

Educators Excellence

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

06/27/12

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EDUCATORS 4 EXCELLENCE NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO LEAD ORGANIZATION IN NEW YORK CITY

Jonathan Schleifer to join E4E-NY and continue building the movement of teacher-led change in NYC

(NEW YORK): Educators 4 Excellence (E4E), a teacher-led education organization elevating the voices of more than 5,000 classroom teachers nationwide, today announced the appointment of Jonathan Schleifer as the first executive director of E4E's New York chapter. A former classroom teacher with deep experience in policy and advocacy, Schleifer will run the day-to-day operations of E4E's flagship chapter and work side by side with E4E-NY's members to advocate for the changes they want to see in their profession.

"As we grow our membership in New York City and nationally, we need a leader and fierce advocate who can take the reigns and ensure our teachers in New York City have a seat at the table when it comes to the decisions that affect their classrooms and careers," said Sydney Morris, Co-Founder and Co-CEO of E4E. "We're confident we've found that leader in Jonathan Schleifer, who with his unique background and experience will help empower our New York members as they navigate a profession of ever-increasing standards and scrutiny."

Schleifer most recently served as Chief Policy Officer for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) where he formulated the organization's legislative strategy and led several successful advocacy campaigns that improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of America's newest veterans. Prior to that, Schleifer was the Director of Online Communications for Jeanne Shaheen for Senate as well as a Senior Policy Advisor to Congressman Anthony Weiner.

The grandson of a lifelong New York City public school teacher, Schleifer began his career at CIS 303 in the Bronx where he spent five years teaching. There, he founded several of the school's athletic and academic after-school programs and led major school technology initiatives in addition to his classroom duties.

"I couldn't be more excited to be joining Educators 4 Excellence New York and returning to the city where I began my career in the classroom," said Schleifer. "As a classroom teacher, I often felt powerless to express my opinion. E4E has done an incredible job of making sure teachers' voices have been heard on a variety of issues. I'm looking forward to being part of the E4E movement because the answers to our system's educational challenges lie in the collective experiences and ideas of classroom teachers."

E4E was founded in 2010 by two Bronx teachers, Evan Stone and Sydney Morris. Since then, they have grown the organization to more than 5,000 members in New York and Los Angeles,

with several more chapters expected to open in the next few years. Stone and Morris, who up to now have themselves run the daily operations in New York, will turn their focus to expanding E4E's role in local and national education policy conversations.

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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 more than 5,000 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.