

PHOTO GALLERY

Teacher Leadership Creates Career Pathways

Teacher leadership provides teachers with the chance to make an impact outside their classroom and build their instructional leadership skills. Success as a teacher leader opens up pathways to other leadership roles at the school, district, and state levels — bringing their instructional expertise into multiple layers of decision-making.

JUAN DOMINGUEZ

MASTER TEACHER
SOMERSET INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT, TEXAS

Juan Dominguez entered the education field with an alternative certificate and led his first classroom as a substitute teacher. His commitments to bilingual education and developing his instructional skills have pushed him to be a fifth grade teacher, bilingual lead teacher, and mentor teacher in Somerset Independent School District. Now a master teacher at SSGT Michael P. Barrera Veterans Elementary, Juan uses his data-driven mindset to create positive learning environments for students and teachers to grow.



“Never stop believing in your students. Never stop believing in yourself. Come into this field and come into your classroom thinking, ‘I am the best teacher and I have the best students in my class.’”

JUAN DOMINGUEZ



DR. JENNA CHIASSON

**DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT
OF TEACHING AND LEARNING
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Jenna Chiasson has served in a variety of education roles, from starting her career as a high school English teacher to serving as a reading interventionist, Advanced Placement coordinator, and mentor teacher in a school implementing the TAP System. Dr. Chiasson moved further along the career pathway to district administration in St. John the Baptist Parish Public Schools and Jefferson Parish Schools before taking a role at the Louisiana Department of Education. Across these roles, she has led the district-wide adoption of high-quality curricula and implemented sustainable models of teacher-led professional learning.

“I learned about TAP over a decade ago, when I was hired as a TAP mentor teacher. Being a teacher leader was a wonderful experience to begin to learn and grow. It was a great first step for me outside of the classroom, to begin coaching other teachers. From my career, it is clear that NIET’s structures and practices to grow people translate from the state level all the way to the classroom level.”

DR. JENNA CHIASSON



AIMEE SCHADE

PRINCIPAL
GOSHEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS,
INDIANA

Aimee Schade has spent her career supporting the students and teachers of Goshen Community Schools to reach their full potential. She joined the district as an elementary school teacher before district leaders identified her potential as a teacher leader. She served as a mentor and master teacher at West Goshen Elementary School before taking over as principal. Aimee's experience as a teacher leader helped her build instructional leadership skills and knowledge for success as a principal.

“NIET has provided us the chance to start leaning on people and asking career teachers to be leaders. I feel personally obligated to do that too because someone did that for me. As a leader, it is your job to be selfless and go tap on other people's shoulders and say, 'It is time.'”

AIMEE SCHADE

KEISHA NETTERVILLE

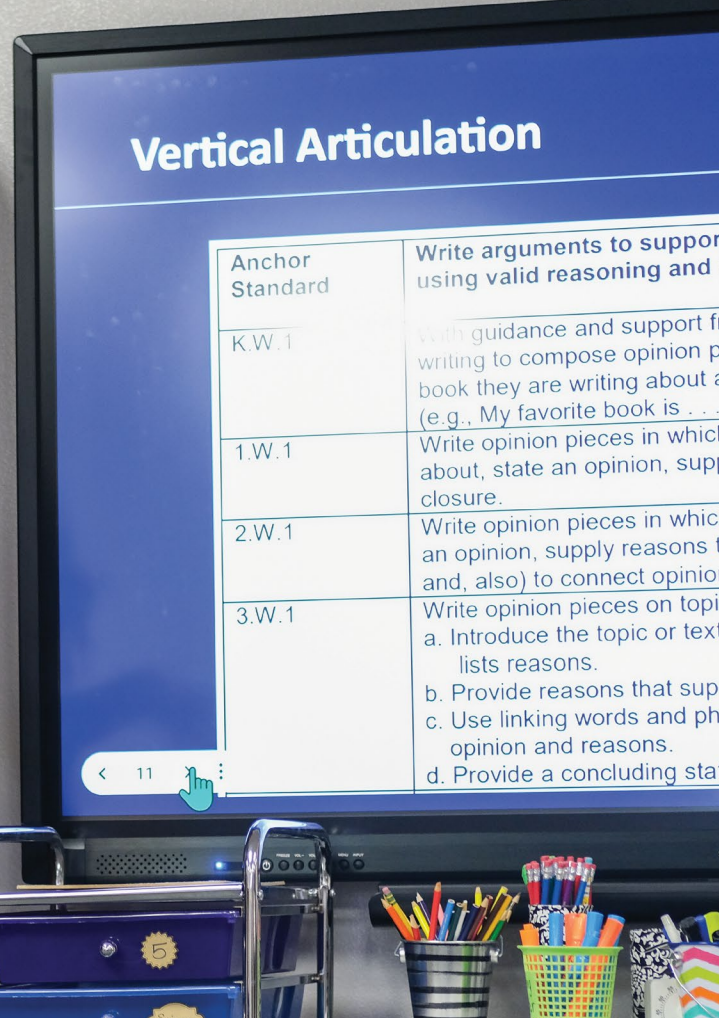
**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
EAST FELICIANA PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
LOUISIANA**

Keisha Netterville has grown from a career teacher into a master teacher, principal, and superintendent of schools for East Feliciana Public Schools, with support from NIET and fellow teacher leaders the whole way through. Critically, she learned how to use data to streamline professional learning, school goals, and district goals so every action is done with intention.

“The support from NIET helped me to not only have purpose but also confidence as I met with and supported my colleagues instructionally. Now, as a superintendent of schools, my vision for teaching and learning couldn’t be clearer. Our transparency allows us to eliminate the fluff and focus on what school leaders, teachers, and students need most.”

KEISHA NETTERVILLE





ALEXIS AGUIRRE

**CURRICULUM SPECIALIST FOR
DUAL LANGUAGE ACQUISITION
AND BILITERACY
OSBORN SCHOOL DISTRICT #8,
ARIZONA**

Alexis Aguirre’s passion for education began after her teachers changed the trajectory of her life as a child in foster care. She became a librarian before becoming a second grade Spanish teacher in the dual language program at Phoenix’s Encanto Elementary School. Alexis went on to become a master teacher and now works in district administration as a curriculum specialist for dual language acquisition and biliteracy. In this role, the instructional expertise she gathered as a teacher leader allows her to support teachers to reach and grow all students.

“With NIET’s structures, I know that every walk-through, every observation, and every professional learning meeting is going to result in something that our teachers can immediately use in their classroom. Whether an educator is in their first year or their 20th year, we all have room to grow. As an instructional leader, that is what I get to help with. I am here to help teachers grow.”

ALEXIS AGUIRRE