



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Improvement Facilitators Get Training through CORE Network

The CORE Districts Local Improvement Facilitator Training Program is preparing school- and district-based leaders to facilitate continuous quality improvement through an equity lens within their organizations.

The first cohort of local change agents who will lead and support site-based improvement efforts had its first face-to-face meeting in November. Participants are learning how to apply the principles and tools of improvement science, a method for improving performance in school systems.

By the end of the year-long program, participants will know how to:

- Produce measurable improvements by using a variety of methods and tools;
- Facilitate situations common in improvement work;
- Plan for the long-term trajectory of an improvement project;
- Understand and communicate how improvement science contributes to educational systems change; and
- Introduce new team members to improvement science.

Cohort members will accomplish these ambitious goals through a variety of learning experiences, including virtual meetings, in-person meetings and individual and small-group coaching sessions.

They are also engaging in independent study, including reading articles from the Carnegie Foundation regarding applying improvement science to education.

Regular reflections on their learning are being facilitated through journaling assignments, conducting small improvement projects, and analyzing and sharing artifacts from local improvement work happening in their schools and districts.

LIFT participants are also members of the CORE Improvement Community, which aims to close gaps in math performance between African-American, Hispanic/Latino and white students in grades 4-8, while improving performance for all of these students.

The 21 cohort members “are deeply committed to the pursuit of educational equity, and motivated to solving the problem of disparities in elementary and middle grades achievement,” said Michelle Steagall, Chief Academic Officer for CORE Districts and manager of the LIFT Program.

Participants will be expected to take a leadership role in facilitating improvement projects within their own schools and districts, sharing their learning with others in order to build local capacity.

The LIFT cohort includes*:

- Amany Hweih, Vice Principal on Special Assignment, Math 4-8; Fresno Unified School District
- Samuel Martinez, Math Manager II; Fresno Unified School District
- Mischelle Repsher, Principal; Garden Grove Unified School District
- Eileen Young, Principal; Garden Grove Unified School District
- Joseph Espinosa, Elementary Math Coordinator; Los Angeles Unified School District
- Jamila Gillenwaters, Coordinator, Access, Equity, and Acceleration; Los Angeles Unified School District
- Angela Hewlett-Bloch, Administrator, Access, Equity, and Acceleration; Los Angeles Unified School District
- Lisa Saldivar, Elementary Math Coordinator; Los Angeles Unified School District
- Lisa Ward, Coordinator, Elementary Mathematics; Los Angeles Unified School District
- Nzingha Sonya Dugas, Director, African American Female Excellence; Oakland Unified School District
- Jerome Gourdine, Director of AAMA; Oakland Unified School District
- Robin Lovell, Elementary Math Coordinator; Oakland Unified School District
- Courtney Ortega, Secondary Math Coordinator; Oakland Unified School District
- Jorge Aguilar, Superintendent; Sacramento City Unified School District
- Mikila Fetzer, Math Coordinator; Sacramento City Unified School District
- Tu Moua Carroz, Principal Supervisor; Sacramento City Unified School District
- Stacy-Ann Afflick, Program Admin; San Francisco Unified School District
- Eve Arbogast, Director, Instructional Reform Facilitator Network; San Francisco Unified School District
- Sharon Bi, Research Analyst; Santa Ana Unified School District
- Susan Mercer, Math Teacher; Santa Ana Unified School District
- Jessica Salcedo, Instructional Coach; Santa Ana Unified School District

*partial list