A world-class teaching corps requires world-class schools that provide the supportive professional environment they need to help students learn. Teachers need to work in schools with great teaching conditions in order to unleash the best versions of themselves. In fact, a new study using a decade’s worth of data shows that teachers working in schools at the 75th percentile of a rating drawing on questions from the North Carolina Teacher Working Conditions (NC TWC) Survey improved 38 percent more than teachers in schools at the 25th percentile.

On March 10, the state kicked off its seventh biennial TWC Survey. More than 100,000 educators have completed the survey in each of the past three iterations, capturing the voices of almost 90 percent of the state’s educators on whether they have the conditions they need to be effective. The NC TWC Survey provides educators, stakeholders and policy makers with the information they need to refine strategies and policies to improve teacher recruitment, retention and effectiveness.

**Featured Educator**

This month’s IEI Featured Educator is Richelle Hollingshead. Hollingshead, the HOSTS Math Program Coordinator for Raleigh’s Neighbor to Neighbor Outreach is being recognized for her willingness to provide her students with opportunities to direct their learning and growth, serving as a liaison with the public schools and parents, gaining peer insights and making connections. Read more here.

**Featured Action**

Feeling inspired after the 2014 Emerging Issues Forum? Ready to take what you hear at the Forum and bring action to your school, community or district? Join the World-Class Teaching MOOC-Ed.
All school-based licensed educators in all 115 North Carolina school districts and charter schools will have an opportunity to tell their community about their working conditions from now through April 4. The NC TWC Survey is designed to gather a variety of information from teachers, counselors, principals and other administrators in nine areas: facilities and resources, time, teacher leadership, school leadership, community engagement, managing student conduct, professional development, instructional practices and supports, and new teacher support. This is a chance to better understand what is happening in schools across the state from the lens of those who have the closest view - the dedicated educators working directly with students in schools.

After only one week, more than 33,000 educators, one-third of state’s school-based licensed educators, had already completed the survey. You can check response rates for your school, district and the state at the survey website. Please encourage all educators to participate and share their voice.

The Survey will help gather the voices of tens of thousands of educators, but now is the time to act on yours. By participating in IEI’s MOOC-Ed you have the opportunity to not only learn from educators but work collectively on a plan of action. Let your voice and the voice of thousands of educators inform local and state action to ensure that North Carolina has a world-class teaching corps working in schools designed for their success. If you are an educator, be sure to take the survey and tell it like it is...and if you are an advocate for teachers and public schools like all of us at IEI, let’s make sure we listen.
Kendall Hageman
Education Policy Manager
kendall_hageman@ncsu.edu

Do you know a teacher who is working hard to help students succeed? Let us know, and s/he could be featured in the next education issue!