



Introduction & Background

In 2022, The Educator Academy launched its inaugural conference for educators in Kansas City. The Summit is a one-day conference where educators can take time to celebrate the excellent work they are doing and envision how their practice and the field of education can be even better.

The Summit 2027: Meet the Moment takes place on Saturday, February 20th, at The Kauffman Foundation Conference Center.

At *The Summit 2027*, we will gather to learn from fellow educators who have faced real challenges, choices and opportunities with belief, determination and a strategy. These are educators who, in the course of their work, have made informed choices, taken calculated risks, or tried a new approach. And, along the way, they've learned something worth sharing.

Keynote Speakers

Right Here, Right Now: Stories of Educators Meeting the Moment

We are looking for educators who can tell a compelling story about a moment in their work when they faced a challenge, opportunity, transition, or realization that demanded an immediate response.

This is not a presentation about a successful program or a broad reflection on education. We want a story: What was happening? What choice did you make? What happened next? What did you learn about yourself, your community, and the work? The goal is for attendees to see themselves in your story—and leave thinking differently about a moment they are facing right now.

We will offer 4 applicants an opportunity to lead a 12 minute Keynote talk for up to 200 attendees at The Summit. This year, we are seeking Keynote speakers to meet the widened target audience for the event, including early career teachers, mentors and teacher leaders, and instructional leaders.



Submission Guidelines & Requirements

Please complete and [submit the form on our website](#). Make sure to include:

1. Name and Contact Info
2. Current role, organization and years in education
3. Brief bio that describes your educational career (100 words max)
4. Proposed Talk Title
5. Elevator Pitch
 - a. In 3-5 sentences, please tell us about your moment. Include the choice, challenge, and outcome.
 - b. For guidance on the choice, challenge, outcome structure, we recommend this [resource](#). While we are not presenting stories of self, the same structure can be applied to that moment in your education work when you decided to act.
6. Audience take-away:
 - a. In 100 words or less, tell us what you want listeners to walk away with
7. Intro video
 - a. Record a 2-3 min video introducing yourself and telling us why you want to share your story at The Summit
 - b. We are looking at your general comfortability with public speaking, so a basic recording on a smartphone or laptop is fine.
8. Commitment
 - a. Can you commit to the preparation schedule outlined, including in-person rehearsals and day-before run-throughs?
 - b. You will be working directly with an EA staff member, submitting materials and receiving feedback. The timeline for that work is included below.

Optional:

9. Headshot (can be updated later)
10. Slides or visual materials to accompany your talk



Project Timelines

The project timeline is as follows:

Applications are LIVE	09/21/2026
Applications CLOSED	10/30/2026
Communication with all applicants	11/16/2026
Partner with The Educator Academy to finalize preparation for facilitation. Will include: • Asynchronous collaboration on script Nov - Dec • Final script due by Jan. 4th • In-person practice in early Jan and early Feb • Supporting visuals and materials due by Feb 1st • Day-before run-through on Feb 19th	11/16/2026 - 02/20/2027

The date of The Summit is Saturday, February 20, 2027



Compensation

Each Keynote presenter will receive \$1,000 paid by The Educator Academy for their facilitation on the day of The Summit. Payment will be distributed by the end of March 2027. Each keynote speaker will also receive one complimentary ticket to the event, valued at \$100.

If multiple speakers are named in the Keynote application, compensation will be split equally amongst them.

We are unable to compensate facilitators for travel and lodging fees.



Evaluation Factors

The Educator Academy will evaluate all proposals based on the following criteria:

1. Relevancy to this year's theme
 - a. Meet the Moment: real opportunities, real growth, right now
2. Connection of the speaker and the story to education
3. Representation of broader target audience
 - a. Early career teacher, veteran teacher, instructional leader, administration, student support services, etc
4. Adherence to the submission guidelines (listed above)

You are welcome to apply to multiple opportunities at The Summit, but will only be selected for one.

[Apply Now.](#)