on the strengths, needs, and goals of each partner. We use our 20 years of experience and evidence-based professional learning content to provide what educators need. Here are some of the key ways we support success in educator preparation.

- NIET Aspiring Teacher Rubric and access to the NIET PREP online platform
- Faculty training and support
- Training for mentor teachers and clinical supervisors
- Residency and induction models
- Aspiring leader and principal preparation pipelines
- Design of grow-your-own programs
- Consulting and support (e.g., course-mapping and data management, collaborations with districts)

Case Study: Texas Tech University

We worked with Texas Tech to embed our rubric — which is aligned to the state T-TESS rubric — into their educator preparation programs’ coursework and field work. Our partnership expanded at TTU to also help reform their principal preparation and development program. Across the partnership, a focus has been on increasing the number of educators who ultimately serve in a high-need school in Texas.

Majority of TTU Teachers & Principal Fellows Served in a High-Need School

Teacher Candidates From the NIET-TTU Partnership Improve Instructional Skills Over Time

Source: NIET Department of Research and Evaluation, 2018

Principal Fellows’ Leadership Skills Improved Over Time

Source: NIET Department of Research and Evaluation, 2019