

PHOTO GALLERY

Celebrating Award-Winning Partners

We believe that great work and student achievement gains should be celebrated, and we are proud to recognize the progress and achievements of our partners through national awards. Our signature award, the Founder’s Award, honors schools for exceptional implementation of NIET’s principles to build educator excellence and advance student success. Each year, Founder’s Award finalists are selected from NIET partners nationwide to receive \$10,000 each. The finalists are celebrated at the NIET National Conference, where the Founder’s Award winner

is announced and receives a \$50,000 grand prize.

The success of a Founder’s Award winner, however, does not happen overnight. NIET also celebrates Schools of Promise, an award that recognizes a school’s continued efforts to strengthen instructional practices and support student success. These schools are awarded a \$5,000 prize and recognized as schools to watch.

Since 2018, NIET has also celebrated district-wide success with the District Award of Excellence for Educator

Effectiveness. This award — and its \$50,000 prize — honors school districts’ achievements in supporting excellent instruction and improving student performance. Winning districts are recognized for investing in educators’ professional growth, fostering teacher leadership, and increasing student success.

We are proud to feature our award-winning partners throughout this report. This photo gallery looks back at some of our finalists and winners over the years.

CLINTON CITY SCHOOLS

**2024 FOUNDER’S AWARD FINALIST:
CLINTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
TENNESSEE**

Clinton Elementary School’s leadership team puts student academic goals at the center of professional learning. The school has embedded high-impact professional learning into school schedules to create a cycle of continuous improvement through detailed, relevant, and actionable feedback on instruction. By focusing on individual teacher and student needs through data- and student-centered conversations, the school’s efforts have led to increased student achievement.



HMONG COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

**2017 FOUNDER'S AWARD FINALIST:
HMONG COLLEGE PREPARATORY
ACADEMY, MINNESOTA**

Educators at Hmong College Preparatory Academy increase student success by strengthening the alignment between instruction and student needs. Professional learning opportunities are provided for teachers to analyze student needs and learn instructional strategies that directly address them. This alignment has allowed teachers to differentiate instruction and support each student to accelerate their learning.



“NIET’s protocols have helped our leadership team develop a common expectation for student learning outcomes that unites us and allows us to offer superior support to our teachers and students.”

DANIJELA DUVNJAK
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
*HMONG COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY,
MINNESOTA*

“One of the biggest successes of our work with NIET is our structure for a collaborative learning environment in our professional learning communities. Prior to NIET, our professional learning meetings were driven by one objective instead of being driven by what data showed teachers and students needed. Through working with NIET, we now have a cyclical learning process that transfers learning from leaders to teachers and, ultimately, students.”

JENNA SHARP
PRINCIPAL
CLINTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TENNESSEE

OSBORN SCHOOL DISTRICT #8

2016 FOUNDER'S AWARD FINALIST:
CLARENDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
ARIZONA

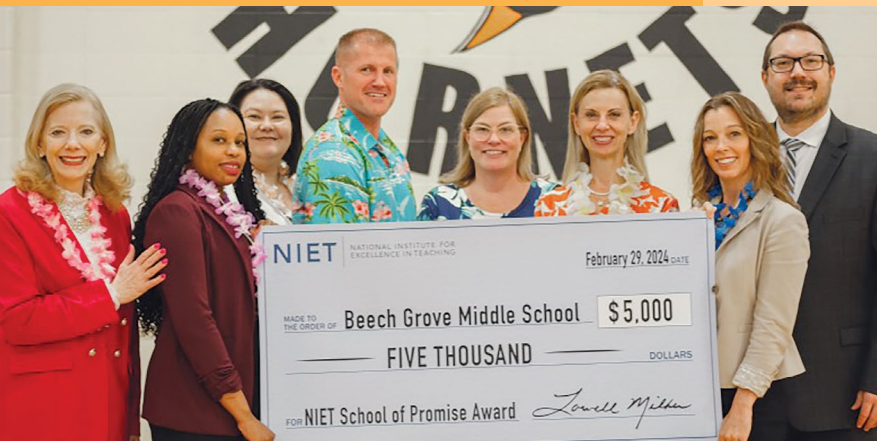
At Clarendon Elementary School, teachers and students analyze data to set goals, create action steps, and monitor progress. As part of professional learning communities, teachers collaborate with colleagues about what they see in their student data and what instructional strategies could take student learning to the next level. Osborn School District is expanding on Clarendon's successful approach in schools across the district.



“We have anchored our academic and student success goals around accelerating student learning while improving teacher effectiveness. Partnership with NIET enables us to continue to grow and improve.”

DR. MICHAEL ROBERT
SUPERINTENDENT

OSBORN SCHOOL DISTRICT #8, ARIZONA



“Our commitment to doing what’s best for our students has always guided us, and winning the 2024 School of Promise award serves as proof that our collaborative approach with NIET remains fruitful.”

RYAN MORGAN
PRINCIPAL

BEECH GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL, INDIANA

BEECH GROVE CITY SCHOOLS

2024 SCHOOL OF PROMISE:
BEECH GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL,
INDIANA

The Beech Grove Middle School leadership team ensures that every student receives high-quality instruction and that every educator receives individualized coaching and real-time support. The school partners with NIET to support this work through a system of teacher leadership and job-embedded professional learning that ensures teachers have the instructional strategies necessary to meet student needs. As a result, Beech Grove Middle School teachers continuously improve their instructional skills — resulting in increases in student achievement.

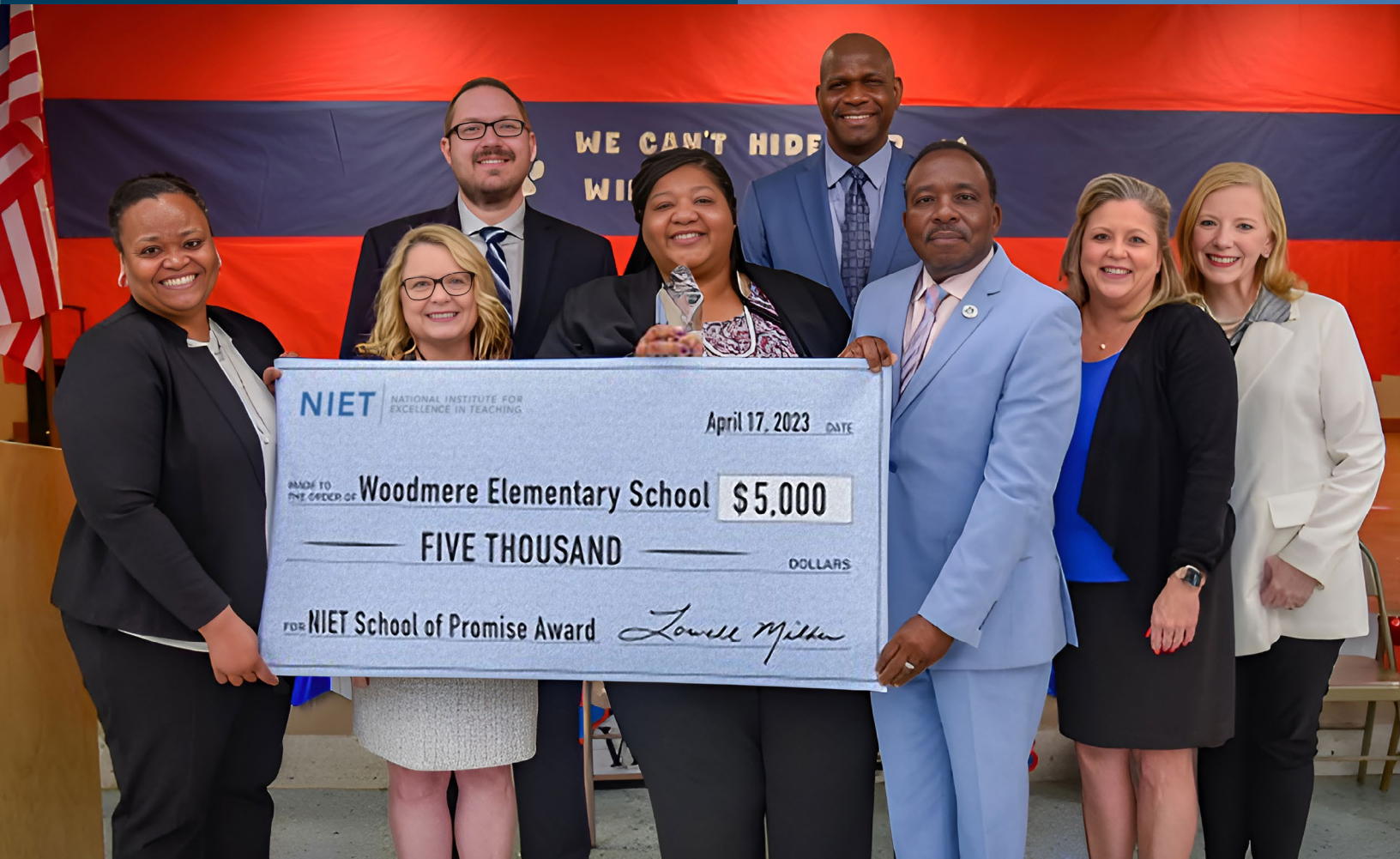
JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOLS

**2023 SCHOOL OF PROMISE:
WOODMERE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
LOUISIANA**

Woodmere Elementary School is part of Jefferson Parish Schools, the largest and most diverse district in Louisiana. The Woodmere leadership team's mission is to provide students with a high-quality education in a positive learning environment. School leaders and teachers advance this mission by implementing NIET professional learning and growth structures to create a strong school culture around a common language and goals. By creating a positive learning environment, Woodmere ensures that both students and teachers succeed.

“NIET has helped us build a culture of collaboration while leading us to become successful at growing our students academically, as well as strengthening teacher knowledge and instructional practices.”

GIVONNA HYMEL
PRINCIPAL
**WOODMERE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
LOUISIANA**



AVONDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024 DISTRICT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
FOR EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS: AVONDALE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT, ARIZONA

To create a common language for the coaching and support provided by teacher and school leaders, Avondale Elementary School District adopted the NIET *Teaching and Learning Standards Rubric*. The district's common instructional language means that across campuses, educators are supported to provide high-quality instruction for each student. Avondale's success exemplifies the impact of high-quality instructional practices and how investing in systems of support for excellent teaching can change a district's culture and student achievement.

"I know that our children can do absolutely anything they put their minds to — and that is our mission: to make sure they have that limitless future. There's no doubt in our minds that NIET is the foundation of our success."

DR. BETSY HARGROVE
SUPERINTENDENT
AVONDALE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT, ARIZONA





PERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

**2018 DISTRICT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS:
PERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS, INDIANA**

Since 2010, NIET has partnered with Perry Township Schools to raise student achievement by putting teacher leaders at the forefront of school improvement. Teacher leaders facilitate collaborative professional learning tailored to the needs of teachers and students as reflected in data. The data is analyzed using an instructional rubric to uncover areas for coaching and feedback, creating a culture of continuous improvement.

“The framework that NIET brought to our district has been an absolute game-changer for us. It has helped us create a laser focus on what kids need and how we can use data to impact the work we do daily. In my career, and in our school district, the framework has made an amazing impact.”

BRIAN KNIGHT
DIRECTOR OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
PERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS, INDIANA