



Graduate School
of Education

Newsletter

January Updates

January 2019 brought many exciting advancements for TEACH-NOW -- most notably our approval by the DC Higher Education Licensure Commission (HELC) to offer Professional Development courses and opportunities for our graduates and others needing PD. We also hired Kathleen Paliokas, who led the creation of the InTASC Standards when she was at the Council for Chief State School Officers, to be our Director of Professional Development.

To help grow and deliver our content to ever-increasing numbers of people all over the world wanting to enroll in our programs, we have hired Flora Dakas as the new Director of Recruitment, Admissions and Enrollment.

The roll-out of our new website is here! If you have not seen it yet, have a look at <https://teach-now.edu> and let us know what you think and if you have any suggestions for even more improvements.

And as always, we have ongoing efforts to build and deliver ever-growing Master's in Education degree programs as well as the banner TEACH-NOW Teacher Preparation Certificate Program, which has graduated almost 1,300 individuals since February 2014.

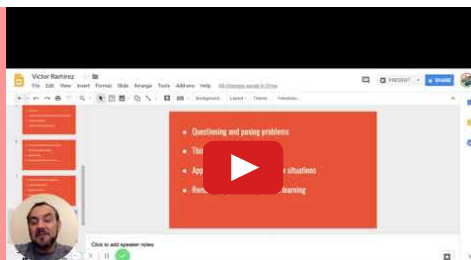
Continue reading for more on what our graduates are thinking, an answer to a frequently-asked question from our Director of Licensure, and information on two upcoming meet-ups!



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Find out how you can use Loom in your classroom from Victor, who just began the certificate program in January 2019!

ALUMNI CORNER

TEACH-NOW Alum Profile:

Justin Barg

Briefly tell our readers where you're from, where you are now, and what position you currently hold.

I'm from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I currently reside in Seoul, South Korea where I'm working as a grade 1 homeroom teacher.

What TEACH-NOW program did you complete? When did you finish?

I completed the TEACH-NOW teacher certification program in February 2018.

What concept, technique or practice that you were exposed to in TEACH-NOW that has influenced your teaching the most?

So far the concept of differentiation has influenced my teaching the most. As a grade 1 teacher at an international school, I am exposed to a variety of cultural backgrounds, English language ability levels, SES backgrounds, and developmental levels. All of these things require varying levels of differentiation.

Ask Angie: Get answers to your certification questions

How can I get my background check for my Washington, D.C. teaching license?

All teachers seeking certification in Washington, D.C. are required to complete an independent Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) criminal history check process. Each candidate must request a Personal History Report directly from the FBI. **This process should be completed by each candidate within 12 months of the date you apply to OSSE for certification.**

TEACH-NOW does not have any links or connections to expedite this mandatory FBI check. We strongly recommend you send your results to our office address, located at 1701 K Street NW Suite 250 in Washington, DC 20006. We will scan and upload it to the platform.

The FBI offers three options for requesting your Identity History Summary or proof that one does not exist. The fastest and simplest way is electronically.

How has the completion of your TEACH-NOW program helped you advance professionally?

The TEACH-NOW teacher certification program has quite literally opened up a world of options for me professionally. By becoming a certified teacher, I now have the minimum requirement to get a job at international schools across the globe.

What's next for you? Tell us about any future career plans you may have, or how you plan to continue growing as an educator.

For the next couple of years I plan to gain experience in the international school system. Afterwards, I plan to get my master's in Educational Leadership, which will help me accomplish my ultimate goal of becoming an administrator at an international school.

Interview by Zachary Hooker

To be featured here email Zachary at zacharyhooker@teach-now.edu



How to Electronically Submit Your Request Directly to the FBI:

Step 1: Go to <https://www.edo.cjis.gov>

Step 2: Follow the steps under the "Obtaining Your Identity History Summary" section.

If you submit a request electronically directly to the FBI, you will receive a response electronically and an option to receive a response by First-Class Mail via the U.S. Postal Service.

For more information about the other two options, visit OSSE's website.

Angie Hicks Skinner is the Director of Licensure and Accreditation at TEACH-NOW. Email her at angiehs@teach-now.edu with your certification queries.



We Asked, You Answered!

If you could teach in any country, which would it be? Why?

I'm so content to teach and work in China, I can't imagine living or anywhere else long term. This country is so full of opportunity and growth and a diverse culture; parents genuinely respect qualified, professional teachers and children are encouraged to come ready to learn regardless of their socioeconomic background. I love the hard working people of China and love pouring out my life here.

--Vanessa, 2016

*My participation in TEACH-NOW has reinforced the idea that **in the digital era, location is secondary** to professional concerns such as having a quality learning network of supportive, innovative, and collaborative educators, and being provided opportunities for professional development. So, my non-answer to this question is that **I'm happy to teach anywhere** that gives me access to these kinds of tools for growth!*

--Zachary, 2017

*I find this question difficult to answer because, as a first year teacher, I've been advised by multiple resources to not fixate on one country or part of the world. I am trying to keep an open mind and not write off opportunities solely based on their location. Having said that, **I would love to find an opportunity in Asia or Southeast Asia.** I am interested in a culture shock and would be ecstatic to build the initial years of my teaching experience there while experiencing that side of the world.*

--William, 2018

*If I could teach in any country, I would [still] teach in America because we have more freedom. Freedom of school choice, freedom to choose the academic path that you want to follow are cornerstones to success, not just in scholarship, but in the development as a human being. The privilege to have parent/student choices is **why I wanted to teach in America.***

--Candice, 2018

OTHER NEWS

Meet-ups in February 2019!

We will be hosting two upcoming meet-ups for graduates and current candidates in February. This is a great chance to socialize, network, and meet others in the TEACH-NOW Community near you! Details are below.

Monday, February 18 at 7 pm (local time) in Tokyo, Japan at Hobgoblin Pub Shibuya at 3F, Ichiban Building, 1-3-11 Dogenzaka

Saturday, February 23 at 7 pm (local time) in Hanoi, Vietnam at Hoa Vien Restaurant at 1A Tăng Bạt Hổ, Hai Ba Trung

RSVP via the Facebook Community Page, or email Rose at rosed@teach-now.edu for more details

