



**TEACH
FOR
AMERICA**
35

**The
Power
of Us**



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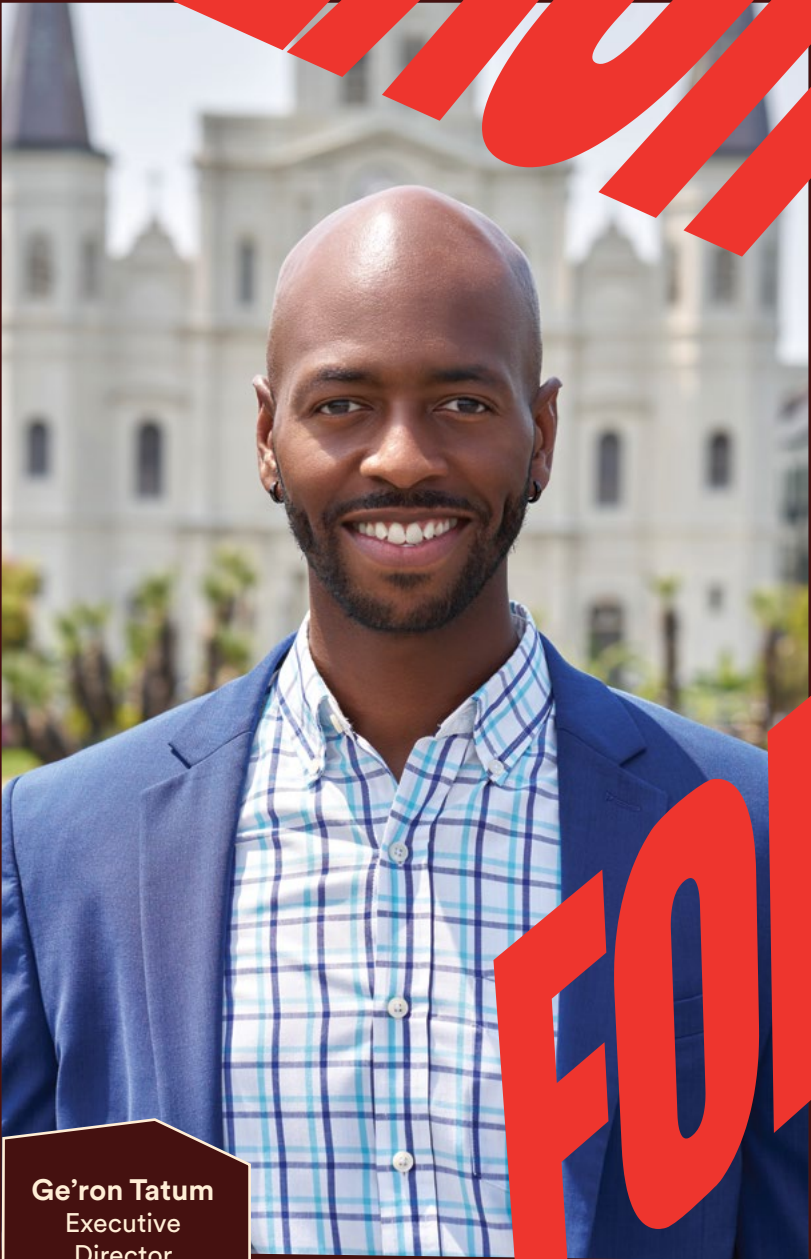
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Ge'ron Tatum
Executive Director

Letter from Our
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thirty-five years ago, a bold idea took root in New Orleans.

The idea was simple but powerful: that exceptional talent, leadership, and a generation’s deep commitment to bold change could help ensure that every child has access to an excellent education.

At the time, few could have imagined what the next three and a half decades would hold. Today, Teach For America’s story in New Orleans is one of resilience, transformation, and possibility. In that time, thousands of corps members and alumni have stepped into classrooms across this city and several surrounding parishes. They have taught math and reading, coached debate teams, established robotics clubs, and built classrooms where students feel known, challenged, and inspired. And their impact has extended far beyond the classroom.

Teach For America alumni have become school founders, principals, district leaders, policy advocates, nonprofit leaders, elected officials, doctors, lawyers, and community organizers. They’ve helped build and lead schools that are redefining what’s possible for students in New Orleans.

And the results are real.

Over the past two decades, New Orleans has undergone one of the most significant public education transformations in the country. Graduation rates have climbed dramatically. College enrollment has increased. While our system is far from perfect, there are bright spots all across New Orleans. In the most recent assessment of New Orleans Schools, NOLA-PS received a “B” rating for the first time in its history, 90% of schools earned an A or B, 75% showed overall improvement, and no school earned an F rating. There are now countless examples of schools where students are thriving, educators are redefining excellence, and leaders are pushing our city forward.

Teach For America has been proud to be part of that story.

But anniversaries are not only moments to celebrate, they are moments to reflect on what still must change.

Too many students in New Orleans still attend schools that are not consistently delivering the level of opportunity every child deserves. Across our city, families are still asking for schools that fully prepare their children for every aspect of the futures they deserve. The work ahead of us requires more than great classrooms. It requires aligned action across communities, schools, nonprofits, and policymakers. And, it requires a continued commitment to recruiting and developing leaders who believe deeply in the potential of every child in this city.

That is the role Teach For America will continue to play.

Over the next chapter of our work, we are committed to strengthening the pipeline of talented educators entering our schools, supporting the growth and retention of great teachers and leaders, investing in the expansion of proven student-centered practices such as high-dosage tutoring, and investing in the alumni who are building solutions across New Orleans’ education landscape. We will continue to listen to communities, partner with schools, and support leaders who are working every day to ensure that the promise of an excellent education becomes a reality for all students.

Thirty-five years ago, this work began with a belief in the power of exceptional young people. Today, that belief remains and is stronger than ever, because when talented, committed leaders come together with courage, humility, and a deep belief in the brilliance of New Orleans’ students, extraordinary things can happen. The future we are building together is so bright.

With gratitude,
Ge'ron Tatum

Executive Director
Teach For America Greater New Orleans

WHY TEACH FOR AMERICA CAME TO LOUISIANA

OUR BEGINNINGS

Teach For America’s choice to make Greater New Orleans one of six founding regions was grounded in both urgency and belief in the community. At the time, Louisiana’s education system ranked among the lowest in the nation; too many students were not being set up for long-term success. But alongside that challenge was a clear opportunity: to partner with communities in the South and help expand what was possible for students. Establishing a presence in Greater New Orleans reflected a commitment to supporting regions where the need was great and where meaningful progress could take root.

THE EARLY DAYS

That commitment came to life through the people who chose to show up: our corps members, alumni, and community members. Early corps members and alumni played a critical role in recruiting others to join them, building a growing network of educators who believed in the potential of Louisiana’s students. What began as a small group quickly became a community; one that not only taught in local classrooms, but chose to put down roots and help shape the future of Greater New Orleans through education, leadership, and service.

2x

INCREASE IN READING
PROFICIENCY SINCE 1990

1 of 6

FOUNDING TFA REGIONS

OVER

250,000

STUDENTS REACHED SINCE 1990



“

MY BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM SERVING AS A TEACH FOR AMERICA CORPS MEMBER WAS REALIZING THAT TEACHING IS ABOUT MORE THAN DELIVERING CONTENT - IT’S ABOUT NURTURING CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY, AND A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY IN YOUNG PEOPLE.

”

Daneell Moore,
Founder & Literacy Consultant | Greater New Orleans ‘12





TERIECE REYNOLDS

GNO 2025
1st Year Corps Member

Teriece teaches 11th- and 12th-grade Civics & Government at George Washington Carver High School, where she believes education empowers students. Each morning, she greets students with warmth—listening to their stories, celebrating wins, and offering reassurance. Her goal is simple: to say or do something that stays with them beyond the classroom.

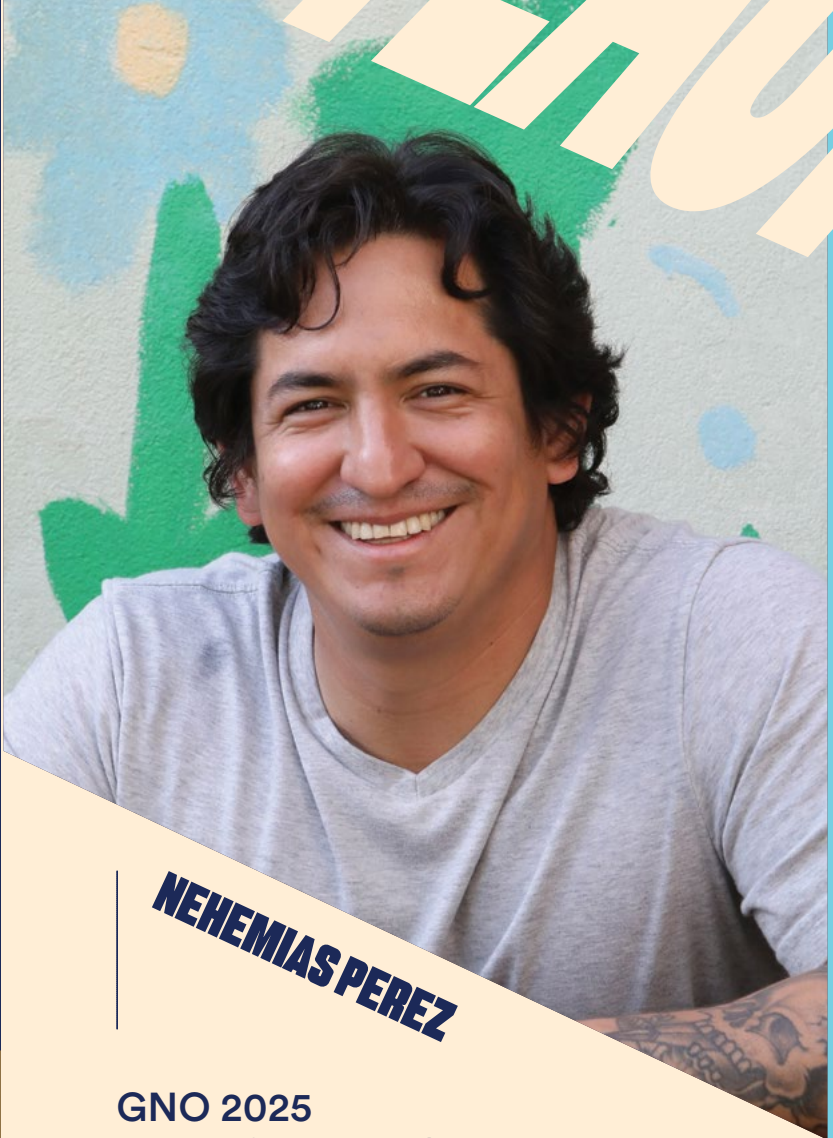
In her class, learning connects to the real world. Through projects like a Black History assignment on African Americans in government, students discover new leaders and expand their sense of possibility. This year, she's seen growth in confidence, critical thinking, and ownership. As she strengthens her practice, she remains grounded in purpose and positivity.

GNO 2024
2nd Year Corps Member

Cassandra believes teaching begins with connection. She values building relationships with families and serving as a trusted support system, while learning how each student grows academically, socially, and emotionally. One of her most meaningful moments was watching a 2nd grader who once struggled light up with excitement over reading and proudly share their progress—a turning point in confidence.

This year, Cassandra has focused on building academic confidence and independence. Through strong literacy instruction, she's seen students grow from letter sounds to full sentences—milestones that can reshape a child's identity. In her second year, she continues to grow as an educator, staying committed to helping every child feel capable and supported.

CASSANDRA BUTILLOS ARREOLA



NEHEMIAS PEREZ

GNO 2025
1st Year Corps Member

Nehemias Perez finds the heart of teaching in the relationships he builds with his 5th- and 6th-grade SPED math students. He values understanding their strengths, challenges, and motivations, knowing growth extends beyond academics. One standout moment was attending a student's sporting event and seeing teamwork, encouragement, and pride—reminding him that his impact reaches far beyond the classroom.

In his classroom, daily wins—big and small—matter. From improved reading fluency to personal growth, he celebrates each milestone. Transitioning from a military background challenged him to lead with patience and flexibility. This year, he's seen growth in his students' confidence and in himself, while also fostering stronger community among staff.

OUR CORPS AT A GLANCE

Our corps members are driving classroom success across Greater New Orleans through strong preparation, deep community connection, and service in high-needs schools. A majority identify as BIPOC and/or come from low-income backgrounds, many are New Orleans natives, and all complete a high-quality teacher certification pathway during their two-year commitment.

51% of CMs are BIPOC and/or come from a low-income background

40% of our CMs are NOLA natives

58% of CMs are in high-needs STEM positions

20% of our CMs are SPED case managers and service providers

100% of CMs engage in and complete a high quality teacher certification pathway during their 2 year commitment

35 YEARS OF IMPACT

2024-2025

254 Total Teacher Force **2200** Students Reached **20** Schools

49% First-Gen Grad **51%** BIPOC **58%** STEM Teacher **62%** Low-Income Background

18% Middle School **46%** High School **32%** Elementary School

Parishes Across the State

 Alumni are living in **32** parishes across Louisiana

1084 Alumni who live in Greater New Orleans

School Partners Served Across the Region

 **37** Partners **305** Schools

Ignite 2024-2025

128 Ignite Fellows **4** Schools

Leadership Pipeline Impact from Riverbend Research Alumni Report

Among the current

1334

TFA Louisiana Alumni (2024-25)



work in the education sector



work in professional services



work in healthcare

Leading Schools

136

Public Policy

37

Non-Profits

46

Principal Survey* Survey Data

*14 principals responded to survey

93% recommend TFA to fellow school leaders

93% satisfied with CMs at their schools

93% would hire a CM to fill a vacancy

End-of-Year Corps Member Survey Survey Data

95% proud to be part of TFA

90% working in partnership with family & community to ensure all children have an excellent education

92% feel like part of a broader coalition pursuing excellent education for all students

98% committed to working to ensure all children have an excellent education



ADAM MEINIG

GNO 2000

Education Leadership
Executive Director, Brave Course Leadership

For Adam Meinig, Teach For America was more than a starting point—it was a calling. He began in Greater New Orleans in 2000, driven by a commitment to serve students and help build a better future. His first classroom shaped a 25-year career in teaching and leadership, including opening a high-performing open-admission school after Hurricane Katrina. While proud of academic success, he values the community and hope built for families rebuilding their lives. Adam has also faced deep loss, including students to gun violence, strengthening his resolve. Looking ahead, he envisions schools focused less on test scores and more on meaningful experiences that help students see their strength, potential, and purpose.

GNO 2011

Nonprofit + Youth Development
Chief Strategy Officer,
New Orleans Career Center

Jake Gleghorn's Teach For America experience in Greater New Orleans shaped his belief in the power of education to transform lives. Teaching at Schwarz Alternative School in 2011, he saw how strong instruction and support help students build agency, pursue opportunity, and engage with their communities. Over a decade in the classroom, he led students to meaningful academic growth and built equity-centered learning environments, while also developing as a leader and earning National Board Certification. Now in executive leadership at New Orleans Career Center, Jake has helped expand its reach significantly. Looking ahead, he champions career-connected learning and career and technical education, emphasizing the need for students to gain real-world skills, confidence, and technological fluency to thrive in an evolving economy.

JAKE GLEGHORN



LISA STAPLES

South Louisiana 2012

Policy + Advocacy
Program Manager, LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Public Health - Center for Evidence

Lisa Staples began her career teaching Pre-K and Kindergarten in South Louisiana, where her time at Lanier Elementary revealed both the promise of early learning and the systemic barriers families face. Through Teach For America, she developed a deep understanding of Louisiana's education system and a desire to expand her impact. After four years in the classroom, she earned a Master of Public Health and now works to improve access to behavioral health services for Medicaid families while strengthening the workforce through evidence-based practices. Her advocacy has also informed state policy, including research supporting ACT 450 (2020). Lisa believes the future of education must prioritize early childhood and specialized services, emphasizing that early intervention is essential to changing life trajectories.

GNO 2014

Entrepreneurship + Innovation
Chief of Talent, New Schools for New Orleans

Dr. Jahquille Ross joined Teach For America to return home and serve the community that shaped him, teaching for eight years at Alice Harte Charter School in Greater New Orleans. His experiences fueled a career spanning classroom teaching, school leadership, and now Chief of Talent at New Schools for New Orleans. He earned his doctorate before 30 and founded the New Orleans Teacher Community, including NOLA Teacher Fest, which celebrates thousands of educators annually. Looking ahead, Jahquille emphasizes investing in educators—especially increasing teacher pay—while continuing progress for Black and Brown students. He believes the future of education depends on supporting teachers and expanding opportunities for the next generation.

DR. JAHQUILLE ROSS





RENEW EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Tanya Bryant | GNO 2003
ReNEW Schools
CEO

Lisa Giarratano | GNO 2007
ReNEW Schools
Chief Academic Officer

Mike Galdi | GNO 2003
ReNEW Schools
Chief of Staff

Vasy McCoy | GNO 2007
ReNEW Schools
Chief of Schools



From corps member placement to coaching, professional development, and tutoring, our partnership with ReNEW has allowed TFA to support educators and students at every level of the network.

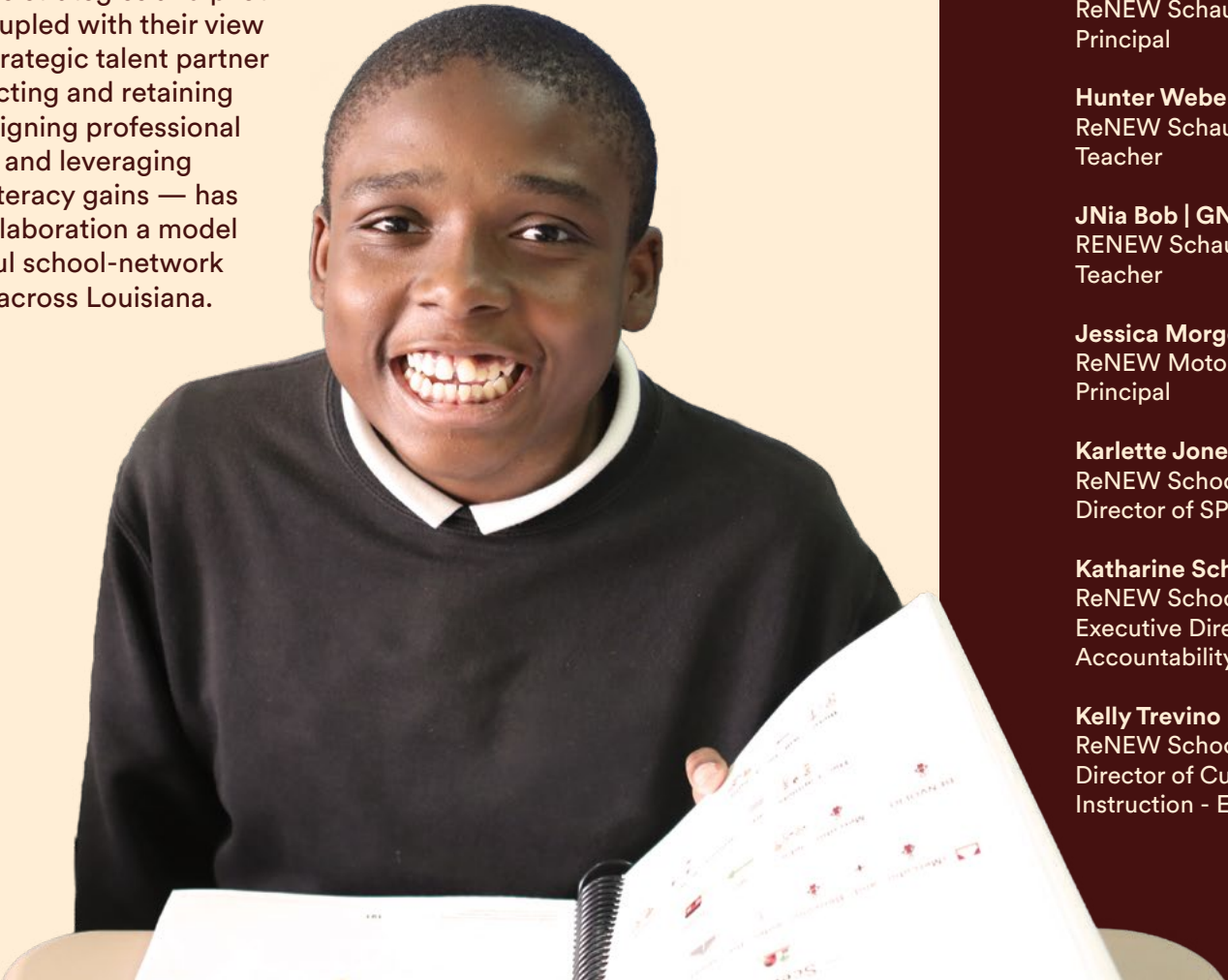
Teach For America Greater New Orleans and ReNEW Schools have shared a strong and evolving partnership since 2010, when TFA corps members first joined SciTech Academy @ Laurel Elementary during ReNEW’s inaugural year. Over the years, our collaboration has grown beyond corps member placement to become a strategic talent partnership, supporting teachers, school leaders, and students across the ReNEW network.

In recent years, TFA GNO and ReNEW have piloted and expanded innovative programs to strengthen teaching and learning. During the 2023–24 school year, approximately 30 mid-level school leaders participated in a year-long series of professional development sessions, designed to empower instructional coaches to drive stronger outcomes for teachers and students. ReNEW teachers and leaders continue to engage in these professional development opportunities each year.

Three years ago, ReNEW also joined the Ignite Tutoring Fellowship as a flagship partner at Laurel Elementary. What began as a small pilot with 12 tutors and 24 students has expanded to over 120 tutors supporting nearly 300

students across all four ReNEW schools in the 2025–26 school year. This program demonstrates the network’s commitment to early literacy and the power of TFA’s high-dosage tutoring model.

The partnership’s impact is rooted in a long-term, trusting relationship that has weathered change and growth. ReNEW’s willingness to test innovative strategies and pilot programs, coupled with their view of TFA as a strategic talent partner — from attracting and retaining alumni to designing professional development and leveraging tutoring for literacy gains — has made this collaboration a model for meaningful school-network partnerships across Louisiana.



ALUMNI LEADERSHIP
AT ALL LEVELS

Angela Lynch | GNO 2015
RENEW Dolores T. Aaron
Teacher

Ashlee Bush-Davis | GNO 2015
RENEW Dolores T. Aaron
Teacher

Carroll Feilin | GNO 2006
ReNEW Schools
Manager of Mental Health
Services

Cassie Nealon | GNO 2011
ReNEW Schools
Director of Curriculum and
Instruction - Mathematics

Courtney Sample | GNO 2011
RENEW Dolores T. Aaron
Teacher

Courtney Sample | GNO 2011
RENEW Dolores T. Aaron
Teacher

Erika Brown | GNO 2017
ReNEW Schaumburg
Principal

Hunter Weber | GNO 2024
ReNEW Schaumburg
Teacher

JNia Bob | GNO 2024
RENEW Schaumburg Elementary
Teacher

Jessica Morgen | GNO 2008
ReNEW Moton Lakefront
Principal

Karlette Jones | GNO 2014
ReNEW Schools
Director of SPED

Katharine Schull | GNO 2013
ReNEW Schools
Executive Director of Data &
Accountability

Kelly Trevino | GNO 2007
ReNEW Schools
Director of Curriculum and
Instruction - ELA

Kim Andrews | GNO 2001
ReNEW Laurel Elementary
Principal

Mairin Charles | GNO 2008
RENEW Schools
Instructional Coach

Matthew Gibson | Miami-Dade 2008
RENEW Schools
Teacher

Morgan Mack | GNO 2019
ReNEW Schaumburg Elementary
Teacher

Morgan Schoninger | GNO 2020
ReNEW Dolores T. Aaron
Teacher

Nathaniel Thomas | GNO 2024
RENEW Dolores T. Aaron
Teacher

Ryna Klingensmith | GNO 2020
ReNEW Laurel Elementary
Teacher

Ryna Klingensmith | GNO 2020
ReNEW Laurel Elementary
Teacher

Rebecca McGaughey | GNO 2020
RENEW Dolores T. Aaron
Teacher

Riley Connick | GNO 2009
RENEW Schools
Director of Curriculum and Instruction
K-2

Sophia Mock | GNO 2021
RENEW Schaumburg Elementary
Teacher

Tess Williams | Detroit 2012
ReNEW Schaumburg
Instructional Coach, Former Coaching
Fellow, Ignite Site Leader

Tim Hearin | Los Angeles 2006
RENEW Laurel Elementary
Former Principal

Wilande Annelus | GNO 2017
ReNEW Schools
Special Education Coordinator



OUR COMMITMENT TO GREATER NEW ORLEANS

ACCELERATING LEARNING THROUGH HIGH-DOSAGE TUTORING: TFA IGNITE

Students in Louisiana are making historic gains in reading proficiency, and ranked first among states in reading growth. Still, too many students are working to regain foundational reading skills, a predictor of high school graduation rates and future economic mobility. Educators across Louisiana have responded with urgency, and to continue the accelerated momentum, it requires targeted support that complements learning in the classroom.

Teach For America Ignite brings the high-dosage tutoring model to more students while creating an early pathway into the education field for college students and early career professionals. Research shows high-dosage tutoring can accelerate students’s learning by an additional 3 to 15 months, with consistent, small-group sessions helping students build skills, confidence, and academic momentum over time.

In the next three years, we aim to expand Ignite high-dosage tutoring to 300 Ignite tutors, supporting over 750 students each year.

AI REGION EVOLUTION

Over the past year, Teach For America Greater New Orleans has helped shape a new vision for teaching and learning in the age of artificial intelligence. In partnership with Teach For America’s Reinvention Lab, more than 1,200 educators built the skills and confidence to create with AI—not just use it—collaborating with students to design more than 720 AI-powered tools that have already reached

over 10,000 students. What began as experimentation has grown into a movement of educator innovation, with initiatives like the Prototype Shop and Arcade AI helping teachers turn ideas into real solutions for their classrooms. Together, these efforts reflect a simple but powerful belief: when educators become creators of emerging technology, they expand opportunity for students and better prepare the next generation to thrive in an AI-driven world.

A FUTURE GROUNDED IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Teach For America Greater New Orleans is proud to work in coalition with the New Orleans Children and Youth Planning Board (CYPB) Youth Master Plan, which centers the well-being, opportunity, and success of every young person in our city. Over the past four years, Teach For America has been a proud partner of CYPB through recruiting, developing, and supporting educators who are deeply committed to students and communities. Teach For America helps advance the plan’s priorities of strengthening schools, expanding opportunity, and ensuring more young people are prepared to thrive in college, career, and life. By partnering with schools, community leaders, and families across New Orleans, we are working together to help make the Youth Master Plan’s vision a reality for the city’s children and youth.



**REINSPIRE
BELIEF.
INSTILL
PURPOSE.
EXPAND
CAPACITY.**



The Next 35 Years



SYSTEMS CHANGE LEADERS

As Teach For America Greater New Orleans celebrates 35 years of impact, we are proud to spotlight three alumni whose corps member experience launched careers in leadership and service. Through their stories and reflections, they share the experiences that shaped them, the challenges facing education today, and their hopes for the next generation of leaders working to create lasting change in Greater New Orleans and across Louisiana.



KIRA ORANGE JONES
Advancing Teacher Leadership
in Policy and Practice
2000 GBR Alumna,
and CEO of Teach Plus

TEACH FOR AMERICA HAS CHANGED MY LIFE. IT'S THE REASON I'M AN EDUCATOR. IT'S TRANSFORMED MY UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE WHEN A COMMITTED GROUP OF LEADERS SUSTAINABLY WORKS TO CREATE CHANGE OVER TIME.

Kira Orange Jones’s career in education began at Eden Park Elementary in Baton Rouge. Today, she is the CEO of Teach Plus, a national organization that empowers teacher leaders as change agents, from shaping professional learning in their schools to advocating with policymakers in their Statehouse. Kira brings extensive experience in elected leadership and education nonprofit leadership to her role at Teach Plus. Her conviction that teacher voices and expertise must shape our education system moving forward is informed by her years in the classroom and her subsequent work developing new teachers as a Teach For America staff member. Kira led Teach For America Greater New Orleans through a period of historic growth and then scaled her impact by launching the Systems Impact Lab at Teach For America, supporting ten regions, including Greater Baton Rouge, to pursue systems change in their local contexts. She served as a statewide policy maker as Vice President of Louisiana’s Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). In 2015, Kira was named to TIME Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World.

Teach Plus has trained thousands of teacher leaders across the country who are driving policy changes and improving teachers’ instructional practices.



TEACH FOR AMERICA CHANGED THE TRAJECTORY OF MY LIFE, AND HOW I CHOOSE TO INVEST MY TIME.

JOHN WHITE

Transforming Outcomes Across the State
1999 New Jersey Alumnus,
Former Louisiana State Superintendent of Education, TFA National Board Member and CEO of Great Minds

How has serving as a corps member impacted you?

I would’ve never made a career in public education without Teach For America. My experience as a corps member helped me understand what it means to build a shared vision of possibility with students and colleagues. That idea has stayed with me throughout my career and continues to shape how I think about leadership and impact.

How do you describe the impact of Teach For America in Louisiana? Nationwide?

Teach For America has been a consistent source of energy and talent for change across education systems. As a corps member, I saw firsthand how classroom experience can translate into broader systems-level leadership. In Louisiana in particular, it’s difficult to talk about progress in education without recognizing the role TFA alumni and corps members have played over time.

BEING A LEADER OF A CLASSROOM ALLOWED ME TO UNDERSTAND MUCH MORE ABOUT MYSELF AS A LEADER, MY POTENTIAL AS A LEADER, AND THE ROLE OF LEADERSHIP IN SYSTEMS.

John White



SARAH NEWELL USDIN

From Classroom to Education Founder
1991 GBR Alumna,
Former School Board Member, Former Teach For America Executive Director, Founder and Former CEO of New Schools for New Orleans

How has serving as a corps member in South Louisiana shaped your path?

It was life-changing. I came in as an idealistic recent college graduate with a plan to teach for a short time and then go to law school. Little did I know how formative the experience would be, and beautifully shaped by the wonderful families and students. Instead, I stayed in Louisiana, stayed in education, and eventually became the Executive Director of Teach For America in Louisiana during the early years. It truly changed the trajectory of my life and how I choose to invest my time.

What impact has TFA had in Louisiana?

Over 35 years, Teach For America has learned alongside schools and communities about what it takes to support students well. It has helped strengthen the teaching force and contributed to broader shifts in how we think about talent, preparation, and leadership in education in Louisiana. The impact is not just in classrooms, but also in how systems have evolved to better meet students’ needs.

BOARD MEMBER

It is hard for me to fully put into words the impact **Teach For America** has had on my life. When I think back to myself in my senior year of college and deciding to take the leap to move across the country and join the GNO ‘14 Corps, I truly had no idea what to expect. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that in 2026 I would still be living in New Orleans, married to a New Orleans native, and raising my children in the most incredible city in the world.

Teach For America positively impacted me in so many ways. During my years in the corps, TFA instilled in me the personal responsibility to ensure that the decisions I made had the best interests of the students at the forefront. I was surrounded by the most hardworking and dedicated people that I have ever met. The master teachers who mentored me were TFA alumni who immediately debunked the idea that “TFA is only a 2 year commitment”.

I spent ten years in the classroom and continue to work in K-12 education on the Education Outreach Team at Ochsner Health. Our team works to increase access to high quality STEM engagements and provide early exposure to healthcare careers for K-12 students in Louisiana. In my role, I am constantly working alongside community partners who share our commitment to increasing opportunities for ALL kids in Louisiana. It comes as no surprise that so many of these

community organizations and schools are led by TFA Alumni who truly live and breathe the mission of **One Day** no matter how much time has passed. The most impactful work being done for youth in Louisiana is being driven by corps members and alumni in communities across our entire state.

I am honored to serve as a Board Member for Greater New Orleans. I am proud of the relationships built by corps members and alumni across communities that are rooted in trust. I am proud that TFA continues to show up for kids and continues to uplift diverse voices and develop community leaders who create innovative solutions and eliminate barriers to opportunities for students in Louisiana.

I am proud to live and work and raise my children in New Orleans and I am honored to be able to continue to work alongside TFA community leaders committed to following through on the promise of making **One Day** a reality for Louisiana.

Carly Czerniak
TFA Greater New Orleans ‘14



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Thank you to our major donors that have supported our work over these last 35 years and those that supported us in our most recent fiscal year. All financial support, large and small, goes a long way to support our ability to have impact in the Greater New Orleans region. Thank you!

- Angela Shirey
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WAYS TO Give Directly



Your generosity supports corps members, educators, and leaders working to expand opportunity for students across our region. Many employers offer matching gift programs, allowing you to multiply your impact. Make a monthly or one-time donation today.

WAYS PARTNERS Can Deepen Collaboration

Corporate partners, foundations, and individuals play a vital role in advancing this work, whether through philanthropy, employee-matching programs, or by engaging employees as volunteers or mentors. You can get involved through a variety of opportunities and help strengthen the future of education across our communities.

YOU'RE INVITED Join the 35th Anniversary Summit



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**ONE DAY, ALL CHILDREN IN THIS NATION WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO ATTAIN AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION.**

teachforamerica.org/greater-new-orleans