ABOUT TEACH FOR AMERICA

Teach For America is growing the force of leaders committed to ensuring all kids have access to an excellent education. Leadership through Teach For America begins with a commitment of at least two years teaching in low-income communities nationwide. With the skills and conviction gained in the classroom, Teach For America alumni become lifelong leaders and advocates for students. Today, more than 10,000 corps members teach in nearly 50 urban and rural regions and 37,000 alumni work in education and other sectors to lead systemic change. This year, the veterans and military spouses in our corps serve more than 18,000 students.

“As a veteran, that passion to serve your country really never leaves you. Joining Teach For America was a great way for me to use the leadership skills that I learned in the military while continuing to serve my country. Every day when I stand in front of my kids, I know I’m making a difference in their futures.

BRIAN THOMPSON (D.C. Region Corps ’09)
Recipient, 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award
Before the corps: Sergeant, 82nd Airborne Division Infantry, U.S. Army
Today: Presidential Management Fellow for Military Affairs, U.S. Department of Education

A NATIONAL CRISIS

More than 16 million children in the United States—22 percent of all U.S. kids—live in poverty and the vast majority lack access to the quality of education that will give them choices in life. This crisis of educational inequity affects not just individual children, but our entire nation. In economic terms alone, educational inequity drains $3 billion from our gross domestic product every day. More broadly, our country cannot move ahead when we are leaving so many of our own behind.

Research has shown that excellent teachers can help put their students on a new trajectory. And highly-effective teachers possess many of the same skills—including leadership, achievement and perseverance—fostered from military experience.

“TTT and TFA share the common goals of helping children in needy schools reach their full potential and in assisting veterans by helping them begin a new career as teachers in public schools where their skills, knowledge, and experience are most needed.”

BILL MCALEER CHIEF, Troops to Teachers—A DANTES managed Dept. of Defense Program

teachforamerica.org/veterans
CONTINUE TO SERVE

The fight to end educational inequity will only be successful if it is powered by leaders who are diverse in every aspect—ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, and experience. In 2012, Teach For America launched the You Served For America, Now Teach For America program to support veterans and military spouses interested in joining our fight.

We aim to put the leadership power and unique skills of veterans, members of the guard and reserve, and military spouses to work in our nation’s highest-need classrooms. Students and schools can benefit greatly from these individuals’ depth of experience, strength in leadership, and commitment to serve.

“I’m grateful to my military experience for preparing me for the classroom. The Army is an institution built upon a shared mission of service, imparting upon its members characteristics that are particularly useful for educators.”

JARRETT MCDONALD (Jacksonville Corps ’14)
Before the Corps: U.S. Army, Military Police
Today: Middle School History Teacher

“Leaving the Army was an incredibly difficult decision, but when I was accepted as a 2012 TFA corps member, I knew I would be able to continue my service to the country in a meaningful, albeit different, way.”

SARAH STAAB (Nashville Corps ’12) Middle School History Teacher
Before the Corps: West Point Graduate, 5 years U.S. Army, Captain
After the Corps: Operations Manager, LEAD Public Schools

A COMMUNITY, DEDICATED TO VETERANS

Teach For America is proud to join the effort to help veterans and military families find their next opportunity in the service of our nation. Through partnerships with key veterans’ support organizations, we can reach increasing numbers of military professionals, train them as teachers in high-need schools, assist them in finding teaching positions, and continue to support them throughout their careers as leaders in the movement for educational equity.

Some of our partners in this important work include: Got Your 6, Soldier For Life, Troops To Teachers, Student Veterans of America, The Franklin Project, and the Corporation For National and Community Service. We look forward to additional collaboration with other organizations and government agencies as we continue to grow our support for our veterans and military spouses.

“Military service and civilian national service are really two sides of the same coin. Both involve doing good work to solve problems, and both ultimately help make America a stronger nation. The young people who join Teach For America each year are engaging in a form of national service that is focused on eliminating one of the biggest threats to our nation’s future prosperity—educational inequity. I greatly admire the military veterans who, after serving America in a military uniform, chose to serve again as a part of Teach For America.”

GENERAL (RET.) STANLEY MCCRYSTAL, Leadership Council Chair, The Franklin Project

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