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## Catalyzing High-Quality Pathways into Teaching

As we usher in the joys and challenges of a new school year, Deans for Impact remains committed to expanding high-quality pathways into teaching that are affordable, practice-based, and focused on instructional decision-making grounded in science. We stand in partnership alongside leaders who share our commitment to ensure that every child is taught by a well-prepared teacher.

In this newsletter, check out our **new podcast**, learn how we're preparing future teachers to create rigorous, equitable classrooms using **high-quality instructional materials**, and—in case you missed it—read the announcement about our **next executive director**.

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### Preparing excellent teachers using principles of learning science

How can we prepare future teachers to make strong instructional decisions grounded in evidence, especially as they navigate an inequitable education system and pandemic-related disruptions?

[In our new podcast](#), journalist and former education reporter Claire McNerny speaks with teacher-educators across the country who are using principles of learning science to foster more rigorous, equitable, and inclusive learning environments.



Tune in on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Google Podcasts](#), or [YouTube](#).

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## Leveraging HQIM to improve first-year instruction

Ask any teacher, the first year is hard. "You're learning everything," [says Lindsey Hamilton](#), director of equity and program at Nashville Teacher Residency. "And the most important thing: how do you build a community of engaged learners who love themselves and see themselves as intellectuals, in the context of everything else?"



This past academic year, we [led a network of ed prep programs in Tennessee](#) to prepare aspiring teachers to use high-quality instructional materials (HQIM). These materials help lighten the load in the first year of teaching and increase the likelihood that every student has access to grade-level learning.

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## ICYMI: Valerie Sakimura is next executive director of DFI

Following a five-month national search process, Valerie Sakimura has been selected as [the next executive director of DFI!](#)

Valerie was a member of our founding team and has served as our vice president of program for the last seven years. She will step into the role in October.



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### More news

- **The science of coaching teachers:** What happens when we apply an understanding of how people learn to the way we coach novice teachers? DFI's Jim Heal and Amber Willis discuss in [this op-ed for EdSurge](#).
- **Mobilizing teacher-candidates as tutors in Texas:** [A tutoring partnership](#) in Dallas reveals how teacher-candidates who serve as tutors for students in high-needs schools are contributing to strong student learning outcomes — and strengthening the local teacher pipeline.
- **How teaching happens:** In [his new book](#), Jim Heal teams up with Paul Kirschner and Carl Hendrick to explore 30 “seminal works in teaching and teacher effectiveness and what they mean in practice.”