

Fall 2010 Update

It has been a busy four months since our Summer Update.

- The idea of a “West Point of Teacher Training” is gaining momentum
- Target Academy Launch Shifts to June 2012
- Curriculum Design for High Performing Experienced Classroom Teachers Is the Next Stage of Work
- We have national funding for this effort on the near term horizon
- We have recruited an outstanding team of teacher curriculum consultants and user organizations (both charters and public districts)
- We were named a Kauffman Labs Education Entrepreneur Fellow Finalist
- We have begun discussions with several elite universities to explore the potential for partnering on the Academy concept

➤ **The idea of a “West Point of Teacher Training” is gaining momentum**

Within the last 90 days several pundits and researchers have called for a service academy-like approach to teacher training. Thomas Friedman, referencing Harvard’s Tony Wagner, suggested a “West Point of Teacher Training” in an OP ED in the New York Times Sunday, November 21st. In McKinsey’s most recent report on “Closing the Talent Gap: Attracting and Retaining Top Third Graduates in Careers in Teaching” (September 2010), they also suggest “West Point style teaching academies” to correct the paucity of effective teachers being retained in the profession. This is strong validation for the work we have embarked on.

➤ **Target Academy Launch Shifts to June 2012**

Picking up the advice of a variety of funders, policy folks and advisors, we rewrote our Academy Launch Plan to include a full two year planning period (up from one) to more accurately reflect the work to be done, the partnerships to take advantage of and funding climate. Our target is to launch the Academy in the summer of 2012.

➤ **We have national funding for this effort on the near term horizon**

Several national school reform foundations have become engaged in our work and we hope to announce a major grant to move the planning forward in the next 30 – 45 days. Several other potential supporters are also contemplating investments given the new approach we have taken.

➤ **Curriculum Design for High Performing Experienced Classroom Teachers Is the Next Stage of Work**

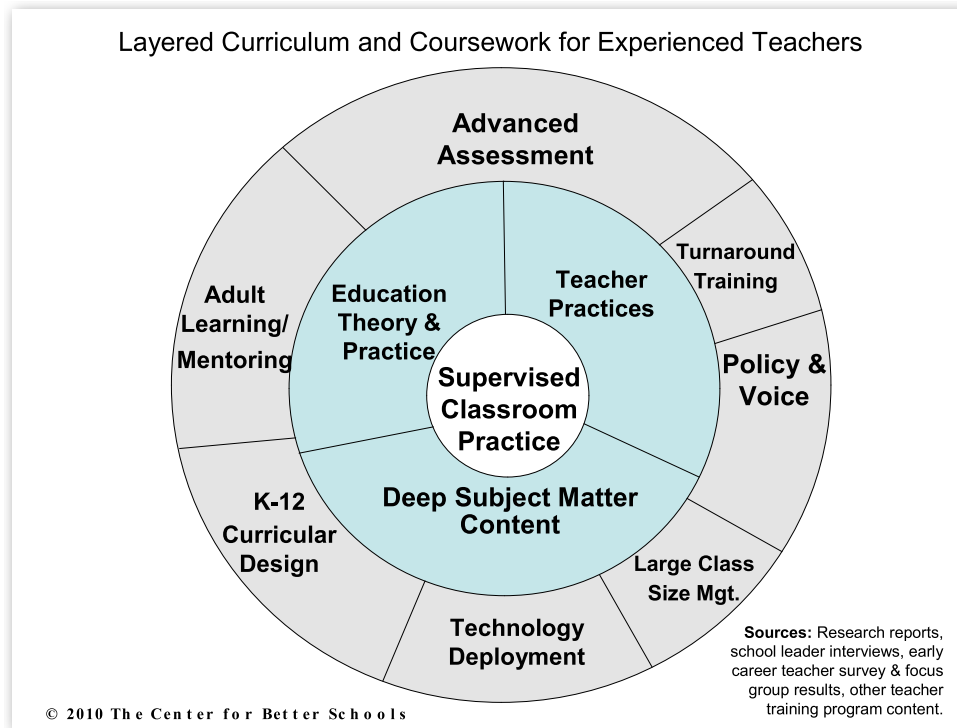
Specifically, we have carved out the detailed design of the actual curricular content of the proposed Academy for high performing experienced teachers and built a project plan to complete that work as our next phase of development. We will be answering the question, “What do you teach experienced teachers, already demonstrating high student

achievement improvements in their classroom, to increase their effectiveness, develop them as the most valuable people in their schools and networks and retain them in the classroom teaching profession?” Our preliminary work on curriculum design (reflected in our Launch Plan, which is available upon request) represents the collective inputs of school leaders, education school deans, alternative certification program directors, researchers and experienced teachers themselves. We have compiled over 40 pages of bibliographic references to date on our Academy Project.

➤ **We have recruited an outstanding team of teacher curriculum consultants and user organizations (both charters and public districts)**

Our plan is to use the research we have completed as a starting point, recruit teacher effectiveness leaders from several of the nation’s most successful charter operators and public districts, bring in teacher curriculum design experts and do a deep dive into the course work and course modules most needed to improve the effectiveness of talented, experienced teachers. Not teacher remediation and not induction. Advanced training for high performers. We are pleased to share that we have recruited the teacher curriculum experts, we have recruited four leading charter organizations, one public district and will soon add two more public districts to complete the core team. They will help set the priorities for the project and will pilot the results when we are completed. The beauty of this approach is that in parallel with designing the content intended for the Academy, we will be able to deliver this much needed content to user organizations, both charter networks and public districts well before the Academy is launched.

Our preliminary map of the layered curriculum is included here again. Preparing teachers for the lowest performing schools, managing larger class sizes, mentoring other teachers, deploying technology and gaining greater competency in using data to drive improvements are just some of the topics being examined.

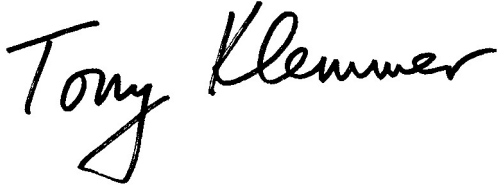


➤ **We were named a Kauffman Labs Education Entrepreneur Fellow Finalist**
 We were selected as one of 25 entrepreneurial educational organizations from over 500 organizations nationally as a finalist for the Kauffman Labs (Kauffman Foundation, Kansas City, MO) Education Entrepreneurship Venture Fellows Program. The Kauffman Foundation has launched this initiative to stimulate innovation in the education sector. We spent an exhilarating week in KC meeting other like-minded entrepreneurs with a wide range of ideas and offerings in the education space and learning of Kauffman's methodology for generating effective entrepreneurial organizations in this domain.

➤ **We have begun discussions with several elite universities to explore the potential for partnering on the Academy concept**
 In the last 45 days we have initiated and resumed discussions with three important universities who see the merits in our work and the unmet need of addressing the ongoing educational requirements of experienced teachers. While we are excited by the prospects of collaborating with such important institutions, we remain cautious given the track record of universities and education schools in particular of moving slowly and struggling to decouple the needs of the market today from traditional ways of designing and delivering advanced professional development content in degree programs.

We look forward to more formally announcing the launch of the Curriculum Design for Experienced Teachers Project and will report new funding, the project launch, project learning and general progress in the coming months.

Thank you for your continued interest.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Klemmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'K'.

Founder, President