



Volume 2 Number 3

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Graduate School  
of Education

# Newsletter

## TEACH-NOW to Offer Professional Development Courses

In response to numerous requests from our alumni, TEACH-NOW is excited to announce that we will be rolling out a limited selection of Professional Development courses on May 1.

These initial courses will be adapted from content we have been offering in our Master's degree modules and thus they will focus on globalization, early childhood education, special education, and teaching multilingual students.

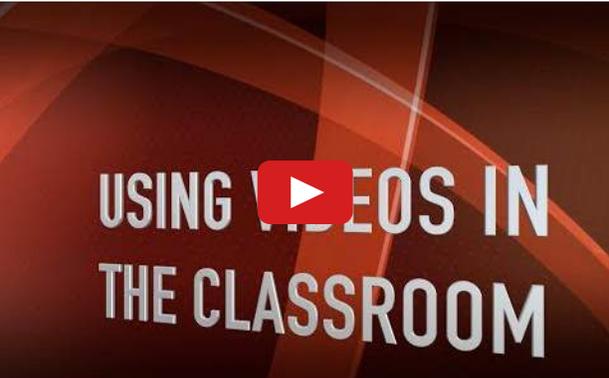
Our initial target audience will be TEACH-NOW alumni, especially those who need professional development credit to meet their license renewal requirements. For each course, participants will meet weekly in a 2-hour virtual class for 8 weeks, earning 4 PD credits at a cost of \$1000.

The emphasis will be on collaborative interactive problem solving during virtual class time with optional outside readings and digital resources, as well as a self-designed final product that will be digital and creative, as well as practical and useful for your own classroom or work.

Once this initial release is up and rolling, we plan to expand our offerings into a diverse range of topics, including hosting subject-specific problem-solving sessions that will be largely cohort driven. The possibilities are exciting and we are very open to hearing suggestions for topics that alumni would like to see us cover.

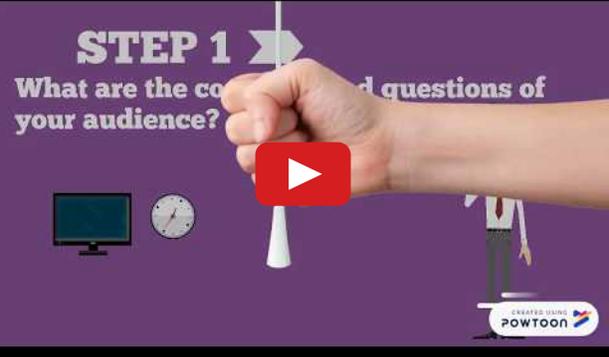
We will be sending out more detailed information to alumni soon. If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Paliokas, Director of Professional Development at [kathleenp@teach-now.edu](mailto:kathleenp@teach-now.edu).

## Videos of the Month



USING VIDEOS IN  
THE CLASSROOM

Check out these  
resources on how to  
make and use  
videos creatively in  
your classroom by  
candidates John  
and Yulimer!



STEP 1 →  
What are the common questions of  
your audience?

CREATED USING  
POWTOON

## White House Proposes Reform to the Higher Education Act

The March 21 edition of the Council for Higher Education news update ran the following story: WHITE HOUSE RELEASES PROPOSALS TO REFORM THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

The U.S. Department of Education has become increasingly vocal that regional accreditation is not superior to National accreditation.

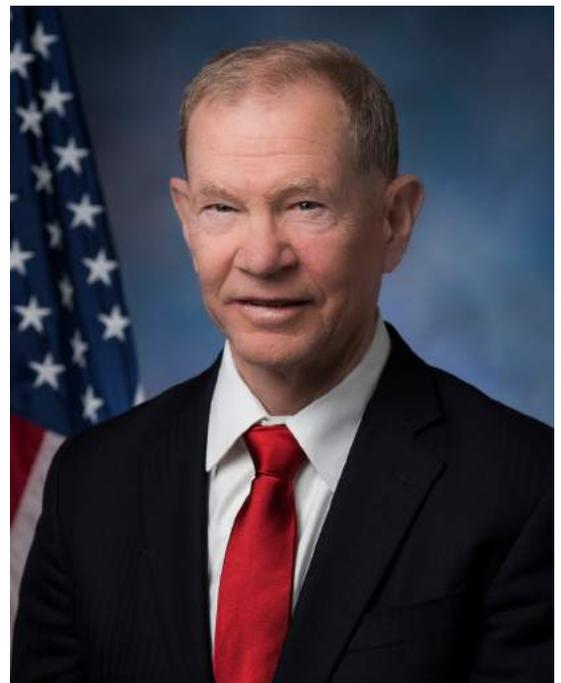
The TEACH-NOW Graduate School of Education made a very deliberate choice to obtain accreditation from a national accreditation organization rather than a regional one for the simple reason that we are an innovative, online university reaching candidates all over the world anytime. Being accredited by the National Distance Education Accrediting Commission made the most sense for who we are and what we do. We are thrilled that the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Defense Department and many others are recognizing that national accreditation is as good as, if not better, than regional accreditation.



## TEACH-NOW Veterans Initiative

TEACH-NOW has had the good fortune to find an experienced and highly-educated veteran to help us build the TEACH-NOW Veterans Initiative. Our Veterans Initiative was launched in 2017 when the US Department of Veterans Affairs gave TEACH-NOW the green light for veterans and their spouses to get their tuition in TEACH-NOW programs paid with their Veterans Education Benefits.

We have contracted with Keith E. Essen, PhD to assist us in outreach to veterans, their spouses, and transitioning military. Keith is a retired Army Colonel who served in Vietnam and worked for the Veterans Administration for six years before retiring in March. He has "hit the ground running" for us, and we are eager to be able to serve more veterans with our 9-month Teacher Preparation Certificate program and our Master's in Education degrees.



# ALUMNI CORNER

## TEACH-NOW Alum Profile:

### Jennifer Johnson

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

I moved around a lot when I was younger, but grew up mostly in the South. I live outside of San Francisco now and am a third grade teacher.

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

I completed the Teacher Preparation Certificate program in early 2017.

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

The concepts of differentiation based on learning styles and project-based learning has influenced my teaching the most. I feel TEACH-NOW exposed me to these concepts in such a way that I am able to effectively integrate them into my classroom.



I am confident when I design a lesson that all students can access the material, regardless of their preferred learning modality.

Although designing project based lessons can be more time intensive up front, seeing the engagement and enthusiasm in the students while they are learning makes it all worthwhile (and then next year, it is already prepped and planned!).

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

TEACH-NOW not only gave me the certificate I needed to make the jump from a part time tech teacher to full-time 3rd grade teacher, it also gave me the tools to better understand emerging trends in education.

As a result, I have been tasked to lead district-wide professional development classes to help other teachers use tech more effectively in the classroom. I am able to effectively participate in a school committee to set curricular goals, and have a solid foundation for further professional development.

**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.**

I recently completed a supplemental authorization to teach Computer Science. I am on the technology committee for the district, and also teach an after school programming class. I would love to one day teach Computer Science to upper elementary/middle school students. I continue to attend conferences and use my PLN to help me grow as an educator.

Interview by Zachary Hooker

To be featured here, email Zachary at [zacharyhooker@teach-now.edu](mailto:zacharyhooker@teach-now.edu)

