

# Letter from Our Presidents

## NIET Partners and Leaders,

In many ways, 2021 brought out the best in NIET. Even though the last 12 months have been more challenging than perhaps many could have anticipated this time last year, we have seen incredible resilience in both our team and our partners, specifically district leaders, school leaders, teachers, and students. Across NIET, we pushed ourselves to learn more each day and reach the next level of excellence, and we find ourselves now even more optimistic about what is possible.

At the NIET all-staff retreat this summer, we cemented a new core value for our organization: Agility. This value is built on a principle NIET has always aspired to exemplify, in that we provide partners with tailored support that is based on educators' strengths and areas of growth. Further, our coaching and training are designed to equip leaders to meet their goals — whether for their state, university, district, school, or classroom. Agility is inherent in our support. But over the past year, as modalities and priorities changed and changed again, we have seen our team rise to meet that core value in every way. (See more about our core values on page 11.) The quality and passion of our team have always been the difference-maker in who we are, and as we have grown to take on new opportunities to work with additional teachers and leaders across more schools and districts, we have deepened our expertise and our ability to meet educators' needs. We are more ready than ever for what the future holds.

As we look ahead to 2022, agility will continue to be at the heart of our conversations with partners. The start of this school year looked all too similar to what we saw last fall,



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and we know education leaders are working every day to make the next right decision. None of us can predict the new and continued challenges that may come our way, but we do know NIET will be with you each step of the way and can help you be successful, even in the unknown. This Annual Report highlights a few reasons why:

- We have more partnerships and opportunities to innovate new strategies and address the needs of every student (page 13).
- We have increased our focus on student engagement and ownership, including through strengthening some of our foundational resources (page 21).
- We have more resources than ever, including many available publicly for educators to access easily (page 22).
- Many of our partners saw student

achievement growth in 2021, exceeding national trends (example on page 20).

- We've learned more about how to strengthen key aspects of the educator pipeline, including support for principals (page 24) and new teachers (page 25).
- We have new resources to support aspiring teachers and higher education partners (page 35).

We always welcome your feedback and ideas about what educators and schools need most in this moment, and we will do everything we can to provide that support. You can reach out to both of us at [president@niet.org](mailto:president@niet.org) or individually, [jbarnett@niet.org](mailto:jbarnett@niet.org) or [lencalade@niet.org](mailto:lencalade@niet.org).

Best,

**Josh Barnett & Laura Encalade**



This summer, the full NIET team was able to gather together in person for the first time since 2019. While our previous meeting gathered 43 team members, the size of the NIET team more than doubled by our 2021 retreat, with 91 team members joining in person or virtually. This gave us a chance to get to know one another better and reset on the work ahead.

We are looking forward to being with our partners in person over the months ahead. Having a chance to reflect with leaders on the shifts they have seen in their teachers and in school-wide collaboration is always a powerful reminder about the impact this work can have. Hearing students share about what they are learning and why creates an environment of ownership that we want to see in every classroom.