



## **BUILDING LEADERS**

### **Leading From the Front of the Classroom:**

#### **Teacher Leadership That Works** *The Aspen Institute, October 2014*

Teacher leadership is emerging as a key strategy to increase retention of effective teachers and distribute responsibility for improving instruction, but it must be designed and implemented strategically to meet these goals. This report highlights promising practices from leading states, districts, and charter schools and provides practical guidance for system leaders. The report highlights current innovations, from emerging pilots to mature programs. Profiles of promising work in Tennessee, Denver Public Schools, and Noble Street charter network in Chicago show how these systems integrate teacher leadership with other top priorities (e.g. implementing Common Core, strengthening teacher evaluation) to increase impact and sustainability.

**[www.aspeninstitute.org/publications/leading-front-classroom-teacher-leadership-works](http://www.aspeninstitute.org/publications/leading-front-classroom-teacher-leadership-works)**

## **TALK AROUND THE CLOCK**

### **Rethinking Teacher Time** *Center for Teaching Quality*

A team of Kentucky teacher leaders is posing a challenge: Rethink professional learning and restructure the school day to improve learning for students and teachers. After analyzing current teacher schedules and conducting an intensive three-day chat discussing teacher needs and opportunities for reallocating time, the group created a shareable infographic with three recommendations for reallocating teacher time:

Redesign school schedules to prioritize learning for students and teachers, promote teacher-driven professional learning communities, and rethink classroom structures and needs. The team also created a series of blog posts on professional learning and a presentation with a video on teacher time.

**[www.teachingquality.org/teachertime](http://www.teachingquality.org/teachertime)**

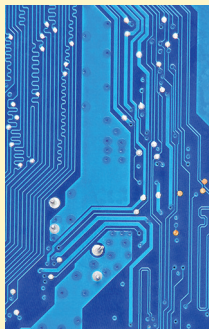
## **IMPLEMENTATION ROADBLOCKS**

### **Teachers Know Best: Teachers' Views on Professional Development**

*Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, December 2014*

To gain insights into the roadblocks to implementing effective professional development, researchers interviewed or surveyed more than 1,300 teachers, professional development leaders in district and state education agencies, principals, professional development providers, and thought leaders. What they heard was consistent: Professional learning is highly fragmented and characterized by disconnects between what decision makers intend and the professional learning teachers actually experience. At the same time, teachers and administrators largely agree on what good professional learning looks like. That consensus, coupled with teachers' increasing use of self-guided online resources and their desire to work together to focus on planning, designing, and delivering instruction, provide directions for the future.

**<http://redesignchallenge.org/>**



## **GOING DIGITAL**

### **Today's Learning Paradigm**

*AdvancED, Fall 2014*

How has today's digital age student changed the learning environment? As teachers and administrators around the world are adapting educational cultures, embracing social media, and applying technology and new instructional techniques, students are becoming their own teachers, accessing media for content and knowledge beyond the classroom. In the inaugural digital issue of *The Source*, authors explore how classrooms and other platforms of learning are preparing the next generation of teachers, engaging students in defining their own outcomes, integrating technology as a tool for producing and creating, and educating today's students for their futures.

**[www.advanc-ed.org/source](http://www.advanc-ed.org/source)**

**SHARE EXPERIENCES****ECET<sup>2</sup>: Celebrate Teaching**

The ECET<sup>2</sup> Celebrate Teaching Network is a way for teachers to connect with peers nationwide to tackle common challenges and support student success. Begun in 2012, the ECET<sup>2</sup> professional network was born out of a desire to provide a forum for exceptional teachers to learn from one another and to celebrate the teaching profession. Since then, teachers around the country have organized regional convenings to bring together motivated colleagues at home, develop their collective leadership potential, and hone their craft. Teachers also share their experiences through online communities.

<https://celebrateteaching.com/communities/ecet2>

**LEARNING TECHNOLOGY****Digital Promise: Accelerating Innovation in Education**

Digital Promise is an independent, bipartisan nonprofit whose mission is to improve the opportunity to learn for all Americans through technology and research. Its initiatives include designing and developing digital learning tools that address the needs of adult learners, creating and documenting innovative learning environments at eight U.S. middle schools, developing a micro-credentialing system that offers teachers the opportunity to gain recognition for skills they master throughout their careers, and building a national coalition of school district superintendents that fosters collaboration between education leaders and entrepreneurs, researchers, and thought partners.

[www.digitalpromise.org](http://www.digitalpromise.org)

**TEACHER VOICES****Teach to Lead**

Teach to Lead is an initiative jointly convened by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and the U.S. Department of Education to advance student outcomes by expanding opportunities for teacher leadership, particularly those that allow teachers to stay in the classroom. Through the online Commit to Lead community and through a series of regional Teacher Leadership Summits, the initiative seeks to highlight existing state and district systems that are working to support teacher leadership, share resources to create new opportunities for teacher leadership, and encourage people at all levels to commit to expanding teacher leadership. To create systemic and sustained change, Teach to Lead involves stakeholders at every level of education and is informed and driven by teacher voices.

<http://teachtolead.org>

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**HOW TO GET IN TOUCH**

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