

2022 App Round 1: Tia Trahan

Louisiana Department of Education: A Call For Excellent Educators

Which award do you want to apply for?

Principal of the Year

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the Department, in partnership with

Dream Teachers

and the

Louisiana Association of Principals

, honors the state's most exceptional educators through the Teacher and Principal of the Year programs.

The Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year awards programs provide an opportunity to acknowledge those educators who are making exceptional gains with students. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana's teaching profession.

Criteria- An exemplary candidate for Teacher and Principal of the Year is one who:

- Demonstrates **excellence and expertise** in the field, **guiding students** (and for principals, also teachers) of **all** backgrounds and abilities to **achieve success**.
- Demonstrates **leadership and innovation** in and outside of the school building walls and **helps students/education stakeholders be successful**.
- **Builds collaborative relationships** with **colleagues, students and families** to create a **school culture** that is respectful, inclusive and **positively impacts student growth and learning**.
- **Deliberately connects** the classroom/school to the **community** to **positively impact the students, school and community**.
- Is **inspiring, compelling, professional** and expresses themselves in an **engaging and clear way**, has the ability to **connect with and represent** the state.

Resources

To access application resources and materials, visit the

Award's page Resource Library.

I. Basic Information

First Name

Tia

Last Name

Trahan

Title

Mrs.

Phone number with area code (preferable cell). List phone number with hyphens. For example, 225-342-1234.

Does this phone number receive text messages?

Yes

Email Address

Ethnicity

Black or African American

Division Level

Middle School

If you serve students across multiple division levels, please check the box below.

How many years have you been the principal at this particular school? (enter numeric value, such as "6.")

6

How many total years total have you been a principal at any/all schools combined? (Enter a numeric value, such as "12.")

10

If you served in either of the following roles, please select the checkbox(es) and then add the number of years served for each role in the textbox(s) below.

Principal at another school(s), Assistant Principal, Other leadership role

Number of years served as Assistant Principal

2

Number of years served as Principal at another school

4

Professional Bio Add your professional bio in the textbox below. Your Professional Bio should be written in third person. (250 words or less) Please follow the guidelines outlined

here

Add Professional Bio Here

Tia Mechelle Trahan is the proud principal of Lafayette Middle School (Grades 6-8) in Lafayette, LA. Trahan is a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT). She's a veteran of the United States Army National Guard. Trahan, received her Undergraduate Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Louisiana Lafayette and Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Louisiana State University Shreveport. An educator for over twenty years, Trahan's educational journey began as a teacher and reading facilitator. She was named 2007 Teacher of the Year at Katherine Drexel Elementary School. She was an assistant principal for two and half years, Principal of Milton Elementary Middle School for four years and entering her seventh year as Principal of Lafayette Middle School. Under her leadership LMS was recognized as a LDOE Comback School in 2022. Trahan was one of 21 Louisiana educators awarded a Louisiana Leaders Fellowship. She was part of the First Cohort of Louisiana Leaders to complete the National Institute for School Leaders (NISL). She currently serves as the Middle School Representative for the Lafayette Principals Association, Member of the Lafayette Parish School System's Superintendent Panel, School Health Advisory and Reimagine Grant Advisory Committees. She is also on the Louisiana NBCT Network Team. Trahan, born and raised in Louisiana, is honored to be a Louisiana Educator. She continually seeks opportunities to strengthen her knowledge as an instructional Leader to bridge opportunity gaps albeit academics or community relationships. Trahan strives for excellence in aiding all educators and students to maximize their individual potential.

II. School Related Information

School "System/District" Name (please start typing) Select "Other" if your school system isn't listed.

Lafayette Parish

If your school system/district was not listed above, please enter here

"School" Name (please start typing) School name is required. If your school is not listed, please proceed to enter name in next box.

Lafayette Middle School

If your school is not listed, please enter the school name in the textbox below. Add full school name, such as "L.B. Landry Walker High School" and not "Landry Walker." You may find the full school name in the LA School and Center Finder List, see

here

If your school is not listed above, please enter here

Number of students at the school:

345

Were you at a different school last year?

No

Grade(s) at School:

Sixth, Seventh, Eighth

School Website URL (optional)

<https://www.lpssonline.com/schools/lafayette>

Current School Address

[REDACTED]

School Phone Number (including area code). List phone number with hyphens, such as 123-456-7890.

[REDACTED]

Region Number- Click the Region List link to find the region number for your school system parish. If you are a charter/independent school, please select the parish where your school is located. For example, if your school is Lake Charles Charter, even though your school is not part of Calcasieu Parish, you would select region 5 as your school is located in the Calcasieu Parish "region." See

Region List Here.

Check Your Region Number

5

***III. Media Related Information**

Professional Facebook profile/name (optional)

Professional Instagram profile (optional)

Twitter handle (optional)

Add an original social media quote (that could be used in print) in the textbox below that captures the essence of you as an educator. (280 character limit)

We must strive to reach beyond the sky, it is the key to immeasurable success.

Other Social Media Account (optional)

Personal Blog Site URL (optional)

Personal Website URL (optional)

IV. Awards/Leadership Roles

If you served in other leadership roles, please add role(s) and number of years served for each role in the textbox below.

Reading Facilitator (1 Year)

Assistant Principal (2 1/2 Years)

LDOE Louisiana Leaders Fellowship (1 Year)

List any national awards or recognition you've received (include year won)

List any state or local awards or recognition you've received (include year won)

Lafayette Parish School System (LPSS) Middle School Principal of the Year 2022/2023 Academic Year

Louisiana Come Back School 2022

LPSS School of Exemplary Growth 2022

LPSS School of Distinction 2022

LPSS School of Exemplary Growth 2019

LPSS Most Growth School Performance Score 2019

LDOE Louisiana Leaders Fellowship 2008-2009

Katherine Drexel Teacher of the Year 2007

Has your work been published in journals or other juried and/or peer-review sources?

No

If "yes" please describe

V. Education Information

What year did you receive your baccalaureate degree? Add degree conferral year, such as 2011, in the textbox below.

University of Louisiana Lafayette 2002

You may find that information in the Teach LA website
here

Choose the highest degree you have earned.

Masters

Did you attend an in-state or out-of-state institution for your undergraduate degree?

In-state

Please select the institution you attended for your undergraduate degree.

University of Louisiana Lafayette

Did you attend an in-state or out-of-state institution for your masters degree?

In-state

Please select the institution you attended for your masters degree.

Louisiana State University Shreveport

List your undergraduate major(s) in the textbox below.

Elementary Education (Grades 1-8)

List your graduate major(s)/any additional major(s)/certification areas in the textbox below.

Educational Leadership

List where you completed your principal/educational leadership preparation program.

Louisiana State University Shreveport

Naming Convention - When uploading documents within your application, please title each document using this naming convention:

TOY or POY, First and Last Name, Document Name. For example, "TOY *Mary Smith* Reflection Response Upload"

VI. Written Reflection Response One

Describe how you engage students and teachers of all backgrounds and abilities in effective teaching and learning on a daily basis. In your response, discuss the deliberate actions you take that positively impact student and educator success, as well as what these actions reveal about your beliefs about leadership, teaching and learning. (750 words or less)

Add Reflection Response One Here:

As an instructional leader, I ensure all students and faculty alike are afforded equitable opportunities to elevate their craft and learning on a daily basis. I strive to keep it at the forefront regardless of unforeseen circumstances taking place inside or outside of the school building walls. High expectations and a growth-oriented environment is communicated as a non-negotiable. I take great pride in the manner in which I foster this mindset and it is the norm at our school.

A huge part of engaging students and teachers in effective teaching and learning is building relationships. I model this every day from the moment they arrive. Each morning I greet teachers as they sign in and make it a priority to personally say good morning to all of our students. This helps to set a positive tone for learning to occur.

My school community is reflective of faculty, staff, and students from diverse backgrounds. I work closely with my Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) to implement inclusive practices to connect and engage all teachers and students in effective teaching and learning on a daily basis. Together, we disaggregate data to identify strengths and areas for growth for our teachers and students. This information is utilized to provide prescriptive support. LEAP 2025, Diagnostic, Interim, Summative, and Formative Assessments are all used to create goals to maximize individual student learning and strengthen teacher self-efficacy.

Teacher's support is tailored to their capacity. I deliberately structured the master schedule to provide daily collaborative planning time, content area Professional Learning Communities, and job-embedded support from grade level mentors and site based fellows. Teachers also have daily access to support from our Master Teacher, Instructional Teacher Leader, and administration. I take pride in fostering collaborative development and relationships among teachers. A more competent and confident teacher will yield overall student success.

I work with teachers to differentiate lesson activities and outcomes to intentionally connect and encourage individual students to take on learning challenges incorporating scaffolding and opportunities to extend learning. We meet students where they are while teaching to mastery of Louisiana Grade Level Standards.

I have carved out a thirty minute Leveling Enrichment and Academic Deficits (LEAD) Time each day. This is known throughout the district/state as RTI/Skinny Time. LEAD Time is protected and utilized to remediate or accelerate learning. Students in Academic Tiers 2 and 3 as well as those scoring unsatisfactory in ELA or Math on LEAP 2025 are provided interventions to address their individual deficits in one or both subjects. I have intentionally placed these students with our most Highly-Effective Content Experts. LEAD for the remaining Tier 1 Student Population focuses on extending learning on grade level standards through various instructional approaches in all four core content areas.

I have structured a cycle of learning that begins with an identified focus aligned with standards. This is based on the priority of instruction determined by current student data. It begins with the ILT identifying the area of growth and creating next steps. This information is shared with teachers during their weekly PLC to further develop an action plan. Once the teachers have implemented the action plan, it is monitored through targeted walkthroughs, collaborative conversations with teachers, and student work. The impact is revisited by the ILT to evaluate effectiveness and determine the next step towards reaching our school goal.

I believe every student and teacher will thrive provided they are placed in the right environment with engaging rigorous instruction and high-quality curriculum materials. I work closely with district administrators, colleagues, and receive support from LDOE Representatives and the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) to provide relevant instruction and leadership for all teachers and students.

As a result of my deliberate initiatives and actions to elevate engagement and learning for everyone, we are thriving. The intentionality of teaching and learning, focusing on maximizing individual potential, and a forward thinking growth mindset is making a positive impact on our students and school community. I am extremely proud our school grew from an SPS of 55.4 in 2019 to an SPS of 66.7 in 2022, despite COVID-19 Challenges and is recognized as a Louisiana Comeback School. We are changing the trajectory for our students and public perception of Lafayette Middle.

I lead with a purpose of eliminating opportunity gaps and igniting untapped potential for all students and educators. Recognizing the goal, I continue to foster the development of every student to make sure they are on the right path for a professional career, college degree, or service.

Reflection Response One- Optional file upload: (Use this feature if you wish to upload a document, video, photo, etc., to accompany your reflection response. Please label document accordingly, such as, "TOY_Mary_Smith_Reflection Response One."

POY_Tia_Trahan_Reflection Response 1.pdf

VII. Written Reflection Response Two

Describe specific ways in which you empower your students and teachers to form connections with the community. Show how these community connections dissolve classroom/school walls and impact student learning/success for all. (750 words or less)

Add Reflection Response Two Here:

Fostering the development of community connections among students, teachers, administrators, and the community is a high priority for me. I have worked tirelessly to assemble a thriving Community and Family Engagement (CAFE) support team at our school. I strongly believe it takes a village to educate a child, and our students deserve the best village available. I take pride in cultivating these relationships to remove barriers impeding the connection between school, family and community.

Throughout the month, alongside our monthly CAFE meetings, I meet either in person and via Zoom or phone with community partners to share the needs of our school directly impacting student achievement. I've partnered with parents, local businesses, local government, non-profits, and faith based representatives to empower them to take an active role in the education of our students and development of our school community as a whole. Some of the partnerships are with Love Our Schools, Women of Wisdom, Women's Foundation, Lafayette Parish Government, CGI Engineering, and the 100 Black Men of Greater Lafayette. Together, our focus for this year is on Truancy, Literacy, and Teacher Retention.

On the students' first day of school, community partners greeted our students and teachers to welcome them back. They handed everyone a card stating "At My Very Best." This message is now posted in every classroom and office as a reminder of the community's belief and support for our school and it encourages all faculty, staff, and students to be at our very best each and every day.

I worked with teachers to create a Student Attendance Ambassador Team to convey to stakeholders reasons why students were absent from school. I used this information to create a survey based on the Ambassador's top reasons and surveyed parents and our student body. I shared the anonymous results with our CAFE. Solution-focused actions were taken. This is dissolving the wall of truancy. Providing students with a voice on this issue has given them more ownership, and now students are encouraging each other to attend school.

There is a shortage of certified teachers – especially highly qualified, certified teachers at high needs schools. I make it a priority to speak and showcase the great things occurring in our school to attract and retain the best educators to teach my amazing students - they are our most valuable asset. I surveyed teachers of their personal interests for enrichment and what would be needed for additional community support. I used the results to intentionally connect students and community stakeholders with teachers to provide greater learning opportunities for our students. This led to higher morale and a more cohesive culture.

I partnered with Parish and City Council Members and a local attorney to provide weekly mentorship for subgroups identified as needing additional support. The Young Men Lead Lions Group and Girl Magic mentorships work with students on self-awareness, conflict resolution, and futuristic mindsets. The first Monday of each month, the young men dress in a shirt and tie. They have a "business" luncheon meeting during school. I have worked with them to bring in local judges, physicians, former NFL Players, and local dignitaries. As a result, we have seen a decrease in the discipline infractions and the igniting of leadership potential.

Another partnership I am passionate about is between the school, a local beautician, First Horizon Bank and non-profits. Through this partnership, selected female students (Resilient Rubies) receive financial literacy training and mentorship one Saturday each month along with a voucher for a free hairstyle. I attend part of the day's training to support them and reiterate my belief in each of them. This is illuminating life skills and building their self-confidence.

In addition, we partnered with Meritus Credit Union to provide financial literacy to enhance one of our enrichment classes during our 30 minute Leveling Enrichment and Academic Deficits (LEAD) Time.

I am also extremely proud to have facilitated the partnership with the University of Louisiana Lafayette to be the first middle school in the district to have a junior chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers, which exposes our students the opportunity to deepen their knowledge about science and engineering practices from diverse professionals in the field.

We have hosted the National Spelling Bee Champion, famous authors, and students and professors from UL. We have more clubs and a new outdoor fitness court. All of these initiatives are twofold: empowering teachers and students to form connections with the community as well as exposing and broadening students' view of future career opportunities.

Reflection Response Two- Optional file upload: (Use this feature if you wish to upload a document, video, photo, etc., to accompany your reflection response. Please label document accordingly, such as, "TOY_Mary_Smith_Reflection Response Two")

POY_Tia_Trahan_Reflection Response 2.pdf

VIII. Video Response

Describe a project or initiative that you are leading/led/are involved in that has created pathways to success for students, teachers, schools and/or education stakeholders. In your response, explain your role as a leader/innovator, the impact of this work, as well as the status of the work today. (2 minutes or less)

Add the YouTube video URL in the space below.

Add your YouTube video URL Here: (video should be 2 minutes or less)

<https://youtu.be/YXJQJXiMyQ>

Video Response- Optional file upload: (Use this feature if you wish to upload a document, video, photo, etc., to accompany your video response. Please label document accordingly, such as, "TOY_Mary_Smith_Video Response Upload")

POY_Tia_Trahan_Video Response.pdf

IX. Education Issue

What is an education issue you are most passionate about? Add your response in the textbox below in five words or less, Ex: Student Voice and Empowerment

Exposing students to Future Opportunities

Education Issue- Optional file upload: Use this feature if you want to upload an item, such as a photo, newspaper article, etc., which relates to your education issue topic/work. Please label document accordingly, such as, "TOY_Mary_Smith_Education Issue Upload."

Add a "Six Word Story" that captures the essence of you as an educator. For example, "He Is..because of what was," "Teaching Art is an Abstract Artform" and "I Teach So I Change Lives."

Belief in Yourself Ignites Infinite Potential

X. Uploads

*Note- To view uploads, select small yellow triangle next to the record title at the top of the page and select "preview form"

When uploading documents within your application, please title each document using this naming convention:

TOY or POY_ First Name_Last Name_Document Name. For ex., "TOY_Mary Smith_Reflection Response Upload."

Résumé (two pages or less) Include chronological list of workplaces with specific years at each site.

POY_Tia_Trahan_Resume.pdf

Student Success Data 1 (SLTs or other recent data) Include Year

POY_Tia_Trahan_Student Success Data 1 2021-2022 SLT.pdf

Student Success Data 2 (SLTs or other recent data) Include Year

POY_Tia_Trahan_Student Success Data 2 2021-2022 Evaluation.pdf

Letter of Recommendation #1:

POY_Tia_Trahan_Letter of Recommendation 1.pdf

Letter of Recommendation #2:

POY_Tia_Trahan_Letter of Recommendation 2.pdf

Letter of Recommendation #3:

POY_Tia_Trahan_Letter of Recommendation 3.pdf

Headshot (Optional) - upload photo

POY_Tia_Trahan_Headshot.jpg

Photo with Students (Optional) - upload photo

POY_Tia_Trahan_Photo with Students.jpg

XIII. Consent Forms

A) Candidate Consent Form Candidates must acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to the terms included in the state provided consent form.

Link to Candidate Consent Form: https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/awards/candidate-consent-form.docx?sfvrsn=9bd9911f_4

(If possible), please upload your signed (state) Candidate Consent Form here.

POY_Tia_Trahan_Candidate Consent Form.pdf

Please type your name below to confirm your signature on the state's Candidate Consent Form. This will serve as your electronic signature.

Candidate Consent Form Signature:

Tia M. Trahan

B) Student Consent Forms Student consent forms are needed for each student included in your state-level application, such as in photos, videos, etc.

Link to Student Consent Forms: https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/awards/student-consent-form.docx?sfvrsn=98d9911f_4

Are students included in your state-level application, such as in photos and/or in your teaching video, etc.? Select yes or no below.

Yes

(If possible), please scan all student consent forms into one large PDF and upload here.

POY_Tia_Trahan_Student Consent Forms.pdf

Please type your name below to confirm that you have Student Consent Forms on file for each student included in your state-level application. This will serve as your electronic signature.

Student Consent Form Signature:

Tia M. Trahan

XIV. Supplemental Uploads (Optional)

If there are any additional materials that would strengthen your application, but you weren't asked to share, please upload them below. Label all materials accordingly, such as Additional Optional Upload 1, Additional Optional Upload 2, Additional Optional Upload 3.

Additional Upload 1

POY_Tia_Trahan_Additional Optional Upload 1.pdf

Additional Upload 2

POY_Tia_Trahan_Additional Optional Upload 2.jpg

Additional Upload 3

POY_Tia_Trahan_Additional Optional Upload 3.jpg

XV. Signatures

Please type your name in the textbox below. By typing your name below, this will act as your electronic signature. Your submission should be supported by your school system.

Applicant's Name (typed)

Tia M. Trahan

Signature Date:

01/11/2023

Questions

- Visit the Awards page on the Louisiana Believes website.
- Email excellenteducators@la.gov

Select "Save Draft" when you have not completed all of the required fields and want to save work and return later to complete. Select "Mark Complete" when all fields have been completed. Before submitting your application, save all components of your application electronically for future reference.

Applicants Started?

0

Linked Profile**Rules containing Linked Form Fields:**

- Field: If your school system/district was not listed above, please enter here
 - Rules:
 - School "System/District" Name (please start typing) Select "Other" if your school system isn't listed. | is | 31612877
- Field: If your school is not listed, please enter the school name in the textbox below. Add full school name, such as "L.B. Landry Walker High School" and not "Landry Walker." You may find the full school name in the LA School and Center Finder List, see here
 - Rules:
 - "School" Name (please start typing) Select "Other" if your school isn't listed. | is | 31612873
- Field: If your school is not listed above, please enter here
 - Rules:
 - "School" Name (please start typing) Select "Other" if your school isn't listed. | is | 31612873

2022 App Round 1: File Attachments

Reflection Response One- Optional file upload: (Use this feature if you wish to upload a document, video, photo, etc., to accompany your reflection response. Please label document accordingly, such as, "TOY_Mary_Smith_Reflection Response One."

POY_Tia_Trahan_Reflection Response 1.pdf

Reflection Response Two- Optional file upload: (Use this feature if you wish to upload a document, video, photo, etc., to accompany your reflection response. Please label document accordingly, such as, "TOY_Mary_Smith_Reflection Response Two")

POY_Tia_Trahan_Reflection Response 2.pdf

Video Response- Optional file upload: (Use this feature if you wish to upload a document, video, photo, etc., to accompany your video response. Please label document accordingly, such as, "TOY_Mary_Smith_Video Response Upload")

POY_Tia_Trahan_Video Response.pdf

Résumé (two pages or less) Include chronological list of workplaces with specific years at each site.

POY_Tia_Trahan_Resume.pdf

Letter of Recommendation #1:

POY_Tia_Trahan_Letter of Recommendation 1.pdf

Letter of Recommendation #2:

POY_Tia_Trahan_Letter of Recommendation 2.pdf

Letter of Recommendation #3:

POY_Tia_Trahan_Letter of Recommendation 3.pdf

Headshot (Optional) - upload photo

POY_Tia_Trahan_Headshot.jpg

Photo with Students (Optional) - upload photo

POY_Tia_Trahan_Photo with Students.jpg

Additional Upload 1

POY_Tia_Trahan_Additional Optional Upload 1.pdf

Additional Upload 2

POY_Tia_Trahan_Additional Optional Upload 2.jpg

Additional Upload 3

POY_Tia_Trahan_Additional Optional Upload 3.jpg

Tia M. Trahan, M. Ed, NBCT

Career Objective

To utilize my experience to collaboratively work with all stakeholders to facilitate lifelong achievement in a nurturing environment that infuses rigor and relevance into instructional practices and fosters a desire to maximize learning for all students.

Education

- Masters of Education in Education Leadership
Louisiana State University Shreveport 2009
GPA 3.91
- University of Louisiana Lafayette 2002
Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education
GPA 3.64

Credentials

- National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) 2007/ Renewed 2017
- National Institute of School Leaders Fellowship 2017
- Louisiana Educational Leaders' Induction Program 2011
- Louisiana Leadership Fellowship 2009
- Military - Army National Guard Veteran

Professional Experience

- Principal, Lafayette Parish School System
 - Lafayette Middle School 2017 - Current
 - Milton Elementary Middle School 2012 - 2016
- Assistant Principal, Lafayette Parish School System
 - David Thibodaux STEM Magnet Academy 2016
 - Ernest Gallet Elementary School 2012
 - Ridge Elementary School 2010 - 2011
- Administrative Fellow, LDOE & LPSS 2008-2009
 - Myrtle Place Elementary School
 - Milton Elementary Middle School
- Reading Facilitator, Lafayette Parish School System 2007 - 2010
 - Ernest Gallet Elementary School
- Teacher, Lafayette Parish School System 2002 - 2007
 - Katherine Drexel Elementary School 2003 - 2007
 - Evangeline Elementary School 2003
 - J. W. Faulk Elementary School 2002 (Student Teaching)

Honors/ Awards/Recognitions

- Middle School Principal of the Year Lafayette Parish School System 2023
- Louisiana Come Back School 2022
- Lafayette Parish School System School of Exemplary Growth 2019 & 2022
- Lafayette Parish School System School of Distinction 2022
- Lafayette Parish School System Most Growth School Performance Score 2019
- Lafayette Principals Association Middle School Representative 2022 - Present
- Member of LPSS Superintendent's Leadership Committee 2022 - Present
- NBCT Network of Louisiana - Minority Engagement and Support Chair 2022 - Present
- Louisiana First Round National Institute of School Leaders
- LDOE Louisiana Leaders Fellows Program First Cohort 2009
- Teacher of the Year - Katherine Drexel Elementary School 2007
- Lafayette Education Foundation Model School Grant 2007
- Heritage Educator Grant from the National Parks and Recreation & the Department of Agriculture "The ABC's of Louisiana." 2005
- KATC TV 3 Tools for Schools Grant 2005
- National Education Association - Adopt a School Grant - 2005
- Lafayette Education Foundation Grant - "Exposure to Cultural Differences."

Professional Development/ Career Related Training & Experiences

- National Institute of Effective Teaching Leadership Coaching
- National Institute of Effective Teaching Professional Learning Communities Training
- National Institute of Effective Teaching Instructional Leadership Team Training
- Pupil Progression Plan Committee
- LPSS School Health Advisory Committee
- LPSS Calendar Committee
- LPSS Curriculum Adoption Committees
- LPSS/ School Based Data Teams
- CoTeaching/ Inclusion Training
- Compass Evaluator Training
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Trauma Informed Care Training
- LDOE Teacher Leader Summit Presenter - Leader In Me
- Leader In Me Training
- Louisiana Leaders Fellows Program
- Presenter for International Teachers in Caddo Parish
- Diversity Training
- Differentiated Instruction/ Multisensory Training
- Project Read
- School Test Coordinator Training
- School Building Level Committee
- InTel for Leaders
- Community, Family, and Parental Engagement
- Balanced Literacy
- LSU Encouraging Students Scholarships through Native Centered Education (ESSNCE)



January 8, 2023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It is a distinct pleasure to offer this Letter of Support for Tia Trahan, Principal of Lafayette Middle School in Lafayette, Louisiana. A dedicated professional, leader and educator, Tia leads a challenging school comprised of a quite diverse population of middle school students whose families are low income and reside in some of Lafayette's most impoverished neighborhoods. Tackling these challenges with a constant smile on her face, she serves as a resourceful, creative and caring leader who encourages and guides her students, teachers, administrators and staff to strive for academic excellence, maintain good attitudes and work toward success daily.

As WOW ("Women of Wisdom") members who interact with the school administration on a frequent basis, we love the fact that Mrs. Trahan greets her students as they enter the school building each morning with a smile and a hug. She sets the tone for each day!

Tia Trahan employs motivational and inspirational leadership skills with her teachers and staff, and she models what she asks for in their roles: discipline, preparation, positive attitude, and gratitude for their contributions. We observe her as she listens, collaborates and inspires her students / staff/ parents/ and community partners. She creates an environment where everyone matters. She creates a school culture that breathes success.

Principal Trahan is an excellent leader who is innovative and forward-thinking. Her years of expertise are evident as we observe her value the community as a key partner. Connecting and utilizing the resources and talents of the community to support and uplift students and the school is a priority. She meets regularly with the Lafayette Middle Community and Family Engagement (CAFE) team comprised of diverse community members including parents, pastors, business and community - as shown on the attached chart - to identify ways for mentorship, sponsorship, engagements.

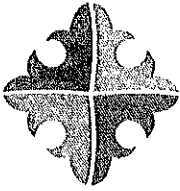
Our CAFÉ has worked with Mrs. Trahan to provide guidance to teachers, improvements to the physical space, and exciting opportunities for students with academic, life skills and mentoring programs. She and one of our members arranged for all of her 6th graders to see the Kyiv Ballet Company in the performing arts center! She is our shining North Star, motivating us to bring together our corporate and community gifts.

As a member of the Lafayette Middle School CAFÉ and a WOW member, I told Mrs. Trahan, not too long after we met, that had I served under her as a middle school teacher in the 1980's, that I probably would still be teaching. Her competence as a leader coupled with her huge love for her "babies", I'm sure, has inspired many a teacher to continue giving instruction and care to their students.

On behalf of WOW, an organization of professional and community activists, we vigorously give Principal Tia Trahan our "vote of confidence and grand applause" for this award as Principal of the Year for Louisiana.

Sincerely,





LAFAYETTE
PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM

January 7, 2023

Dear Principal of the Year Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Mrs. Tia Trahan, Lafayette Middle School Principal and Lafayette Parish School System's Middle School Principal of the Year.

Mrs. Tia Trahan is an excellent example of a service leader who tirelessly gives to her school family, community, and school district. Her professional but welcoming approach to school leadership is a shining example for her peers and those with which she works. Her ability to calmly approach school concerns and provide ongoing opportunities for students and the teaching community allows her to effectively determine the needs to be addressed. Mrs. Trahan has grown Lafayette Middle School from CIR status to a C school. With her continued efforts, they will be exiting as a school of need this year. Her goal - which she often references - is to support instructional practices that will grow them to B status.

One of Mrs. Trahan's educational passions is to ensure that opportunities are available for the students and faculty of Lafayette Middle. She has developed the first middle school Educator's Rising Club in Lafayette Parish. All student participants represent diverse populations and are participating in experiences that will plant seeds of interest to develop future educators. She also serves on a committee with the National Board for Professional Teaching to support equitable practices and opportunities.

Mrs. Tia Trahan's strength as a school leader is something that should be recognized. Her ability to establish and share a vision of academic success, encourage cooperation and collaboration among teacher, staff, and students, and promote accountability for all is exemplary. She always carries herself with professionalism and dignity and is always ready with a reassuring smile. It is an honor to have Mrs. Tia Trahan representing Lafayette Parish School System in this role.

[Redacted signature block]



January 4, 2023

To the selection committee for Louisiana Principal of the Year,

I have had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Tia Trahan on starting an Educators Rising student club at Lafayette Middle School. As the faculty advisor for the UL Lafayette Educators Rising Student Organization, I understand the importance of planting the seed early on to change the perception of what it means to choose teaching as a profession. With support and effort from principals like Mrs. Trahan, we can build a solid and growing pipeline of future educators for Louisiana classrooms. My sincere hope is that I get the privilege of welcoming Mrs. Trahan's Lafayette Middle students to our UL Lafayette Educators Rising club in the near future.

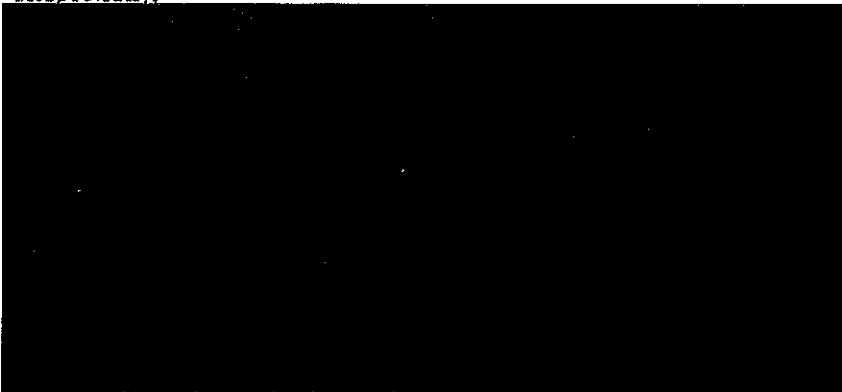
Mrs. Trahan was eager to bring this pre-educator club to her campus to share her passion for the education profession with potential aspiring educators within her school. Mrs. Trahan is always smiling and enthusiastic to bring rich experiences to her deserving students. I attended an Educators Rising club meeting on her campus last week, where students engaged in discussion about characteristics of a

great teacher. In the image, you can see last week's convening of potential future educators for our state, sitting in the Lafayette Middle School cafeteria, with Mr. Cy Dugas (new Pre-Educator Pathway coordinator for Lafayette Parish School System) leading the class. What you cannot see is Mrs. Tia Trahan sitting behind them beaming with pride and contributing her positive insight. Her efforts and outcomes as principal of Lafayette



Middle speak for themselves, but I wanted to offer my insight as an outsider of the district. In my view, Mrs. Trahan would be an excellent representative of Louisiana as principal of the year!

Respectfully,



A Member of the University of Louisiana System

Attachment: POY_Tia_Trahan_Headshot.jpg



2022 App Round 2: Tia Mechelle Trahan

****Teacher/Principal of the Year Semifinalist Application****

****Which are you- Teacher of the Year or Principal of the Year?***

Principal of the Year candidate

****By end of day on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, please complete all tasks and submit.**

Written Response

Written Response

Consider you have been given the opportunity to write a blog entry to be included on an educational website that is read by various educational stakeholders. First, you'll need to select a relative topic that interests you and is likely an area of expertise. You may select any topic that is education related, such as those outlined in the Department's Believe to Achieve Priorities. Your audience is the education profession at large, but you may choose to gear your entry towards a specific group of educators, such as principals or first year teachers, for example. Entries may be month specific, such as a June entry which may focus on "turning summer vacations into learning opportunities," for example. (maximum of 1,200 words)

Add your written response in the textbox below. (1,200 words or less)

Spicing Up the Teacher Pipeline - One Ingredient at a Time

Who changed the flavor? The taste of southern hospitality and eliteness of being an educator is being watered down. What ingredients are missing - how do we fix it? Just as having the right ingredients to make your favorite dish, it is equally important to take the right approach in addressing the shortage of teachers our state and the nation as a whole is facing. I find it my responsibility as a middle school principal and school leader to assemble a recipe that will result in a Jambalaya per say of educators.

Ingredient #1 - 16 oz of Students

It is crucial students are exposed to favorable educational experiences at an early age. As school leaders, we are tasked with providing this to our students beginning on day one. Is this realistic? Yes, it is! There are various ways in which this can be accomplished. At our school, we promote positive interactions for all students to engage in with hopes of preserving the dream born in elementary school of becoming an educator in the future. To nurture their passion, we offer clubs specifically cultivating the education profession. In collaboration with the Reimagine Grant, which includes district and local university partnerships, my school is able to pilot the first middle school Educator's Rising Club in our school system. I dedicate a specified time each week for these students to meet together with their sponsor to learn more about what it takes to become an educator. It is inclusive of students from diverse backgrounds and academic and behavioral levels.

I was able to take students in the club to the 2023 Ed Rising State Conference. Being able to interact with educators on multiple levels heightened the interest of some students and solidified the decision of others to become educators.

In the words of one aspiring teacher, who is currently in the eighth grade, "I want to reach the unreached and love the unloved," which she shared as her new purpose after the conference.

I recognize not all will become educators, but at this age, if we can etch an imprint of hope, the potential is stronger that they will continue to pursue a career in the educational field as they journey to high school and beyond.

Ingredient #2 - 2 Cups of Teachers

With the shortage of certified teachers nationwide, we are tasked with having to compete with other career paths. This definitely presents challenges, but one that is definitely worthwhile. Many of us became educators through the traditional education pathway. The number of teachers entering the profession not having gone through this traditional pathway is becoming more of the norm - creating a lack of pedagogical content knowledge. This presents a tremendous responsibility on school leaders to mature the teachers and build their capacity.

As a school leader, I certainly don't want teachers to leave my school or sacrifice the academic achievement of my students

because of this unidealistic circumstance. I have discovered in order to combat this, I must be proactive in my approach to provide intentional support prescriptive to the needs of the individual teacher.

Just as we diversify instruction for students, we must diversify assistance for teachers.

Prior to the beginning of each school year, my instructional leadership team and I determine the focus based on data and the needs of our student population. Then we construct a plan of action tailored to the level of proficiency of both the incoming and returning teachers. Once this is accomplished, my team and I structure embedded Professional Learning Communities to facilitate comprehensive training aligned to the needs of the majority of teachers. Support is then scaffolded to coach and guide individual teachers making it more prescriptive to help develop their content knowledge and pedagogy. Each week during the school year, I carve out time to collaborate with school-based master teachers, instructional leaders, and content specialists to further support my teachers. In the collaborations, I take an active role in sharing the vision of where I would like to see instructional practices and classroom management to ensure success for all students. Together, we celebrate what is working, build upon the strengths, and create an action plan to address areas in need of support.

Growing our own starts with seeking in house talent.

Many of our para educators already have a college degree, and in addition to the support afforded at the school level, I connect aspiring teachers to available resources that will provide them with guidance and financial assistance. I also work with the district to support those desiring to earn a degree and pursue a teaching certification. It is my goal to retain these educators who have been contributing to the success of our school because I find them valuable.

Teaching can present itself as an overwhelming feat. It is one of my priorities to leave no teacher to feel they are on an island alone because I want them to stay at my school, or at minimum to stay in education!

Ingredient #3 - 1 Pint of Leaders

A shortage of teachers will eventually result in a shortage of school administrators.

Aspiring School Leaders are on the downward trajectory. I empower my teachers to step up and take on leadership roles at both the school and district level. This approach aids in cultivating a culture of buy-in and shift in mindset as their talents are being showcased as exemplary and potential for leadership is being recognized.

I have identified teachers in my school to take part in state level content leader training, National Institute for Excellence in Teaching Fellows Program, State Level Mentorship Trainings and District Level Master Cohorts specifically for High Needs Schools. In addition, as a National Board Certified Teacher, I have ignited the potential of others to pursue this prestigious accomplishment with my support.

Strengthening the leadership capacity of my team has led to a higher level of confidence and competency in the profession. Teacher leaders at my school assist with supporting classroom instruction, mentoring and coaching other teachers, analyzing student data, and providing high-quality professional development. Advancing teacher efficiency and helping them feel a sense of purpose ultimately leads to maximizing the potential of all students - broadening the pipeline for future school administrators and other school/district leaders.

If we want to recruit and retain educators, we must communicate through our words and actions that it is an elite profession where they are respected, influential, and most importantly - supported. The three main ingredients showcased here are equally important to spicing up the pipeline of educators. These must be interconnected with district, community, and college/university partnerships.

In Louisiana, cooking is often a labor of love. The best meals are cooked low and slow over a stove, and at the end of the day, they are enjoyed by those who gather together to celebrate the highs and encourage each other through the lows. Ensuring the future of education is diverse and bright is not going to be a quick fix or a 30 minute meal, but with time and dedication to following this recipe, the ingredients involved will shine through and make a difference!

#LEADWITHLOVE

Written Response Upload (optional)

POY_Tia_Trahan_Written Response Optional Upload.jpg

Video Response

Please respond to the prompt below. The video should not exceed one minute and 30 seconds. After recording the video, put into a YouTube link and add the link in the textbox below.

Teacher and Principal of the Year Prompt: What advice would you give to yourself as a first year teacher/principal?

Add your Youtube video link in the textbox.

<https://youtu.be/8nzEDABITrE>

Video Response Upload (optional)

POY_Tia_Trahan_Video_Response_Optional.png

Additional Uploads

If you would like to upload any additional items to your application you may do so below. This is optional. Examples could include newspaper articles, photos, videos, awards, etc.

Additional Upload 1 (optional)

POY_Tia_Trahan_Additional Upload 1 (2).png

Additional Upload 2 (optional)

POY_Tia_Trahan_Additional Upload 2.jpg

Social Media and Bio

Professional Bio Add your professional bio in the textbox below. You may use the same bio you submitted in your initial application. Your professional bio should be written in third person. (250 words or less) Please follow the guidelines outlined here

2022 App Round 1- You may search by name for the bio you submitted in Round 1.

Tia Trahan

Professional Bio textbox

Tia Mechelle Trahan is the proud principal of Lafayette Middle School (Grades 6-8) in Lafayette, LA. Trahan is a National Board Certified Teacher. She's a veteran of the United States Army National Guard where she served on a Specialized Task Force focusing on Community Outreach. She received her Undergraduate Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Louisiana Lafayette and Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Louisiana State University Shreveport. An educator for over twenty years, Trahan's educational journey began as a teacher and reading facilitator. She was an assistant principal for two and half years, Principal of Milton Elementary-Middle School for four years and entering her seventh year as Principal of Lafayette Middle School. Trahan was one of 21 Louisiana educators awarded a Leaders Fellowship and was part of the First Cohort of Louisiana Leaders to complete the National Institute for School Leaders. She was named 2007 Teacher of the Year at Katherine Drexel Elementary School and named Lafayette Parish School Systems 2023 Middle School Principal of the Year. She currently serves as the Middle School Representative for Lafayette Principals Association, Member of Lafayette Parish School System's Superintendent Panel, Wellness Team, Reimagine Grant Advisory Committee, and sits on the Louisiana NBCT Network Board. Trahan, born and raised in Louisiana, is honored to be a Louisiana Educator. She continually seeks to strengthen her knowledge as an instructional Leader to bridge gaps albeit academics or community relationships. Trahan strives for excellence in aiding all educators and students maximize their individual potential.

Twitter- Add your Twitter handle below (optional, but good to have)

[REDACTED]

Photo Uploads

Please upload a headshot and a photo of you participating in your favorite past-time/hobby. Be sure and follow the photo guidelines outlined

here

Headshot

POY_Tia_Trahan_Headshot.jpg

Hobby Photo

POY_Tia_Trahan_Hobby Photo.jpg

Candidate Consent With your consent, your photos and/or videos could be used in media (such as on the Dept.'s or Dream Teacher's social media accounts), as well as shared with others (such as your fellow semifinalists), to celebrate you as a state-level honoree. Please check the appropriate box to indicate if you consent or not. You may view the consent form [here](#)- [here](#).

Please check the appropriate box below.

I agree to the terms in the consent form.

Student Consent If students are included in your application, you must have a consent form on file. If you obtained a consent for a student in your initial application and still have on file, you do not need to get a new consent form. Please check the appropriate box to indicate if you have consent forms on file for all students included in your application. You may view the consent form [here](#)-[here](#).

Please check the appropriate box below.

I have consent forms on file for all students included in my application.

Additional Information

Your current phone number (Preferably cell, with area code. Please list with hyphens, such as, 225-342-7695.)

Your email address.

School mailing address

Your name as you'd like to see it in print on a certificate (include Dr., Ms., etc., if you like.)

Tia Mechelle Trahan

Name Pronunciation - Please add a note for pronouncing your name (if needed) in the textbox below. Examples include- Francois ('franz-swah); Hebert (A-Bear); Soileau (swah-'low), etc.

Trahan - (Tray - han) pronounced "han" like in "man"

Teachers- What grade(s) do you teach this year?

Teachers- What subject(s) do you teach this year?

Principals- What grade(s) do you serve as the school leader this year?

Grades 6-8

If you know you will serve in a different role next year, please add role in the textbox below.

If you'd like to include a note, please add here.

2022 App Round 2: File Attachments

Written Response Upload (optional)

POY_Tia_Trahan_Written Response Optional Upload.jpg

Video Response Upload (optional)

POY_Tia_Trahan_Video_Response_Optional.png

Additional Upload 1 (optional)

POY_Tia_Trahan_Additional Upload 1 (2).png

Additional Upload 2 (optional)

POY_Tia_Trahan_Additional Upload 2.jpg

Headshot

POY_Tia_Trahan_Headshot.jpg

Hobby Photo

POY_Tia_Trahan_Hobby Photo.jpg

2022 App Round 3:

2024 Teacher/Principal of the Year Finalist Tasks

Which are you- Teacher of the Year or Principal of the Year?

Principal of the Year Finalist

Written Response Prompt

As the 2024 Louisiana Teacher or Principal of the Year, serving as the ambassador of education for Louisiana, you have been asked to give a speech to an audience of education stakeholders. What is your message? Please add your audience and speech below.

Audience- Add your audience here.

Educational Leaders at the school, district, and state level.

Add your written response here.

Our state, our country, our world is filled with individuals who are drawn to helping children, yet we are in the midst of a crisis! We desperately need teachers. As educational leaders, it is our responsibility to nurture this innate passion. We must plant our own garden and enhance the flavor of Education as an elite profession.

Close your eyes and take a moment to reflect on what or who inspired you to become a teacher. Open your eyes. Do you still have that same drive and passion? How do we ignite and maintain this in others?

Nothing in my path as a young child would have indicated that I would have graduated from college, received my master's degree, became National Board Certified, nonetheless, be named as a Principal of the Year for the great state of Louisiana. Neither one of my parents had a high school education. My dad was the youngest of fifteen children and dropped out of middle school to work and help support his family. My mom only completed the ninth grade and married my dad when she was fifteen. As the youngest of four, I was the only child to complete high school the traditional way.

Not being able to afford a plethora of toys, my mom bought me paper dolls. While in elementary school, I would line these dolls up, place them in pretend desks, and emulate the teachers I encountered.

During Middle School, as the coursework became progressively harder, the passion for becoming an educator started to dwindle.

I entered the ninth grade struggling with reading. Let me clarify - I could call words but had difficulty with comprehension. Therefore, I was placed in a Reading Remediation Course. How could I have known this was going to be an influential changing point in my life? You see, this is where I encountered the nurturing spirit of an amazing teacher, Ms. Vitrano - She was patient, non-judgmental, and genuinely cared about the success of her students. Thus reigniting my passion for becoming a teacher.

After high school, I enrolled in a Junior College and enlisted in the Army National Guard. One morning on the way to school, I arrived at my only sister's house to pick her up. I entered her home to find she and my brother-in-law were brutally murdered. This horrific tragedy left me distraught. As my family and I were entering the funeral home, I glanced up and guess who was standing there - Ms. Vitrano. Through the grief and pain I was experiencing, her presence gave me a sense of peace. Her passion and love for her students went beyond the walls of the school.

The years following I embarked on other jobs where I engaged with children in multifaceted ways. It was quite evident I found the most joy when I was interacting and exposing them to new knowledge and experiences.

The intrinsic motivation to teach and positively impact the lives of children the way Ms. Vitrano impacted my life, led me to pursue my childhood passion of becoming a teacher.

Fellow leaders, we're not only tasked with planting the seeds but growing our own ingredients and adding flavor back to education. We have to employ the assistance of others to cultivate educators. My Community and Family Engagement Partners include business, university, and Faith Based Leaders. My school piloted the first Middle School Educators Rising Club in our district and will connect with Grambling State's Call Me Mister next year. I partnered with the University of Louisiana Lafayette to host Teacher Residency and field experiences. I attend job fairs to recruit both non-certified and certified educators.

We cannot forget to lead with love and show appreciation to our teachers. They should never feel they're alone on an island. At my school, support is tailored to the individual needs of the teacher. They're given voice and are celebrated. We "Pop IN" their classrooms to give them treats, recognize a teacher of the month, and give them Duty Free Lunches.

Educators are the soil that nourishes all other career paths. If this is the case, why is there such a shortage of teachers and those aspiring to enter the education profession? While I alone don't have the answer or secret formula, collectively as educators, surely, we can change this trajectory and showcase education as the elite profession it is.

Every ingredient starts with a seed. Every educator starts with a passion to help a child. Every child deserves a "Ms. Vitrano."

Additional Uploads

Written Response Upload- You may submit additional artifacts that support your response. (Optional)

POY_Tia_Trahan_Written Resonse 3 Upload (2 .jpg)

Video Response Prompt

Describe how you have been innovative as an educator. What inspired this innovation and what has been the impact of this work? (maximum 2 minute video)

Add YouTube video link here.

<https://youtu.be/jbdHTaqxvTY>

Additional Uploads

Video Response Upload- You may also submit additional artifacts that support your response. (optional)

POY_Tia_Trahan_Video 3 Response Upload (1).jpg

Professional Bio Add your professional bio in the textbox below. You may use the same bio you submitted in your initial application. Your professional bio should be written in third person. (250 words or less) Please follow the guidelines outlined

here

Round 2 Bio

Tia Mechelle Trahan

Add Bio Here

Optional Upload- If you would like to include any additional item(s) to accompany your application, such as a video, newspaper article, etc., please upload below.

Optional Upload 1

POY_Tia_Trahan_Optional Upload 1.mp4

Optional Upload 2

POY_Tia_Trahan_Optional Upload 2.jpg

Candidate Consent Please review the terms in the candidate consent form and check the appropriate box below. You may view the consent form here- here.

Checkbox

consent to the terms in the form.

Student Consent If students/minors are included in your entry/photo(s), be sure you have a student consent form on file. You may view the consent form here- here.

Checkbox

have student(s)/minor(s) in my entry and/or photo(s) and I have a student consent for on file for each individual.

f you would like to include a note/message, please enter here.

2022 App Round 1

Tia Trahan

2022 App Round 3: File Attachments

Written Response Upload- You may submit additional artifacts that support your response. (Optional)

POY_Tia_Trahan_Written Resonse 3 Upload (2 .jpg

Video Response Upload- You may also submit additional artifacts that support your response. (optional)

POY_Tia_Trahan_Video 3 Response Upload (1).jpg

Optional Upload 1

POY_Tia_Trahan_Optional Upload 1.mp4

Optional Upload 2