



National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET)

About the Organization

The National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that pursues its mission to increase educator effectiveness through two signature initiatives: TAP: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement and the NIET Best Practices Center (BPC).

In the 2011-2012 school year NIET will support the operation and management of the TAP System in 13 states and 500 schools, supporting 20,000 teachers and 200,000 students. TAP was launched in 1999 as a comprehensive school reform that restructures and revitalizes the teaching profession by providing teachers with powerful opportunities for career advancement, ongoing professional development, a fair evaluation system and performance-based compensation

The NIET Best Practices Center offers “service, support and solutions” to states, districts and schools seeking to implement new educator evaluation and observation systems that accurately measure performance and support improvements in teacher skills. Services include the direct training of evaluators to accurately rate lessons and provide post-conferencing feedback to teachers, online certification and recertification for evaluators, and controls to ensure that ratings are consistent among evaluators (“inter-rater consistency”). One of the first BPC projects is based at the State of Tennessee, which selected the TAP Teaching Standards as the basis for classroom observation in its new statewide teacher evaluation system. In preparation, NIET supported the Tennessee Department of Education in training and certifying 5,000 evaluators in more than 100 four-day sessions this past summer.

About the Presenters

Kristan Van Hook

Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Development

Kristan develops and implements strategies to build support for NIET's education initiatives. These include TAP, a comprehensive approach to school reform focused on the quality of teaching and the advancement of effective teachers in schools, and NIET's work through its Best Practices Center to support states and districts in designing and implementing new teacher evaluation systems based on multiple measures of performance, and aligned with professional support for improvement.

Anissa Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Senior Program Specialist

Anissa supports all aspects of NIET activities with the implementation and management of the TAP System and the NIET Best Practices Center, including TAP and BPC trainings, partnership support, TAP school reviews, evaluation, training and content development for both the TAP System Training Portal and the NIET Best Practices Center Portal and other projects.

For More Information

Kristan Van Hook | kvanhook@tapsystem.org | 202-905-5829
www.niet.org
