

Washington Teachers' Union

Local 6, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO



TEACHER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

DEADLINE:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2012



Teachers Leaders Program Guidelines

The Washington Teachers' Union invites you to participate in the Spring 2012 Teachers as Leaders Program. District of Columbia public school teachers, with full-time classroom responsibilities, will be selected to join a nationwide teacher leadership network. We are seeking a diverse group of teachers who are active in their school communities and have track records in working to improve students, schools, and neighborhoods and would like to take an active role in influencing policy in the following areas, for example:

- Teacher Leadership in School Change – the development of teachers as leaders.
- Teacher Preparation and New Teacher Induction - teacher recruitment, preparation, orientation, evaluation, retention and support.
- Ongoing Professional Growth – teacher engagement in professional growth, learning opportunities, and reflection.
- Teacher Networks – a teacher's connection with other teachers and organizations for the purpose of expanding their professional support network.
- Role of High Stakes Testing – how students and schools are assessed and how students are prepared for college and career readiness.
- School Design – how schools are organized and how instruction is delivered.

We will provide teachers with opportunities to develop the knowledge and skill to influence policy locally and nationally. This will include framing practical policy positions that relate to improved student achievement; conducting research in classrooms and schools; engaging the public and elected officials in community conversations about education; participating on advisory boards, panels, and task forces; developing policy recommendations based on research; and publishing and disseminating findings and recommendations nationwide.



Participants will:

- Increase knowledge of major challenges facing the teaching profession through reading and discussions with leading policy experts.
- Improve leadership skills.
- Be recognized by the public and media.
- Represent teachers nationwide as spokespersons and become members of a nationwide community.
- Conduct research and use it to influence policy.
- Be awarded a \$500.00 stipend



Application Process

All portions of the application must be submitted:

- Complete Application *(must be typed)*
- Commitment Form
- Short Essay *(two typed, double-spaced pages)*
Describe an initiative in which you were an active participant that was designed to produce positive classroom or school change. Be specific about your role.
- Two (2) Letters of Recommendation
Appropriate recommendations from your principal, chapter chair, colleague, student, parent, or other individuals who can speak to your leadership abilities and school improvement efforts.

Deadline: February 3, 2012

Applications should be submitted to Lsanderson@wtulocal6.net.

Please note: All applicants should plan to attend an hour-long group interview in February.



Teacher Leadership Application

Personal Information:

First Name

Middle Initial

Last Name

Email Address (Non-DCPS)

Home Address

Home City, State and Zip

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Employment Information:

School Name

School Address

School Telephone



Experience

What subject(s) do you teach?

How many years have you been teaching?

What was your preparation for becoming a teacher?

How have you continued your professional development?

Please list any professional organizations of which you are a member:

Please list your areas of interest in education and educational policy:



Commitments

***Required**

* Please check off all commitments in the boxes provided:

I will be available by email on a regular basis.

I will attend the following full-day (9:00 am – 4:00 pm) Saturday meetings:

March 17th

April 21st

May 19th

June 16th

I will complete and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings and projects related to education policymaking.

Signature :

Date:

All applications must be submitted no later than February 3, 2012,
by email - Lsanders@wtulocal6.net ; fax: (202) 266-5078 or
mailed to 1825 K Street, NW; Suite 1050; Washington, DC 20006.



Teachers Leadership Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *Who is eligible to apply?*

A: This program is for full-time classroom teachers.

Q: *What is the time commitment for this program?*

A: We will meet for a full day (9am – 4pm), four Saturdays each month (March 17th, April 21st, May 19th and June 16th). Between meetings we will communicate via email.

Q: *The application mentions reading assignments. How much time should I expect to commit to this each month?*

A: Readings will be limited to articles of particular interest to the group – typically these would require no more than three hours per month.

Q: *What if I can't make one meeting because I have prior commitment?*

A: Because we have only four meetings this Spring, each applicant needs to commit to full participation.

Q: *Where will we meet?*

A: Meetings will be held at Washington Teachers' Union – 1825 K Street, NW in the Lower Level Conference Room. WTU will pay for parking in garage.

Q: *How many teachers will be involved in this program?*

A: We expect to support 15 teachers this Spring.

Q: *When will I know whether I'm accepted into this program?*

A: Your completed application is due no later than February 3, 2012. Interviews will take place during the month of February, and notifications will be sent by March 1st.

Q: *Will this group continue to next year?*

A: This is a pilot program with a plan to expand in the new school year.



Teachers As Leaders

Join the WTU Teachers as Leaders Program

1. Have you seen news reports or talk shows that discussed issues related to teaching and learning and thought to yourself or said to your colleagues, “Why don’t they just ask a real teacher about (No Child Left Behind)?” The Teachers as Leaders Program is a new union program designed to help prepare **YOU** to be that classroom teacher, facilitating a discussion of the issues that affect our profession both here in the District of Columbia and nationally.

We are seeking teachers interested in collaborating with colleagues across the city and nation to:

- Increase the understanding of the major challenges facing the teaching profession
- Improve leadership skills
- Represent our profession as spokespersons
- Become members of an influential and supportive network of educators

This pilot program will take place Spring 2012, with a plan to expand into the 2012-2013 school year. Modest stipends will be offered.

Applications and FAQ packet are now available online at www.wtulocal6.org.

For more information, please contact LaWanda T. Sanders at lsanders@wtulocal6.net.

The application deadline for this program is February 3, 2012