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 more than 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.

Kentucky State Teacher Fellows and Kentucky State University Create the Opportunity Access Network

Kentucky’s STF program has partnered with Kentucky State University, the only HBCU in Kentucky, to form the Opportunity Access Network (OAN). The OAN is focused on diversifying Kentucky’s teaching workforce. The program and KSU have already collaborated to attend Equity Labs together and are designing training sessions to be scaled. OAN initiatives include Student Agency work as well.

Sharing Best Practices

Amanda Klare, 4th grade Beechwood Elementary School teacher and Kentucky Teacher Fellow, on using Flipgrid to connect rural, suburban and urban elementary students: “The students have seen how they can agree and disagree and do it in a respectful manner. These students are all sharing their voice collectively and listening to others -- this is powerful!”

Kentucky STFs supported an Educators Rising event at the University of Louisville in March, including scoring essays and leading Focus Groups. Educators Rising is scaling this excellent program throughout the Commonwealth.
Tennessee State Teacher Fellows convened in March to review their latest data collection report, community build, and succession plan for the upcoming year. The convening, held in Murfreesboro, included a legislative update from Karla Coleman Garcia, Associate Director of Policy and Advocacy at Conexión Américas. STFs deepened their expertise with peer engagement strategies and analyzed upcoming legislative bills. The next day, STFs led a discussion of the fall data, created workgroup action plans, and hosted a Teacher Leadership Panel, live streamed on Facebook. Year Two STFs met to complete their Mentoring Colleagues micro-credentialing training.

Tennessee teachers surveyed shared that their student teaching experience prepared them for the classroom, and that having a high quality mentor was essential to success. They noted that an ideal teacher induction process should include support in classroom management, more time in the classroom, and significant time to observe veteran teachers. Nearly 1,300 Tennessee teachers took the survey and more than 750 teachers participated in focus groups.
The Hope Street Group North Carolina Teacher Voice Network is embarking on a teacher-led initiative with the North Carolina Business Committee for Education to frame learner pathways related to college and career readiness, share best practices on school/business partnerships, and develop an assessment tool for districts to use in evaluating the equity and effectiveness of their school-based workforce development initiatives. With leadership at a December statewide summit, Teacher Voice Fellows will be facilitating conversations around career pathways that are grounded in diverse classroom experience.

In early March, the North Carolina Network came together to discuss the support and activation of their professional learning network, hear from partner EducationNC’s Chief Growth Officer Nation Hahn on the role of storytelling in public discourse, and peer workshop op-eds to further amplify their classroom perspectives. Angela Farthing, of partner North Carolina Association of Educators, brought lunch remarks and a legislative update. Fellows left rejuvenated and inspired in their professional learning journey.
In early February, Hawai‘i State Teacher Fellows (STFs) spent a morning at the Hawai‘i State Capitol shadowing their state legislators. There, STFs conducted discussions around key policy issues and attended hearings, briefings, and floor meetings. The outing was designed for STFs to learn more about the policy process and to gain hands-on advocacy experience while providing “from the classroom” expertise to their respective legislators’ work, linking policy with practice.

Hawai‘i STFs and their teams scaled the ECET2 conference to five different regional events this year, impacting over 500 teachers in Honolulu, in the Campbell-Kapolei Complex Area, on Kaua‘i, in West Hawaii‘i, and on Moloka‘i. Each event provided opportunities for teacher leaders to share their best practices and provide high quality teacher-led professional development, for teachers to collaborate and provide solutions to their problems of practice, and for celebration of the profession. At many events, content was aligned to complex area initiatives, and included principal and superintendent participation.
In March, Utah Teacher Fellows conducted a dynamic panel session at the 2018 Utah Coalition for Educational Technology (UCET) conference, leading discussion on teacher leadership and sharing results from their fall 2017 data collection.

Teachers from across the state and staff from the Utah Department of Education attended the session, increasing exposure for the program that is closing in on its first year engaging educators and policymakers in solutions-oriented discussions.

As a follow-up to her powerful op-ed in the Salt Lake Tribune about school safety, Utah Teacher Fellow Deborah Gatrell took part in a teacher panel discussing school safety on KSL TV.
Arizona Teacher Fellow Joshua Meibos is Arizona’s 2018 Teacher of the Year

Phoenix kindergarten through 6th grade physical education teacher Josh Meibos was named 2018 Arizona Teacher of the Year by the Arizona Educational Foundation in January. Students describe why Mr. Meibos is deserving this honor in this video, and Josh explains his approach to helping young people develop their confidence and learn by moving in this Q&A with Raising Arizona Kids. We’re honored to call this award-winning teacher an Arizona Teacher Fellow!

“I feel like I learned a lot about the value of focus groups and the logistics. I saw how they can make people feel heard, and as a result, build trust. I think I will be able to engage even more people and facilitate better next time.”
- Kristin Roberts, Phoenix Union High School District English Teacher and Arizona Teacher Fellow

Teacher Fellows Program Mission Moment
After Kingman Unified School District music teacher Susan Collins had a second op-ed published in her local paper (see above), Director Angelia Ebner reached out to show appreciation. Susan replied, “Thank you so much. It’s all about training and support. I couldn’t do it on my own.” Hope Street Group and its partners are honored to contribute to the competency development, coaching and overall professional growth of incredible educators across the country.

Follow the latest from our Teacher Fellows Programs on Facebook!

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Tennessee Teacher Voice
North Carolina Teacher Voice Network
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