

**Collaboration to Innovate the Ways Educators Learn Together.
Collaboration to Build a World Where Every Learner Thrives.**

Dear applicant,

Thank you for your interest in joining The Educator Collaborative, as an “Associate,” for a rigorous and rewarding year of learning.

Our organization has a history of inviting promising, talented, and dedicated educators to join our learning family. We have found that opening up membership to the organization to the public, through this application process and role, has strengthened our learning and makes for an inspiring year.

The “Associate” position is a rigorous, one-year commitment to learning with and contributing to the learning of the organization. “Associate” is a role as a junior member, somewhat akin to an internship, that allows you the opportunity to work closely with us and help to lead our thinking and work forward. In turn, we believe this opportunity will provide you with a memorable and long-lasting learning experience.

If selected, Associates commit to joining a minimum of 8, online, network “Think Tanks” (our internal learning held only for our members); writing a minimum of 4 posts or articles (to appear on our popular blog); and have automatic acceptance to present at our Gathering (our free, online conference day). Associate also have complimentary access to the then-current year’s 12 session [Study Series](#).

These opportunities are designed to forward your, and the Organization’s, expertise, knowledge, and impact. By design, our intent is that the Associate year helps us get to know each other as learning colleagues and see if TheEdCollab could be a lasting home. Future collaborations may develop from the year of studying together.

This letter details the experience, its opportunities and expectations, criteria, and the Application Requirements.

Thank you again for your interest in joining the organization in this unique and exciting way!

Sincerely,

Christopher Lehman
Founding Director

Opportunities

The Educator Collaborative invites promising individuals, with the potential of making large and lasting impact on our field, to join as members. The organization works to align the talents of these professionals to support our collective, and their individual, development and impact.

• **New Ideas, Strategies and Expertise**

- Members join other brilliant educators in conversations that push each members' practice. TheEdCollab purposely seeks out compelling, gifted educators with diverse experiences, identities, and professional foci, to cultivate conversations that nurture new thinking.

• **Respected National and International Platform**

- Members are a part of a respected, international organization. The organization cultivates the voices and practice of its members to make an impact on classrooms around the world.

• **Networking Opportunities**

- Through the Organization, Members have opportunities to formally and informally connect with others in the field, including educators, authors, nonprofit organizations, researchers, professional organizations, publishers and more.

Service

The organization works to align the talents of professionals to support their development and impact. Members can serve the organization, and thereby each other, in three essential ways:

• **Learning of Members and the Organization**

- When members contribute to the learning, development, and opportunities of both other members and of the full organization, we all deepen our practice and shape the voice of the organization.

• **Teaching from the Organization**

- When members create and contribute to the shared knowledge, teaching, and practices of the organization, we impact literacy education around the world.

• **Outreach for the Organization**

- When members highlight the values, opportunities and knowledge of the organization, we all expand our opportunities for making change.

The Educator Collaborative Associate

Associates join the organization through a rigorous application process. If accepted, they become junior members of the organization, studying with and contributing the research, learning, and outreach of the organization.

- **Opportunities:**
 - Learning with the organization and members across the school year, to expand personal ideas, strategies, expertise, and network
 - Granted the title of “Associate” to the organization, listed on the website as such
 - Appearance on the Organization’s blog and at the Gathering
 - Complimentary access to the 12 session Study Series for the Associate year.

- **Limitations:**
 - During the Associate year, individuals serve in a junior member status, akin to an internship, therefore Associates are not eligible for consulting opportunities provided by the organization

- **Expectations:**
 - Learning: Attend and lead or contribute to at least 8 network Think Tanks across the year
 - Teaching/Outreach: Associates create 4 or more (new and not cross-posted) blog posts/content for the Organization’s blog (content will be attributed to the member and may include text, video, infographics, photos, or other digital content created by the member)
 - Fulfill all Agreements, assignments, or volunteer roles that are accepted
 - These Expectations will be fulfilled (or mutually amended and then fulfilled) by August 1st with clear and demonstrated movement toward plan completion across each quarter

Associate term runs one year. May be terminated earlier by Associate or Organization with 30-day written notice. Change in status does not affect or change the terms of any then-current standing Agreement(s) unless noted within said Agreement(s).

At the conclusion of the Associate year, individuals may be invited to an additional term, a new membership role in the organization, other forms of collaboration, and/or conclude their term.

Criteria

Minimum requirements:

- Bachelor's degree
- At least 3 years certified teaching and/or certified school leadership experience
- Demonstrated service to the field of literacy education (e.g. articles, books, professional writing, presentations at conferences, service to education organizations, etc.)
- Ability to attend a minimum of 8, online, network "Think Tanks," generally 90-120 minutes between 6:00-10:00PM EST (apply only if you can attend during this time)
- Legally permitted to work in schools when minors are present

Competencies:

- Knowledge of current and foundational research in literacy education and related fields
- Curriculum planning and implementation, with particular focus on alignment to standards sets and teacher effectiveness practices
- Effective student learning practices to guide achievement across literacy areas
- Strong public speaking skills
- Strong writing skills
- Strong organizational skills
- Proficiency with, or ability to quickly learn, various technology applications
- Strong, self-directed project management skills

Preferred:

- Advanced degree(s)
- At least 7 consecutive years working with students and/or educators prior to joining
- At least 3 years working with adult educators in a professional learning context (e.g. lead teacher; instructional coach; supervisory; professional development provider; etc.)
- Recognized author and/or editor of peer-reviewed, literacy-focused publication(s) (e.g. articles or professional books)

The Educator Collaborative seeks to maintain a team of individuals whose diverse experiences, expertise, and identities strengthen the organization's impact. Interested individuals have equal opportunity and may not be discriminated against based upon age, race, ethnicity, sex, gender expression, orientation, religion, national origin, or ability.

Is This For Me?

When considering joining TheEdCollab, we have come to find what makes for the most effective and meaningful membership.

❑ **You know our work**

We assume that's why you're here! If not, it is important to us that you join our journey with knowledge of our work, beliefs, research, and heart.

❑ **You are curious and open to having your beliefs (about education and sometimes life) be challenged**

TheEdCollab members come from diverse experiences, backgrounds, and expertise. We share the umbrella of literacy, but challenge one another to consider beyond our perspective. This means it is important to be willing to both stand for your beliefs but allow yourself to be flexible. Consider this before applying.

❑ **You are focused on group growth as much as, or even more than, your individual growth**

TheEdCollab has the wonderful effect of building members' profiles in education so their work and perspective can make an impact. Our goal, though, is to be a group and not a collection of individuals building their "edu-brands." We know that together we create the most good; this takes true focus on contributing to the growth of the group. Consider your primary goals for membership before applying.

❑ **You are able and willing to prioritize time for TheEdCollab, even though you are incredibly busy (like all of us) you can keep your commitments to the group**

TheEdCollab is, by design, a remote membership organization, this way we are not limited by location to find the most exciting people to learn with. That means our meetings often have to be held during the evening (in the U.S.), when the majority of members are not at work... that time, is still, however incredibly busy for everyone. Consider your ability and your willingness to prioritize TheEdCollab several times over the year.

❑ **You are not in the midst of starting or growing your own business, taking on a brand new position, or other major life change that deserves your attention**

We have found that often, even the most well-meaning members, cannot sustain focus on maintaining a new life change or new work role and membership. One, understandably, needs to slide. While these do not bar your chances to be accepted, do carefully consider where your focus can be (and should be!) over the year.

Application Requirements and Steps

1. Complete online application found at this link:
TheEducatorCollaborative.com/Contact-Us/
 - Application includes:
 - Logistics and biographical questions
 - Short responses
 - Agreement to Terms
2. If invited, attend an online interview
3. Accept final invitation and sign contract