ON THE FastTrack

October 2025 - Issue #22

MONTHLY UPDATE: CELEBRATING NEVADA'S EDUCATORS

Welcome to the October 2025 issue of On the FastTrack! This month, we are proud to shine a spotlight on Nevada and the extraordinary educators who help our communities thrive. As we gear up for our 2nd Annual Finish Line Event, we celebrate more than 100 former mentees who have reached a major milestone—earning their teaching licensure and now curating learning environments of their own throughout the Silver State.

Our mentors are the heart of the Teacher FastTrack program. Their guidance and encouragement have been instrumental in ensuring that both past and present mentees stay on course to achieve their goals in education and beyond. In this issue, we are especially honored to remember the legacy of Mrs. Tina Jacobson, one of the very first experienced teachers in Nevada to answer the call and serve as a mentor in the Public Education Foundation's Teacher FastTrack (formerly Teacher Pathway) program. Mrs. Jacobson reminds us of the profound legacy mentors leave: "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." — Robert John Meehan.

As we approach the completion of the first 30 days with our current cohort, we are deeply inspired by the passion and dedication of both our mentees and mentors. We remain incredibly grateful for the unwavering support from our community partners and supporters, whose commitment helps make all of this possible. Here's to Nevada, our educators, and the limitless impact they create—today and for generations to come.

Current Cohort DATA

93.94% Mentors satisfied with experience

94.7% Mentees satisfied with experience

86.36% of Mentoring Connections with established Goals

* data based on initial 30 days of current cohort

LESSON OBSERVATIONS:
Now Easier and More Accessible Than Ever!

The Teacher FastTrack Team is excited to share that the Lesson Observation Milestone has been updated with a new, streamlined format — designed to make the process more accessible and easier to complete for all participants!

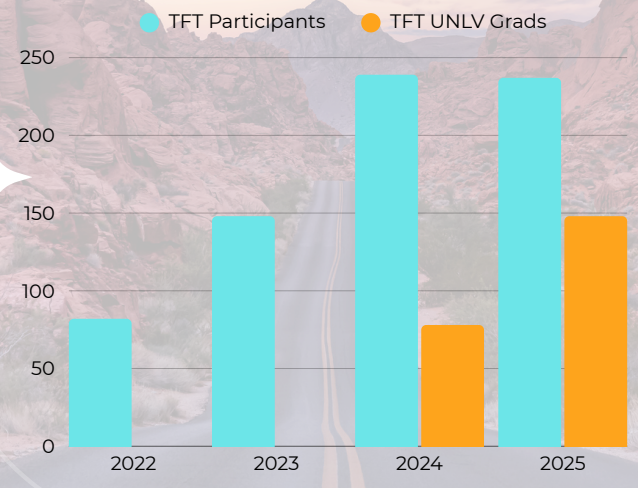
All tasks related to this milestone are now completed virtually through the Mentoring Connection platform. This update allows you to conveniently explore observation options, view lesson videos, and complete the Teacher Observation Checklist from anywhere — no scheduling conflicts, no travel required.

Mentees will have access to a variety of 11 recorded lessons to choose from and will complete one required observation based on their selection. During the process, mentees will provide feedback on key aspects of Classroom Management and Building Positive Relationships, reflecting on effective teaching practices in action.
Once the checklist is submitted, it's automatically saved in Chronus — no need to upload or send anything manually. This enhancement ultimately supports professional growth while offering flexibility that fits a variety of schedules.

Mentee feedback will then be used during a reflective conversation with their mentor, allowing mentees to deepen their understanding and apply new insights to their own classroom experiences.
If you have any questions or need assistance navigating the virtual Lesson Observation process, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Teacher FastTrack Team at tft.recruit@thepef.org — we're here to help every step of the way!

Path to UAP

TFT RECRUIT
Participants and UNLV Grads



*representative of mentees in the 2025 Fall cohort as of 9/9/25

Teacher FastTrack Recruit addresses the teacher shortage crisis by helping to identify school employees who dream of becoming a licensed teacher and providing invaluable wrap-around support while they complete a teacher apprenticeship program at UNLV. We also mentor hundreds of new teachers during the first three years in their own classrooms through our Teacher FastTrack Retain program.

Honoring Tina Jacobson: Teacher, Mentor, and Dream Builder

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Tina Jacobson, one of the founding mentors of the Teacher FastTrack program, who built a lasting legacy as an educator and touched countless lives at Eileen Conners Elementary School and beyond. Principal Dr. Karen Marentic reflected, “Mrs. Jacobson brought a deep passion for teaching and a tireless commitment to student success every single day. Her dedication to our school’s vision — to create meaningful opportunities for all children, both in and out of the classroom — was truly inspiring. Her ability to connect, to uplift, and to lead with kindness left a lasting impression on everyone who had the privilege of working with her.”

As a mentor, Tina empowered new educators with guidance and unwavering encouragement. Mentee Ruth Ponce shared, “She really helped talk me through everything with learning to believe that even after all the years, I could still go back to school and do it! She left a sense of ‘Yes I can do this’ feeling in me!” The TFT team echoed this, remembering Tina as “a steadfast member of our mentor community who always had a word of encouragement for not only our mentees, but our team. Tina’s spirit remains with us all as we continue to do the work of supporting Nevada’s future educators in her memory.”

Tina believed deeply in the transformative power of mentorship. In her own words: “I look at myself as a mentor to my students and colleagues when they need help… New teachers need the tools to help them become stellar teachers and dream builders in their own right. I like to listen to their ideas and help them find a path to their own goals. This is one of the more gratifying ways I get to teach and help make a difference.”

Tina Jacobson was, and will always be, a dream builder. The seeds she planted will continue to grow—in classrooms, in teachers, and in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her memory will inspire us to lead with kindness, nurture with purpose, and believe in the power of dreams.
Click here for the full article

Celebrating Our Teacher FastTrack Graduates:
FROM RECRUITS TO REMARKABLE EDUCATORS

The Public Education Foundation is proud to celebrate a new class of educators who have crossed the Finish Line—our Teacher FastTrack Recruit alumni who recently graduated from UNLV!

These remarkable individuals began their journeys as aspiring teachers with a shared goal: to make a difference in Nevada’s classrooms. Through hard work, dedication, and the support of the Teacher FastTrack program, they’ve transformed that goal into reality. Today, they stand ready to inspire, educate, and empower the next generation of students.

Their graduation represents more than an academic milestone—it’s a triumph of perseverance and purpose. Along the way, these graduates balanced coursework, classroom experience, and life’s many demands, all while keeping their commitment to serve our community’s children at the heart of their journey.

As they take their well-earned place in classrooms across Nevada, we celebrate not only their accomplishments, but also the ripple effect of their impact—stronger schools, inspired students and a brighter future for public education.

To our newest graduates: congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone!
The entire Public Education Foundation team is deeply proud of you and honored to have been part of your journey. Your success reminds us that when we invest in passionate people, we invest in the future of our schools and our community.

We’re excited to continue the celebration at Gratitude for Our Grads!, a special Finish Line Celebration honoring our Teacher FastTrack Recruit participants and their incredible achievements. This culminating event will take place on November 7th at the Historic 5th Street School.

We are grateful to all who have supported Teacher FastTrack programming!

PEF Teacher FastTrack

Contact Teacher FastTrack: tft.recruit@thepef.org
Grant Hanevold: grant.hanevold@thepef.org | (702) 271-6008
Ashlie N. Randolph: ashlie.randolph@thepef.org | (702) 799-1042 Ext. 7468
Jessica Rodriguez: jessica.rodriguez@thepef.org | (702) 271-7422