

# Teach to Lead



Ruthanne Buck  
ruthanne.buck@ed.gov  
Maddie Fennell  
Maddie.fennell@ed.gov

We are standing at the precipice  
of major change...

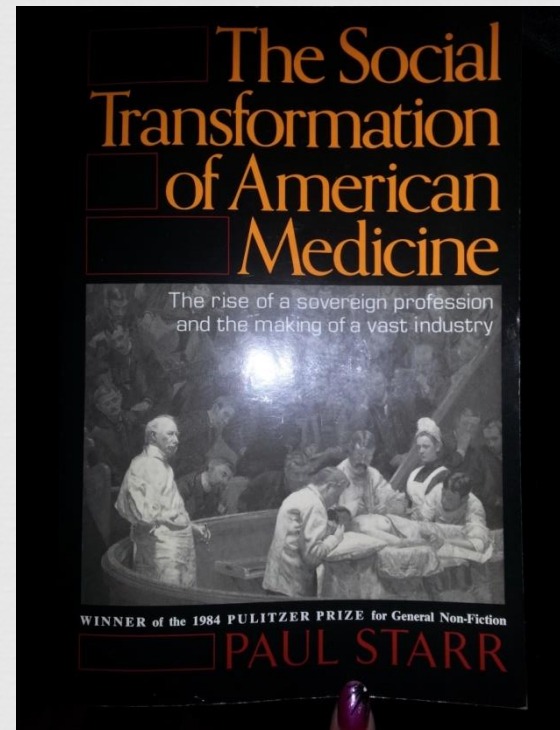


# Has anyone done it before?



A father bemoans the profession his son is entering, declaring it unprofessional, devoid of science and a waste of time.

What was the profession?



# Do YOU want a revolution??



- ❧ History doesn't exactly repeat itself, but it does rhyme!
- ❧ Without an INTENTIONAL transformation shift, we will repeat the mistakes of others



# What makes a profession?



- It has a defined body of knowledge
- It trains every member of the profession in that knowledge
- It governs who enters and who exits the profession

Is this true for teaching??

# Table Talk Activity



❧ What does it mean for teachers to lead the profession?

❧ What would change if we did?



# Why teacher leadership?



- ❧ Career continuums keep effective teachers in the classroom
- ❧ Maximize talents to expand system capacity
- ❧ Moves us towards true definition of “profession”
- ❧ When teachers lead, kids succeed!

# Why teacher leadership?



☞ Principals can't do it all

Mike Lee, AZ principal

<http://www.storiesfromschoolaz.org/principalship-noble-attempt-failing-model/>

“The time has finally come to talk about an evolution for the role of principals, and more importantly, their teachers. However, that talk needs to end in action, because nobody is lining up at the door to fill principalship vacancies. The position is seen by both administrators and potential leaders as unsustainable. Who wants an impossible job?”



# New Leaders



- ❧ 70% of principals indicate their responsibilities have changed dramatically over the past 5 years and 75% now report the job is too complex
- ❧ 97% of teachers list school leadership as essential or very important for their retention – more than any other factor
- ❧ Over half of all teachers who left the profession did so because they lacked advancement opportunities

# TEACH TO LEAD

An initiative of the U.S.  
Department of Education and  
the National Board for  
Professional Teaching  
Standards

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

# Teach to Lead

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



- ❧ Through Teach to Lead we hope to *encourage, support* and *spotlight* ambitious commitments to improving outcomes for students through authentic teacher leadership.
- ❧ Teach to Lead will work to support teacher leadership efforts that:
  - ❧ Increase pathways and opportunities for teachers to exercise leadership, especially those that allow teachers to continue to teach students on a regular basis
  - ❧ Elevate teacher voice and influence in policy and practice
  - ❧ Expand existing efforts and create models for the field of what teacher-led work can look like

# Who is Teach to Lead?

75+ organizations —and counting!— representing educators and other stakeholders have signed on as supporters



*A Union of Professionals*





# How does it work?



## *Online...*

- An online conversation invites educators to post ideas for teacher leadership and gain feedback.
- Teachtolead.org showcases resources and stories of teacher leadership in action from supporter organizations.
- A series of Teacher Leadership Summits and Teacher Leadership Labs have connected stakeholders and spurred new leadership commitments across the country.

# Teacher Leadership Summits



Each summit permitted participating teachers, principals, districts, supporter organizations and states to:

- Share ideas, best practices and learn from examples of existing teacher leadership efforts;
- Identify common challenges and create concrete actionable teacher leadership plans to address them locally; and
- Network and build relationships with other educators and leaders in their region.

# So far....



<b>Louisville, KY</b> -97 idea participants -34 teacher leader projects -15 states represented	<b>Denver, CO</b> -112 idea participants -43 teacher leader projects -27 states represented	<b>Boston, MA</b> -120 idea participants -37 teacher leader projects -27 states represented
--	---	---

State Summit Teams  
Airzona, Connecticut, Kentucky,  
Maine, New York, North Carolina,  
Washington

# Current Leadership Labs



Providing further support through “Leadership Labs” actively working with a small number of summit participants in their communities. Our current labs are:

- IF Data Project, Marshall MI
- CT Educator Network, Hartford, CT
- Illinois State Teacher of the Year Leadership Training and Networking, Springfield, IL
- The WoLakota Project, Mission, SD
- Distributive Leadership, Gilbert, AZ
- Cadre of Distinguished Educators, Portland, OR
- Engaging NBCTs as Leaders, Oceanside, NY
- Writing Across the Curriculum, Boston, MA
- Principals Return to the Classroom to Support Teacher Leaders, Southern Tiago School District, PA