Impact Points
The Hope Street Group State Teacher Fellows Program Newsletter

Across the nation, Hope Street Group (HSG) creates pathways for teachers’ voices to impact and shape better education policy. Our State Teacher Fellows (STFs) have engaged over 50,000 colleagues as part of their Professional Learning Network (PLN), ensuring that teacher voice is heard and acted upon in the creation and implementation of education policy.

Tennessee State Teacher Fellows asked to develop a Teacher Advisory Council for Shelby County Schools and Meet with Commissioner McQueen

In Memphis, four Tennessee STFs from Shelby County met with Superintendent Hopson to discuss Hope Street Group, the data collection process and potential for future collaboration. Superintendent Hopson was so impressed by the solutions – oriented nature of the program that he asked the STFs to create and implement a Teacher Advisory Council (TAC) in Memphis. The TAC consists of the four STFs and other teachers from 12 regions in Shelby County Schools. The TAC meets regularly to communicate on-the-ground teacher feedback to the district leadership team.

Two Tennessee STFs and Superintendent Hopson have been invited to present a session at the National Board for Professional Teacher Standards’ Teaching and Learning Conference in March 2016. The conference, to be held in Washington, D.C., will explore distributive leadership and share the essential ingredients of effective teacher-district collaboration.

Before Christmas Break, a group of Tennessee State Teacher Fellows met with Commissioner of Education Candace McQueen to discuss the findings of the Fall 2015 Report. The data collection, which centered around Professional Learning and Teacher Leadership, indicated that over half of the survey respondents aspire to a teacher leader role while remaining in the classroom.

“We appreciate the feedback gathered by Hope Street Group and its fellowship program,” Commissioner Candice McQueen said. “Teachers are the most important factor in the success of our students, and this report supports our critical efforts to listen to and learn from our teachers to improve educational opportunities for all students.”

The Spring Data Collection will focus on teacher attitudes toward Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI2).

STF WRITINGS

Tricia Shelton’s Why Teachers Embrace the KY Science Standards

Marie Stevens says Change Is Good in the Kentucky Teacher

Karen Vogelsang talks about her experience as TN Teacher of the Year

Joni Allison talks about Works in Progress: Educator Growth Through Professional Learning Experiences with EdNC

Jonathon Medeiros discusses teaching from the heart in ED Week Whistling in the Dark

“\[This program has been the greatest continuing education opportunity of my career!\]”

Natalie McCutchen
HSG Kentucky State Teacher Fellow

Tennessee Fellows Meet with Commissioner McQueen
Kentucky State Teacher Fellows put their training to work

At the annual Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence summit on November 8th and 9th, eight of the Kentucky STFs were asked to facilitate roundtable discussions with Prichard Committee members and guests around topics such as: achievement gaps in education, the role of schools and communities in ending racial disparities in student educational experiences, and learning from model schools and districts that have raised student learning expectations and student achievement outcomes.

While attending the annual summit, the Kentucky STFs were the majority of classroom practitioners in attendance. They were able to answer Prichard Committee member and guest questions about the implementation of the Kentucky Core Academic Standards. STFs discussed current barriers to student learning and advocated for more opportunities for classroom teachers to directly influence policy decisions that impact Kentucky classrooms.

Kentucky STFs and the Kentucky STF Program Director recently presented the data from the fall data collection to Amanda Ellis, the Associate Commissioner of the Office of Next Generation Learners, Kentucky Department of Education, and her team.

Kentucky STFs hard at work

Kentucky STFs introducing their fellowship program at the Kentucky Board of Education meeting and engaging in dialogue with the Board members around their findings, their work, and the power of solutions oriented conversation with education professionals. The Board was very receptive of the fellows and has invited them back to share the findings of their fall work.
NC Teacher Voice Leaders Present to Department of Public Instruction

Deepening the connection between teachers and policymakers, North Carolina Teacher Voice Network Leaders Mamie Hall and Guy Hill met with Mike McLaughlin, Education Policy Advisor to the State Superintendent, and Martez Hill, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, to discuss the Network’s Fall Data Collection. The conversation underscored the importance of communication between state decision-makers and educators: both Mamie and Guy emphasized the lack of awareness by teachers of many well-meaning resources issued by the state. As a follow up to their meeting, State Superintendent June Atkinson will present the state’s response to the findings at the third Teacher Voice Network Convening in February.

Teacher Voice Represented on Public School Forum’s 2015-2016 Study Group XVI

The Public School Forum’s Study Group XVI tackles a big question: what would it take to provide every child in NC a sound basic education? Teacher perspective on the question is critical, and the NC Teacher Voice Network is bringing its insight.

Mamie Hall, a charter school teacher in Durham, NC, and Angie Scioli, a traditional high school teacher in Raleigh, will engage with the Study Group’s Committee on Racial Equity and Committee on Low-Performing Schools. Representative Graig Meyer, chair of the Committee on Low-Performing Schools, invited Angie following a conversation about her Hope Street Group Fellowship.

According to the Public School Forum, “Study Group XVI continues the Forum’s practice of engaging with major, timely education issues by bringing together stakeholders and subject matter experts to distill collective knowledge on crucial topics to reader-friendly reports and other publications containing specific calls to action.”

The NC Teacher Voice Network will continue to support its leaders as they develop solutions to issues in partnership with education organizations throughout the state: in January, Bridget Wortman will lead a panel on Exceptional Children Education with the North Carolina Association of Educators, and John DeVille, Angie Scioli, Bryan Christopher, and Melissa Faetz will work with the business-led group BestNC to provide feedback on a Student Bill of Rights.

Twitter Impact of our STFs

Kentucky – 12,664 Followers
Hawaii – 4,328 Followers
Tennessee – 5,750 Followers
North Carolina – 3,357 Followers

Latest Twitter Chat in Tennessee

Breakdown of Twitter Chat
825 Posts
97,974 Reach
561,892 Impressions
Hawai‘i State Teacher Fellows meet regularly with the Deputy Superintendent

In November, the Hawai‘i STFs convened for their quarterly meeting with the Deputy Superintendent of Education Stephen Schatz to discuss changes in the structure and direction of the Hawai‘i Department of Education (HIDOE).

The conversation added to our training to teach Fellows where and how decisions are made within the State and specifically within the Department of Education. Hawai‘i STFs are excited to continue the conversation with Deputy Schatz and gather teacher voice from their colleagues across the state. Teacher voice is then shared with both the HIDOE, State Board of Education, Complex Area Superintendents, and Principals.

Hawai‘i State Teacher Fellows planning ECET² HI

Thanks to a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Hawai‘i STFs, in partnership with National Network of State Teachers of the Year (NNSTOY), are planning an Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teachers and Teaching (ECET²) conference for February 2016. The STFs are excited to bring this amazing opportunity to their colleagues in an effort to celebrate and support all of the great work being done in Hawai‘i. Teacher leaders from across the state of Hawai‘i will be invited to participate in the first ever event of its kind for public school teachers in Hawai‘i. This event highlights the partnerships the Hawai‘i STF Program has created in Hawai‘i since the program’s inception.

Fellows have a strong presence at Hawai‘i State Teachers Association (HSTA) Institute Days

Hawai‘i STFs attended the HSTA sponsored Institute Days on each island. 182 Hawaii teachers engaged with STFs at the HSG-traveling booth and responded to the fall survey. STFs also held eight focus groups during Institute Days in an effort to dig deeper into teacher views of NGSS and led professional development breakout sessions across the state.

Above, Kelly Miyamura our Hawai‘i STF Program Director

Left, orientation photo of the HI STFs
Would you like to join the Hope Street Group Teacher Voice Network? Click to here to join!