

Educators Excellence

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EDUCATORS 4 EXCELLENCE LAUNCHES IN MINNESOTA, PROVIDING NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR THOUSANDS OF TEACHERS TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD

*Widely recognized teacher-led organization seeks to elevate teaching profession,
advocate for improved education policies locally and nationwide*

Former Minnesota Teacher Madaline Edison Tapped as Executive Director

(Minneapolis, MN) – August 6, 2013 – *Educators 4 Excellence (E4E)*, a national teacher-led education organization, today announced the launch of its Minnesota chapter, offering a much-needed new platform for teachers in the North Star State.

Madaline Edison, a former Minnesota classroom teacher, will serve as Executive Director.

Founded in 2010 by two classroom teachers in New York City, E4E is a group of forward-thinking educators seeking to change the top-down approach to policy-making that has become all too common in large public school systems. In just three years, E4E has grown into a national movement of over 12,000 teachers with chapters in New York, Los Angeles and now Minnesota. The organization aims to strengthen the collective power of teachers by elevating their voices in the decision-making process to set and implement sensible education policy at the school, district, state and federal levels.

“From new evaluation systems to new standards and assessments, change is coming quickly to the nation’s classrooms and teachers are demanding a voice in how these policies are implemented—among the loudest were those coming from educators in Minnesota,” said **Sydney Morris, Co-Founder and Co-CEO of E4E**. “We’re excited to work with teachers across the state and provide opportunities for them to learn about and advocate for the policy changes they believe will help elevate their profession and improve results for their students.”

E4E-Minnesota grew out of a local organizing effort called Empowering Educators for Equity, which already has more than 300 teacher members from public schools across Minnesota. Over the past year, teachers have convened around issues such as the DREAM Act, early childhood education legislation and ongoing negotiations over the Minneapolis teachers contract. Under the

direction of Edison, E4E –MN will build on this substantial work and initiate a productive exchange of ideas and resources between the national organization and Minnesota teachers.

“Teachers want and need a more prominent voice in these conversations,” said **Madaline Edison**. “We have a better sense than anyone of what’s going on in our classrooms, and we’re committed to policies and actions that will make our schools run better and allow our students to grow. I am thrilled to be part of E4E, an organization that offers teachers a national platform to make our voices heard.”

Evan Stone, Co-Founder and Co-CEO of E4E said, “More and more, we are seeing public school teachers across the country coming together to learn from and work with each other to play a larger role in shaping their classrooms and careers. We couldn’t be more excited to have Madaline Edison and the state of Minnesota become part of this movement and advocate for the changes they want to see take place in their profession.”

To learn more about Educators for Excellence and the E4E-MN chapter, visit <http://educators4excellence.org>.

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For far too long, education policy has been created without a critical voice at the table – the voice of classroom teachers. **Educators 4 Excellence (E4E)**, a teacher-led organization, is changing this dynamic by placing the voices of teachers at the forefront of the conversations that shape our classrooms and careers. With a quickly growing national network of over 12,000 educators united by the E4E Declaration of Teachers’ Principles and Beliefs, E4E teachers can learn about education policy and research, network at E4E’s event series with like-minded colleagues and important education policymakers, and take action by advocating for teacher-created policy recommendations that lift student achievement and the teaching profession. For more information, please visit www.educators4excellence.org.