Newsblast for Home Visit Heroes

January 2017

In this issue

STEM Teachers get PTHV

News from Executive Director Carrie Rose

Upcoming Webinar re Equity & Home Visits

Give/About/Contact

Photo above: thanks to State of Utah PTHV

Photo below: Lysette Lemay trains STEM Credential candidates at Sacramento State University.

STEM Teacher Credential Candidates Get PTHV Training

SACRAMENTO – “Your country needs you,” said President Barack Obama in his 2010 State of the Union address, which lifted up the demand for teachers with
STEM credentials, proficient to teach Science, Technology, Engineering or Math. Numerous programs and incentives have been launched since then, aimed at reversing the declining number of teachers qualified to teach STEM subjects. But raising the STEM capacity of the US population will require more than simply increasing the number of teachers who can solve differential equations.

Education policy experts in both the public and private sectors, responsible for billions of dollars in funding, are asking how may this cadre of new teachers be better prepared than their predecessors? What new strategies will lift US math and science test scores on par with leading nations? How will new teachers be equipped to lead a culture change around these “nerdy” topics? And how will new teachers be ready to reach out to a public school population that is now over 50% students of color, with a majority of students from low-income families, who have been vastly underrepresented in the STEM fields? Home visits are part of the answer!

Family Engagement Key to Growing STEM

If STEM teachers want to be effective, they have to engage not only their students, but also their families, say professors at Sacramento State’s College of Education, citing research that shows investment in family engagement pays dividends in improved student achievement. In their curriculum planning for credential STEM teachers, the faculty tapped a nationally recognized best practice in family engagement, Parent Teacher Home Visits.

“We are extremely fortunate to have access to the highly acclaimed Parent Teacher Home Visits, an innovative effort to connect teachers and families that has become a national model, and which last year, received two national awards. PTHV will offer cultural competency and home visit training to our scholars, and the district has committed to offering this same training to their teachers,” said Dr. Deidre Sessoms, Director of Faculty Research Development and Professor in the College of Education at Sacramento State.

“We believe that this partnership will significantly contribute to the Scholar’s future success in high needs schools. We have found that while some students bring heightened maturity and a wealth of experience to the teaching field, others are at first taken aback by the challenges inherent in high needs schools. PTHV can assist in the transition.”

"When I first heard about this, I won't lie, I had a little bit of anxiety and I was like, 'What? I might have to go visit somebody's house? Oh my gosh. A student's home?' said Ashlee Teczon, a STEM Credential candidate at Sacramento State. Following the training, Ms. Teczon said

"The whole point of me becoming a teacher is what kind of impacts I can make on my students and if this is an extension of building a relationship with my students then I'm all for it."

Read more home visit training testimony from STEM credential candidates here.

"I never thought a home visit would be from a positive place. It's great. I love it!" said Vitaliy Pulber, STEM Credential Teacher at Sacramento State. "It takes that triangle to teach a child, right? But, if the parent is missing, then it's just a line. I'm a math pro, right? For a stable structure, it's about triangles."

Photo: Sacramento State teacher credential candidates role play their contact with family members during PTHV training.

There's more! Read the whole story here
Staff News

Welcome to Stephanie Knauss, our wonderful new part-time Systems Coordinator in the National office in Sacramento. Stephanie has a background in project management, fundraising, administration and reporting. She has a BA in Journalism and English from CSU Fullerton. Stephanie is raising four school-aged children, and has recently returned to the workplace after a 17 year hiatus.

Letter from the Executive Director

We greeted 2017 with outstretched arms, anticipating exciting developments including new staff, strategic planning, our upcoming Hub coordinator retreat, and the launch of our national evaluation (more about that in the Feb newsblast).

I’m writing today to wish you a Happy New Year and to share some news: now that the successful expansion from Sacramento project to national network is complete, I’ve decided to step down from Parent Teacher Home Visits in Summer of 2017, after fourteen years as Executive Director.

Yikes, where does the time go? My daughters Haven and Rayna were preschoolers when I started this wild and crazy ride with PTHV. Now, Haven is in her second year of teaching in NYC and Rayna is in her junior year in Seattle with her own apartment. So, now that my kidlets are launched, I am ready for some kind of new adventure. I’ve been talking about it for a while and decided the time is right.

This is truly a sign of PTHV’s organizational health. The board is strong, the staff is amazing and the national network is growing! Our network has diverse partners, dedicated funders and inspirational members. I am beyond grateful to have been a part of this movement to get the most important people in a child’s life, the families and the teachers, working together with common purpose.

So, this transition is my priority for the next few months, and then I’ll figure out what I’m going to do next. PTHV’s Board of Directors has begun a search to identify candidates and expects to name a new Executive Director by May 1, 2017, so we can have some crossover time to ensure a successful transition. We will keep you posted on everything, of course, but wanted to give you a heads up early in the process.

Thanks so much for all your support for PTHV (and me too) over the years.

With warm regards,

Support Home Visits

PTHV is a nonprofit grassroots network that must fundraise its operating budget every year. Like the local home visit projects we help, our network is sustained by collaboration at the grass roots. We are a small organization with a big impact!

Your gift of any amount goes a long way towards helping PTHV say YES to communities that ask us for help in starting and sustaining home visits.

Give securely online

About PTHV

Parent Teacher Home Visits are a fast, inexpensive and replicable strategy for engaging families, educators and students as a team. Our nonprofit network trains public schoolteachers and staff to make a meaningful relationship with the families of their students, starting with a home visit. In addition to proven increases in attendance and academic scores, these visits build trust, cross-cultural understanding, mutual accountability, more relevant instruction and leadership opportunities for the most important adults in a child’s life - the family and the teachers.

Learn more
Carrie Rose
Executive Director

PS Would each of you to take a minute and consider colleagues who may be good candidates for the ED job, and pass along this link to the job description and application info?