



## Educators and Community Leaders in Their Own Words

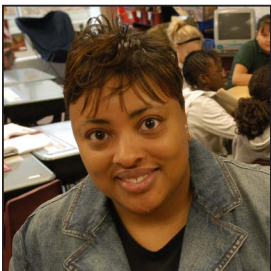
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Graduates from four complementary programs at Concordia University, St. Paul; Hamline University; the University of St. Thomas; and Augsburg College know firsthand how educating teachers in innovative ways for schools in urban and urban-like settings can help reduce Minnesota's student achievement gap. These programs recruit, train and retain teachers from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, helping them become more effective at preparing today's students for success in tomorrow's workforce.



### **Tammy Xiong, Kindergarten teacher in St. Paul**

"The Southeast Asian Teacher program helps diversify school faculties, providing students with adult role models who are the same ethnicity. As one of two Hmong teachers at a school made up of more than 60 percent Hmong students, I can see the positive impact this program has on my students."



### **Isis Buchanan, Principal at Carver Elementary School**

"The Center for Excellence in Urban Teaching covered many things not addressed in the traditional elementary education undergraduate classroom experience. We are prepared in a different way for urban teaching with emphasis on cultural, social, and economic differences."



### **Bennice Young, Principal at the Hall International School**

"The Collaborative Urban Educator program made it possible to fulfill my strong desire to educate children. The collective embrace and structure helped so many of us, with all our diversity of experiences, feel fully supported as new educators. As a result, after 17 years I remain completely motivated and deeply committed to ensuring student success and closing the achievement gap."



### **Osman Ahmed, Co-Founder and Head of the ShantaLink**

"I have worked with East African students as a tutor and mentor since my high school years. EAST is not only training classroom teachers, it is raising a community of educators. We come together as a group to exchange ideas and connect with one another. It is because of this that I believe the EAST program will help produce new types of leaders in the education sector."