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**The Institute for Educational Leadership Launches *Rise Up for Equity* to Prepare and Mobilize Leaders for Impact throughout the United States**

*IEL's new Strategic Plan prepares leaders to eliminate systemic barriers to equity in education and workforce development*

**Washington, DC—January 25, 2019—** The Institute for Educational Leadership ([IEL](#)) announced today the launch of Rise Up for Equity, a digital and grassroots campaign to promote the organization's new Strategic Plan to prepare, support, and mobilize leaders to eliminate systemic barriers to equity in education and workforce development so everyone – especially transition-age youth and families in communities with inequitable opportunities across the United States - has the opportunity to succeed and lead independent lives.

The announcement was made today during an event at the True Reformer Building of the Public Welfare Foundation in Washington DC, where community leaders and IEL partners and constituents discussed the leadership development and innovation components of IEL's new strategy.

IEL's strategy intends to help alleviate poverty and its impact and to contribute to creating new gateways to prosperity. Today 15 million children, or 21 percent of all children live in families with incomes below the federal poverty threshold, and 51 percent of students across U.S. public schools are low income.<sup>1</sup> Childhood poverty is associated with negative outcomes in adulthood, such as lower academic achievement, employment rates, and poorer health.

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<sup>1</sup> According to the 2016 fact sheet of the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP)

“IEL incentivizes communities to innovate and prepares and supports local and state leaders to improve opportunity and outcomes, and close gaps in access and achievement in education and workforce development in under-resourced communities,” said Johan Uvin, President of IEL. “To us, equity is about creating more opportunities for success in education and workforce development for children, youth, adults and families, particularly in communities where that opportunity is lacking due to systemic and structural reasons.”

IEL’s five-year goal is to prepare at least 2,000 leaders to eliminate systemic barriers in education and workforce development, and to create conditions, capacities, cultures, and policies necessary for everyone to succeed in at least 100 communities that historically have been under-resourced.

For more information about how you can Rise Up for Equity to support leaders so all children, young adults, and communities can succeed, visit [www.riseupforequity.com](http://www.riseupforequity.com) or join the conversation on social media using #RiseUpforEquity.

### **About the Institute for Education Leadership (IEL)**

The Institute for Educational Leadership is a 55-year old diverse national non-profit organization working at the intersection of education and workforce development. Its mission is to equip leaders to better prepare children, youth, adults, and families for post-secondary education and training, careers, and citizenship. IEL’s five-year goal is to prepare over 2,000 leaders to eliminate systemic barriers in education and workforce development and to create conditions, capacities, cultures, and policies necessary for everyone to succeed. IEL’s strategy to close gaps in access, opportunity, and achievement includes two prongs: policy and program innovation and leadership development. IEL prepares, supports, and mobilizes leaders in networks and incentivizes and challenges communities to innovate.

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