



Changing Outcomes for Students in Rural Communities

In 2020, the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) started an innovative partnership called the Arkansas Rural Educator Network (AREN) with the support of the Walton Family Foundation. NIET specialists engage with AREN districts to develop a customized, district-specific plan of support, which is designed based on a strengths-based needs assessment. Districts also receive on-site coaching, training, and support along with opportunities to collaborate with leaders across the state. AREN is currently serving 22 districts across the state of Arkansas.

“This innovative rural partnership is making a difference for leaders, teachers, and students across Arkansas and setting a national example.”

— **Dr. Joshua Barnett**, CEO, National Institute for Excellence in Teaching

Satisfaction with AREN Activities

99%

district and school leaders satisfied with the professional learning provided to teachers

Teacher Performance

97%

district and school leaders reported improved capacity to support ILTs

Student Growth

90%

districts outperformed their matched comparison districts in at least one state assessment subject

