

# ANNOUNCEMENT



# MetLife Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## The MetLife Task Force on Teacher Leadership in High Schools Announced

### Initiative Will Share Best Practices For Nurturing and Retaining Vital Teaching Force

Washington, DC, January 31, 2007 – The MetLife Task Force on Teacher Leadership in High Schools is focused on answering the question, “*How will we lead America’s high schools?*” MetLife Foundation has provided funding to the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) to identify and disseminate information about where teacher leadership is expected, practiced and supported by principals, superintendents, and school board members. As part of MetLife Foundation’s commitment to strengthening leadership in our nation’s public schools, the project is expected to contribute to the effort to improve high schools and thus, produce better student outcomes.

The Task Force includes experts in the field representing a range of policy, research, and academic perspectives (see list opposite). Various forms of data collection are expected to uncover model practices as well as lessons learned from across a wide range of settings. At the end of 2007, a final report and best practice briefs will be released to document the findings and provide practical information about how to support leadership.

*“Helping teachers develop and strengthen leadership skills supports their recruitment and retention, promotes student engagement, and encourages parent and community involvement,”* said Sibyl Jacobson, president of MetLife Foundation. *“This initiative shares some of the best practices of schools across the U.S. that are dedicated to making education a collaborative endeavor.”*

Elizabeth L. Hale, president of the Institute for Educational Leadership noted, *“IEL has publicly lamented the fact that our nation is squandering a major resource for school leadership and reform: the ideas and leadership of teachers. The MetLife initiative is enabling IEL to identify where teacher leadership is nurtured and supported, to document that work, and to share the information so that others can follow suit.”*

**To get on the mailing list to receive a copy of the Task Force’s final report and best practice briefs, (due for release in late 2007) email your request and contact information to Sarah Manes, Research Associate, [maness@iel.org](mailto:maness@iel.org).**

The Institute for Educational Leadership is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization based in Washington, D.C. focused on achieving better results for all children and youth. At the heart of our effectiveness is our unique ability to bring people together to identify and resolve issues across policy, program, and sector boundaries. As a natural outgrowth of our work, we have created and continue to nurture diverse networks across the country. For more information about the Institute for Educational Leadership, please visit [www.iel.org](http://www.iel.org).

MetLife Foundation supports programs that increase opportunities for young people to succeed, give students and teachers a voice in improving education, create connections between schools and communities and develop leadership. The Foundation works with national nonprofit organizations to develop a variety of initiatives, many of which address issues raised each year in The MetLife Survey of the American Teacher. For more information about MetLife Foundation, please visit [www.metlife.org](http://www.metlife.org).

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**MetLife Task Force on Teacher Leadership in High Schools  
at the Institute for Educational Leadership**

**Joseph Aguerrebere**, President, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

**Jacqueline Ancess**, Co-Director, The National Center for Restructuring Education, Schools, and Teaching (NCREST), Teachers College, Columbia University

**Josephine Baker**, Executive Director, District of Columbia Public Charter School Board

**Barnett Berry**, President, Center for Teacher Quality

**Tom Carroll**, President, National Commission on Teaching and America's Future

**Antonia Cortese**, Executive Vice President, American Federation of Teachers

**Terry Dozier**, Director, Center for Teacher Leadership, Virginia Commonwealth University

**Carol Edwards**, Director of Programs, The NEA Foundation

**Nancy Flanagan**, Retired Teacher, Doctoral Candidate, Michigan State University

**Dick Flanary**, Director, Professional Development Services, National Association of Secondary School Principals

**Mary Hatwood-Futrell**, Dean, Graduate School of Education and Human Development, George Washington University

**Erica Litke**, MetLife Fellow, Teachers Network Leadership Institute; Teacher, East Side Community High School, New York, New York

**Mel J. Riddile**, Principal, T.C. Williams High School, Alexandria City Public Schools (VA)

**Kervin Smith**, Teacher, Bell Multicultural High School, District of Columbia Public Schools

**Steven Strull**, Director, The National School Reform Faculty

**Douglas E. Wood**, Executive Director, National Academy for Excellent Teaching, Teachers College, Columbia University