

Call for Participants

ATE Inquiry Initiative 2026 Cohort: Reclaiming Teaching in an Era of Disruption

Are you ready to move beyond one-time conference sessions and into sustained, meaningful professional inquiry?

Do you want to collaborate with colleagues across contexts to produce work that matters?

The **Association of Teacher Educators (ATE)** invites applications for the next cohort of the **Inquiry Initiative**—a multi-year, collaborative experience designed to deepen engagement, expand impact, and support the development of meaningful scholarly and professional work.

Why This Initiative—and Why Now

Teacher education is navigating a period of profound disruption—shaped by technological change, evolving policy environments, workforce challenges, and shifting public narratives about the profession. At the same time, the core purposes of teaching remain essential.

This cohort will explore:

How can educators reclaim, redefine, and sustain the purpose of teaching in an era of disruption?

Grounded in ATE’s mission to advance teacher education through **research, practice, and professional learning**, this initiative creates space for sustained inquiry that connects ideas to action.

What Makes the Inquiry Initiative Different

The Inquiry Initiative is intentionally designed as an alternative to the “drive-through” nature of traditional conferences.

Participants engage in:

- **Sustained collaboration over time**
- **Cross-boundary inquiry** (institutional, geographic, methodological)
- **Participant-driven work and direction**
- **Opportunities to produce meaningful professional outcomes**

These elements reflect the Initiative’s core principles of **collaborative inquiry, structured engagement, and tangible impact**.

How It Works

Participants are placed into small, diverse **Inquiry Crews** (approximately 5–8 members), intentionally composed to reflect a range of roles, perspectives, and experiences.

Crews serve as the primary space for:

- Inquiry and dialogue
- Research and idea development
- Collaborative and individual work

Participants will have the opportunity to indicate **sub-theme preferences** during the application process, and crews will be formed accordingly.

Areas of Inquiry

Participants may engage in areas such as:

- Educator identity and purpose
- Teacher preparation and program redesign
- Well-being and sustainability
- Policy, Advocacy, and Public Engagement
- Equity and Access
- Clinical practice and field experiences
- AI and the future of teaching
- Global and Cross-Cultural Perspectives

These areas are starting points. Each crew will shape its own direction and focus.

Participation Structure

The Inquiry Initiative is a **three-year professional commitment**, designed to support sustained inquiry, meaningful collaboration, and impactful outcomes.

Launch Experience

- **ATE Summer Conference (Seattle, July 2026)**
- Initial crew formation and collaborative inquiry design

Sustained Engagement (Across Three Years)

- Ongoing crew meetings (virtual and/or hybrid)
- Structured check-ins and collaboration opportunities
- Iterative development of inquiry, products, and partnerships

Summer Inquiry Summit (New)

- A dedicated **Inquiry Initiative Summit** (separate from ATE conferences)
 - Opportunity for deeper collaboration, extended work time, and community building
 - Potential for rotating host institutions
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Global and Virtual Participation

To expand access and participation:

A **fully supported virtual strand** will be available for international participants and those unable to attend the Seattle conference.

Virtual participants will:

- Be placed into Inquiry Crews
- Engage in parallel collaborative structures
- Participate fully in the Initiative's work and community

This ensures the Initiative reflects **global perspectives and diverse contexts**.

What You Will Do

As a participant, you will:

Engage in Sustained Inquiry

Work collaboratively with your crew to explore questions related to teaching, purpose, and professional practice.

Develop Professional Contributions

Participants are encouraged to develop outcomes such as:

- Publications
- Conference presentations
- Policy or practitioner resources
- Programmatic or instructional innovations

(The form and direction of these outcomes will be shaped by each crew.)

Build Meaningful Professional Relationships

Develop sustained connections that extend beyond a single conference or project.

Who Should Apply

We invite applications from:

- Teacher educators (higher education and P–12)
- Researchers and graduate students
- Clinical supervisors and mentors
- Educational leaders and policy professionals
- Practitioners engaged in teacher development

ATE membership is required for participation.

Applicants who are not currently members are welcome to apply and may join ATE upon acceptance. We seek a **diverse, interdisciplinary cohort** representing multiple roles, perspectives, and contexts.

What You Gain

Participants in previous cohorts have experienced:

- Deeper professional relationships
- Sustained intellectual engagement
- Expanded opportunities for collaboration and publication

- Renewed sense of purpose and connection to the field
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Commitment Expectations

Participants are expected to:

- Engage actively with their Inquiry Crew across the full **three-year cycle**
- Participate in Initiative events (in-person or virtual)
- Contribute to collaborative and/or individual work
- Uphold a spirit of **collegiality, flexibility, and shared responsibility**

Participation is designed to be **rigorous, meaningful, and sustainable** within professional contexts.

Application Information


Application Opens: April 24th, 2026

Application Deadline: May 18th, 2026

Notification of Acceptance: May 25th, 2026

Applicants will be asked to provide:

- A brief professional profile
- Areas of interest (sub-theme preferences)
- A statement of intended contribution

 **Apply here:** <https://forms.gle/8xQenohGutykgCGq9>

Final Invitation

If you are seeking:

- Work that extends beyond a single conference
- Collaboration that sharpens your thinking and expands your impact
- A space to reconnect with the purpose of teaching

We invite you to apply.

Join Us

Reclaiming Teaching in an Era of Disruption begins with who is at the table. Be part of the work.