



For Immediate Release

**Dr. Sarena M. Shivers Appointed as Executive Director of Talent Together
the Nation's Largest "Grow Your Own" Program**

*Compassionate leader brings decades of experience
to further strengthen Michigan's teacher talent pipeline*

Michigan, Nov. 21, 2024 – Talent Together, the nation's largest "grow your own" program, focused on strengthening Michigan's teacher talent pipeline, welcomes its first executive director, Dr. Sarena M. Shivers. In this role, Dr. Shivers brings a new era of leadership to advance Talent Together's mission of removing barriers and providing support for aspiring teachers. Since its inception in December 2022, Talent Together has brought over one thousand candidates into Michigan's teacher pipeline.

With over three decades of experience in education – including over 20 years as an administrator – Dr. Shivers has a profound background of serving children, families and educators. Her career has spanned roles as a teacher, principal, program director, assistant superintendent and superintendent. In 2018, Dr. Shivers was recognized as a nominee for Michigan's Superintendent of the Year. Most recently, she served as the Deputy Executive Director of Professional learning for the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators (MASA), where she supported and fostered professional growth for education leaders statewide.

"The teacher crisis is the biggest issue facing education and Talent Together has been at the forefront of providing solutions for districts and communities across the state," stated Dr. Shivers. "This initiative is leading the way in teacher preparation programs and plays a vital role in addressing the teacher shortage in Michigan. I look forward to working with the talented team and dedicated board to continue turning future educators' dreams into reality so that students have access to high-quality teachers in every classroom and school."

In addition to her storied career as a school leader, Dr. Shivers has also earned national recognition, including serving a four-year term on the Board of Directors for the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASDC). Known for her compassionate, adaptive, and resilient approach, she is uniquely positioned to lead Talent Together into its next chapter of impact and growth.

"The Board is thrilled to welcome Dr. Shivers to the team," said Dr. Naomi Norman, Talent Together Board President and Washtenaw ISD Superintendent. "As a school, district, and organizational leader with decades of experience, we are confident she will have a tremendous impact on Talent Together and the schools, teacher candidates, and students we serve."

As the program welcomes Dr. Shivers, Talent Together reaffirms its mission to provide equitable access and opportunity to the teaching profession so that, ultimately, children across the state learn from a well-prepared and more diverse teaching workforce.

“Dr. Shivers brings expertise and lifelong commitment to innovation to Talent Together,” said Becca Tisdale, current interim executive director of Talent Together and Partner & VP of Programs of the Michigan Educator Workforce Initiative (MEWI), Talent Together’s founding non-profit partner. “I’m excited to turn the helm over to Dr. Shivers during this important time and look forward to seeing what new heights she will lead us to in bringing inspirational leaders into classrooms throughout Michigan.”

For more information about Talent Together, visit www.mitalenttogether.org.

For more information about the Michigan Educator Workforce Initiative and the programs it’s supporting, visit <https://www.miedworkforce.org/>.

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