

# ***Transformative Educational Leadership (TEL) brings hope and wholeness to educators***

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## **Abstract**

An invitation to apply for the third Transformative Educational Leadership (TEL) cohort from HER co-editor Renee Owen. <https://www.teleadership.org/>. Note that several articles in this issue of HER are from TEL staff and students: Meena Srinivasan writes on climate justice and TEL education, Daniel Rechtschaffen on mindfulness and trauma, and Paula Lightsey and Lea Abrams submitted their insightful poetry.

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In January 2022, TEL opens for registration for the third Transformative Educational Leadership (TEL) cohort. I heartily encourage anyone at any stage of their career – from undergraduates to PhD’s, classroom teachers and administrators – to take advantage of the opportunity to apply. <https://www.teleadership.org/>. Here’s why:

If HER posted a sentence stem prompt that began, “Holistic education is....” I am certain we would receive a wide variety of responses. However, if I had to decide on one phrase it would be, “Holistic education is transformative.”

That is why I applied for the Transformative Education Leadership (TEL) program in 2018. I was thrilled to be accepted because the program was being led by Meena Srinivasan, Linda Lantieri, and Daniel Rechtschaffen – heroes to me. I first saw Linda Lantieri on stage with the Dalai Lama over a decade ago, discussing compassionate education, and I was riveted by her passion and spirit. Likewise, I had come across Meena and Daniel’s trail-blazing work in mindfulness, SEL, and racial equity. In addition, Meena, Linda, and Daniel are such brilliant and loving people, they have a wide network of dear friends and colleagues in the holistic education world whom they invited into our TEL fold. Every month for a year, I and my TEL cohort members had intimate conversations with other “superstars,” such as Daniel Goleman, Patricia Jennings, and Margaret Wheatly.

While it was an incredible opportunity to learn from all these people and to develop close relationships with them, the TEL experience wouldn’t have been as transformative without the companionship of my TEL cohort members. My TEL cohort was perhaps the most racially diverse group I have ever worked so closely with. Together, we navigated tough issues around racial equity, power, and liberation. Although the program ended over two years ago, my TEL friends remain some of my most trusted colleagues – educators I can depend on when I need a confidant or guidance. Together, we share a vision for a world where every child has access to an education of justice, equity, and well-being.

## **Person and Professional Outcomes**

Transformation isn’t something that occurs without a struggle. TEL provided a safe place to develop critical friends who challenged me to see beyond my blind spots and gain more self-awareness. Through TEL I experienced deep inner healing, which transformed me into a more compassionate and competent holistic educator. TEL also helped me move my career forward, leading to my current position at Southern Oregon’s Holistic Teaching and Learning Center. Most importantly, TEL gave me the courage and spirit to carry on in my mission to work toward large-scale educational change. As an educator with a big vision, I look forward to transformation TEL will continue to cultivate through the upcoming cohort, which opens in 2022.

<https://www.teleadership.org/>