In an effort to share learnings beyond the LEAP states, the Louisiana team held a 1-day Summit with the Mississippi and Alabama NBCT Networks which resulted in ongoing collaboration and NBCT Advocacy that secured an additional $1 million for stipends and candidate supports in Alabama, with a focus on high-need schools.

Objectives include:
• Promote teacher retention
• Advocate for National Board Certification
• Increase awareness among educators and other stakeholders to tap into the pipeline of early career teachers to National Board Certification and beyond

Activities and Accomplishments

Key Action Plan Components
• Engaged NBCTs in 5 districts to form an Advocacy Team
• Hosted numerous meetings around the 5 Core Propositions in these districts
• Promoted accomplished teaching with legislators, teachers, superintendents, and school boards

Broadening Awareness
• Established a Facebook page, with 90 followers
• Launched Instagram and Twitter accounts and established a network email
• Served as critical friends at a “Teach to Lead” summit
• Presented a Jumpstart Training
• Held “Teacher Leadership Consultant” training
• Formed a partnership with Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana

Stakeholder Engagement
• Increased LA NBCT Network from 5 to 103 members (including 46 NBCTs of color)
• Met with state legislators on the education committee
• Presented to the LA State Board of Elementary & Secondary Education
• Utilized monthly advocacy committee meetings to engage legislators on a proposal to increase LA NBCTs’ salaries
• Engaged with the Board of Regents to connect with area Universities in effort to impact teacher preparation programs

Challenges and Learnings
Louisiana’s biggest challenge was securing meetings with certain high-level state policy leaders. A key lesson learned was the importance of communicating a clear, concise and relatively short message. As a result, the team developed a one-pager for use with stakeholders. Having a year-long calendar planned and posted for teachers and stakeholders in advance may also help in securing meetings with stakeholders who have very full schedules.

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