

CHANGING MINDSETS, CHANGING OUTCOMES: A NEW PARADIGM FOR TEACHER-PARENT PARTNERSHIPS BY KENYA BRADSHAW.

Educators need to speak honestly to families and ensure that their messages are properly heard. A pilot program to train teachers in Las Vegas is reviewed.

Kenya Bradshaw wrote this essay documenting the need for schools to speak honestly to parents about children's progress as a part of the Carnegie Corporation-commissioned challenge to explore the role of family engagement in student success. Bradshaw cited results from the "[Opportunity Myth](#)," explaining that school report cards must be truly reflective of how students are doing. Bradshaw says teachers need training before entering classrooms for conducting effective parental engagement.

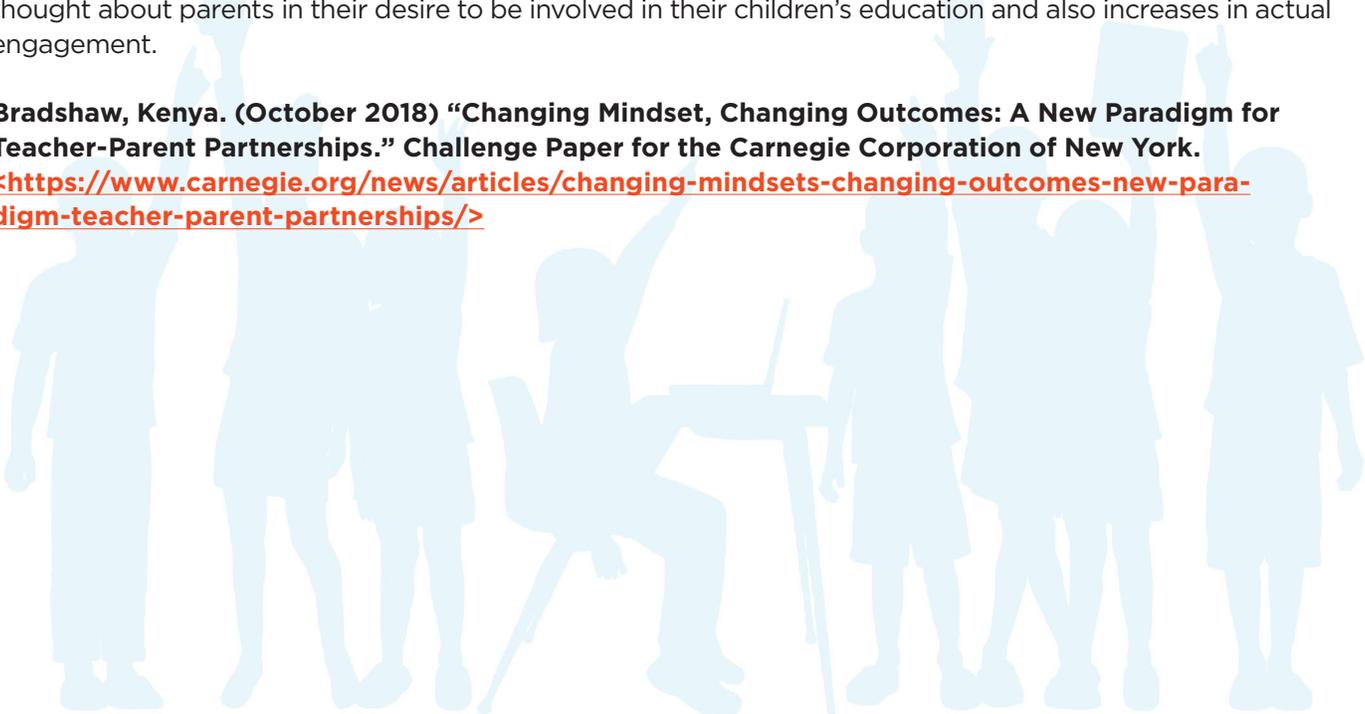
TNTP has piloted a program in Las Vegas to help train teachers, concentrating on:

- *A reflection of personal values and biases.*
By considering how their own identity and experiences affect their interactions, participants worked on how to create a more welcoming, inclusive classrooms. Bradshaw noted how this is a particularly important step at a time when 80 percent of teachers are white, and nearly 50 percent of students are people of color.
- *A history of the communities being served.*
Participants were briefed on their community's overall history, including race relations, economic and political disenfranchisement, and unfulfilled promises. Families and community members were brought together for this knowledge exchange, with teachers then taken out into the community to walk neighborhoods and see where students and families spend their time.
- *Practical skills for engaging families and community members.* Teachers were given tools and templates for taking action on what they've learned and also spent time practicing proactive, positive, and culturally proficient communications with families.

The program, which also included online follow-up resources, showed significant gains in how teachers thought about parents in their desire to be involved in their children's education and also increases in actual engagement.

Bradshaw, Kenya. (October 2018) "Changing Mindset, Changing Outcomes: A New Paradigm for Teacher-Parent Partnerships." Challenge Paper for the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

<https://www.carnegie.org/news/articles/changing-mindsets-changing-outcomes-new-paradigm-teacher-parent-partnerships/>



Thanks to generous support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, *Our Neighborhood*, is a compilation of stories and research from the family engagement field. It is intended to be a living repository and guide for STEM Learning Ecosystems and other communities interested in cultivating strong community partnerships to prepare the next generation.

This annotated bibliography was compiled by TIES for *Our Neighborhood*.