



RESPECT | ENTHUSIASM | ACHIEVEMENT | CITIZENSHIP | HARD WORK September 2013

## From the Desk Of ...



**Chief Academic Officer**  
Tracy Epp, Ph.D.

"From the Desk Of ..." provides inside perspectives from some of the most high-performing leaders in ed reform. This month features Tracy Epp, who, after working in education for 13 years in the Rio Grande

Valley, moved with her wife and two dogs to Brooklyn. Tracy currently oversees the network-wide alignment of curriculum, assessment and teacher development here at Achievement First, but she's probably best known for her trademark cowboy boots.

Learn more about what keeps Tracy deeply connected to her work [here](#).

## Use Our Teaching Resources

Each of your students is continuing their climb up the mountain to college this fall. Use the resources below to push their literacy skills forward.

Over the year, your elementary students will be reading lots of challenging texts. Use these [strategies](#) to help them decode tricky words.

Push your middle school students' non-fiction reading skills using this English Language Arts [unit](#) on immigration.

Develop your high school students' skills analyzing character and theme with this [unit](#) on "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings."



## Follow Us Online



## Featured Opportunity

**2013-14 Special Education Teachers**

**Start Date:** Immediate

**Location:** Hartford, CT

Our special education teachers work hard to meet the needs of every student in our schools. Achievement First supports these efforts with robust teacher professional development, including weekly coaching meetings, on-going planning sessions and unparalleled learning opportunities. Learn more and apply [here](#).

We also have a variety of openings remaining for the 2013-14 school year. To learn more about our available teacher and leader roles, click [here](#).

## Network Support Featured Opportunity

**Director, Human Capital**

**Start Date:** Immediate

**Location:** Brooklyn, NY or New Haven, CT

The director of human capital plays a critical role in helping to develop and retain our talented and diverse staff. The director develops, communicates and implements organizational policies and programs, oversees the organization's benefits program, and strategizes solutions to

To download more Achievement First resources in all subjects and grade levels, visit our [resources page](#).

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## Meet us on the Road



Throughout the year, our team visits cities across the country in search of teachers and school leaders who are passionate about creating high-quality experiences for urban students. Below are cities we'll be visiting soon; please [email](#) us to learn more.

**September 14** - Kansas City, MO

**September 25** - Storrs, CT

**October 5** - New Haven, CT

**October 24** - Providence, RI

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## Share the REACH Out



If your friends or colleagues would be interested in using our resources and following our news, encourage them to sign up to receive our monthly newsletter on this [website](#). See the bottom left-hand side of the page.

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## Other Ways to Learn More

Check out our calendar of upcoming events [here](#).

Follow us on Facebook [here](#).

Watch Achievement First videos [here](#).

Read the AF Chalkboard Blog [here](#).

To view previous newsletters, click [here](#).

employee relations needs. Learn more about this opportunity and apply [here](#).

We are always looking for talented individuals to join our Network Support team. View current Achievement First Network Support opportunities [here](#).

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## Our Mission

The mission of Achievement First is to deliver on the promise of equal educational opportunity for all of America's children. We believe that all children, regardless of race or economic status, can succeed if they have access to a great education.

Achievement First schools will provide all of our students with the academic and character skills they need to graduate from top colleges, to succeed in a competitive world and to serve as the next generation of leaders for our communities.

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## Diversity & Inclusiveness

At Achievement First, we believe that closing the achievement gap is an economic and moral imperative. It is the civil rights issue of our time. In carrying out our mission, Achievement First must ensure that our team is composed of individuals who, through their talent, commitment and understanding of both student needs and effective teaching, can ensure all of our students succeed in accomplishing these big dreams. Diversity and inclusiveness are critical to our mission.

Read why Achievement First has named diversity and inclusiveness one of our top five priorities for the 2013-14 school year [here](#).

