



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Innovation Project Awarded Educator Effectiveness Grant from U.S. Department of Education**

*The Innovation Project (TIP) will use \$21,525,017 in grant funding to support a networked improvement community of 79 schools in North Carolina*

**(Raleigh, NC) October 2, 2023** – The Innovation Project (TIP) announced today that it has been awarded over twenty-one million dollars through the [Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program \(TSL\) Grant](#) administered by the U.S. Department of Education. TSL funding will support TIP’s Reimagining Teaching Talent (RTT) program, a partnership which provides 79 schools across eight school districts the opportunity to work together in a networked improvement community (NIC). The NIC will focus on promoting equity in student access to educational resources and opportunities, supporting a diverse educator workforce, and ensuring educators’ professional growth to strengthen student learning.

RTT will focus on the greatest school-related influencers on student achievement: the recruitment, development, and retention of teachers, teacher leaders, and principals. Educators will engage in a wide-range of wrap-around supports, including leadership academies, professional learning communities, and individual and peer coaching. Districts will also work to establish district-university partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to provide a direct pipeline of educators, create year-long, multi-stakeholder, and equity-driven recruitment and retention systems, and provide support to new educators who are trying to pass the Praxis Tests.

Dr. Sharon Contreras, CEO of TIP said, “I am thrilled that this grant will provide significant resources to help us realize the power of possibility. The possibility of transforming the lives of the children we serve. The possibility of transforming communities throughout North Carolina through powerful, public education.”

TIP will partner with and support eight school districts in North Carolina: Asheboro City Schools, Edgecombe County Schools, Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools, Lexington City Schools, Mount Airy City Schools, Scotland County Schools, Vance County Schools, and Warren County Schools.

Dr. Kim Morrison, Superintendent of Mount Airy City Schools and Chair of the TIP board said, “Mt. Airy City Schools is grateful for the opportunity to be a member of TIP and to be part of this grant as we work with committed, passionate colleagues to accelerate innovation throughout the state.”

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Effective Educator Development Division, the TSL grant promotes performance-based compensation and comprehensive human capital management systems for teachers, principals, and other school leaders. TSL serves educators in high-need schools who work to close the achievement gap between high- and low-performing students

For more information on RTT, please visit [tipnc.org](http://tipnc.org)

**The Innovation Project**

The Innovation Project (TIP) is a nonprofit collaborative working group of North Carolina public school district leaders created to envision the future of education and design equitable, learner-centered strategies to get there.

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