

Empowered Educators: An Unparalleled View of Teaching Quality Around the World from Linda Darling-Hammond

New Book from One of America's Leading Education Researchers Reveals How Five Countries on Four Continents Get Great Teacher Quality

Funding and Support from the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)

Washington, D.C.- There is no more important in-school determinant of student success than the quality of teaching that students experience. Recognizing this, countries around the world have redesigned their education systems to ensure that high-quality teaching occurs in all their schools.

In her new book, *Empowered Educators: How High-Performing Systems Shape Teaching Quality Around the World*, published by Jossey-Bass/Wiley, world-renowned education researcher Linda Darling-Hammond gives readers an unparalleled view into how seven high-performing jurisdictions across four continents constructed coherent systems to recruit, develop and support high-quality teachers.

"We aimed to see how all of the small parts and pieces fit together into what we call a comprehensive teaching and learning system, producing great teaching at scale," said Darling-Hammond. "Among other things, we looked at how these jurisdictions attract talented students who are committed to the profession of teaching, effectively prepare and induct teachers so that they are supported early in their careers, and create work environments and career pathways that encourage teachers' leadership and professional development."

Funded and supported by the Center on International Education Benchmarking at the National Center on Education and the Economy, the book is the center piece of the *Empowered Educators* international comparative study. The three-year research project was led by Darling-Hammond, who launched the work from the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education (SCOPE) at Stanford University, where she is emeritus professor holding an endowed chair in teaching and teacher education. Darling-Hammond, who now heads the Learning Policy Institute (LPI) in Palo Alto, drew together a research team comprised of experts in educational research and policy from across the globe, including: Dion Burns, also of SCOPE and LPI; Carol Campbell from the University of Toronto; A. Lin Goodwin, associate dean and a chaired professor from Columbia University's Teachers College; Karen Hammerness, director of Education Research and Evaluation at the American Museum of Natural History; Ee Ling Low, professor at Singapore's National Institute of Education; Ann McIntyre, former Director of Professional Learning and Leadership in New South Wales, Australia; Mistilina Sato, a chaired professor from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities; and Kenneth Zeichner, a chaired professor at the University of Washington.

The *Empowered Educators* research team found that these high-performing systems are succeeding in building a new profession of teaching in a way that the United States has not. They have ***focused on building effective systems***, opting not to chase silver bullets or short-term, narrow-focused solutions. Second, these systems have held at the core of their work ***a commitment to professionalizing teaching*** as an occupation.

"This is a landmark study," said NCEE president Marc Tucker, "in terms of the knowledge that we now have about how these countries have been able to vastly improve the quality of their teachers and deploy them in a way that makes the best use of their skills, and for the quality of people who have contributed to it at every level as well as the range of products it makes available to the people who we hope will benefit from it."

In addition to the main book from Jossey-Bass/Wiley are a series of e-books on each of the countries studied. These deep-dives into the unique context and policy environments, these country-focused e-books shed new light on policy systems in Finland and Singapore, and in the states of New South Wales and Victoria in Australia, the provinces of Alberta and Ontario in Canada, and the province of Shanghai in China.

In June, NCEE's Center on International Education Benchmarking will convene a national meeting of education leaders for the release of additional resources from the *Empowered Educators* study. These resources will include

- system briefs covering each of the jurisdictions studied,
- policy briefs on critical topics including teacher recruitment; preparation, induction and mentoring; professional learning and work environments, and career and leadership development, and
- an online resource library with authentic tools, original documents, and video interviews with policymakers and practitioners in the systems studied.

To register for the June 6, 2017 *Empowered Educators* national meeting, and for more on the study, visit www.NCEE.org/empowered-educators.

Beginning in August, NCEE's Center on International Education Benchmarking will host a series of monthly webinars on the policy areas outlined above. A webinar schedule is available at the *Empowered Educators* website.

Reporters interested in speaking with Linda Darling-Hammond, Marc Tucker or members of the research team may contact NCEE Director of Communications Brendan Williams-Kief at bwilliamskief@ncee.org or 202-905-6284.

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The National Center on Education and the Economy was created in 1988 to analyze the implications of changes in the international economy for American education, formulate an agenda for American education based on that analysis and seek wherever possible to accomplish that agenda through policy change and development of the resources educators would need to carry it out. For more information visit www.ncee.org.

The Center on International Education Benchmarking, a program of NCEE, conducts and funds research on the world's most successful education and workforce development systems to identify the strategies those countries have used to produce their superior performance. Through its books, reports, website, monthly newsletter, and a weekly update of education news around the world, CIEB provides up-to-date information and analysis on the world's most successful education systems based on student performance, equity and efficiency. Visit www.ncee.org/cieb to learn more.

Research for the *Empowered Educators* study was coordinated by the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education (SCOPE) at Stanford University. SCOPE was founded in 2008 to foster research, policy, and practice to advance high-quality, equitable education systems in the United States and Internationally.