

GA NATS Teacher Enrichment Program: Teachers Supporting Teachers

The Teacher Enrichment Program offers Georgia NATS members (“inquiring teachers”) an opportunity to strengthen their studio pedagogy by observing and being observed by a Georgia NATS mentor teacher over a period of one academic semester (August-December or January-May). This program is open to any active Georgia NATS member, whether a new teacher looking to solidify her/his studio pedagogy or an experienced teacher looking to re-energize or diversify her/his teaching. ***Although this document outlines some suggestions for how the inquiring teacher and mentoring teacher can interact as part of the program, the inquirer and mentor are encouraged to develop a regimen that will best serve the needs of the inquiring teacher.***

1. Teacher Enrichment Committee

The Teacher Enrichment Committee will consist of the chapter Vice President and at least two other Georgia NATS members in good standing. The committee will meet or communicate virtually once a year (May-June) for the purpose of selecting inquirers and mentors for the program. When pairing inquirers and mentors, the committee will determine how best to allocate the program’s travel funding budget to inquirers accepted into the program. During this time, the committee will also review feedback forms submitted by previous program participants and, if warranted, submit any suggestions for improving the program to the Georgia NATS Executive Board for review.

The committee should maintain and update a list of possible mentoring teachers in Georgia representing different regions in the state and differing areas of expertise (lesson organization, teaching genre(s), teaching of technique, selection and coaching of repertoire). The committee will strive to pair inquirers with mentors who are skilled in the areas of improvement indicated by the inquirer and who live within reasonable geographic proximity to the inquirer’s place of residence or employment.

2. Application Process

The Teacher Enrichment Program is open to any Georgia NATS member in good standing. The program runs by fall and spring “semesters,” and the application deadline will be **May 1** preceding the fall or spring semester for which the inquirer is applying.

Interested applicants should submit the Teacher Enrichment Program application, including a statement of goals to be accomplished during the program (lesson organization, teaching style or genre, teaching of technique, selection and coaching of repertoire, etc.), and a link to a twenty minute online sample teaching video.

The Teacher Enrichment committee will notify approved participants by July 1.

3. The Mentor Process

The mentoring teacher and inquiring teacher will jointly develop a program that allows the inquirer to accomplish his/her goals within the assigned five month period. This program will typically involve the inquirer and mentor observing each other's studio teaching, although program participants are encouraged to develop whatever program format best serves the inquirer's goals. Both mentor and inquirer should strive to develop a program that is rigorous but also works within the scheduling availability of both participants.

Below is a suggested program that could work within a five-month period:

- The inquirer observes a series of six weekly lessons taught by the mentoring teacher, preferably of the same students. The six weeks of lessons can fall at any point during the semester or be spread throughout the semester. This will allow the inquirer to observe longer-term process and progress between mentor and her/his students.
- The mentor and inquirer will reserve an hour during each week of lesson observation to allow for discussion of the observed lessons.
- At some point during the five month period, the inquiring teacher will provide the mentoring teacher with videos of the apprentice teaching three 30-50 minute lessons with three different students. The inquirer will provide basic information about each student, as well as the goals for each lesson. The mentoring teacher will then provide constructive written or in-person feedback of the inquiring teacher's video lessons.

Mentor, inquirer, and all students whose lessons are observed must read and sign a copy of the Teacher Enrichment Program Liability Form and provide this signed copy to the GA NATS Vice President BEFORE beginning any teaching observations.

4. Travel Funding

The Teacher Enrichment Committee will make every effort to pair mentors and inquirers who live within fifty miles of each other. However, the Teacher Enrichment Program does possess a limited travel budget to assist inquirers who live and work more than fifty miles from the mentoring teacher's studio. *These funds will be disbursed at the discretion of the Teacher Enrichment Committee, and each inquirer will be notified of the total funds available to her/him when s/he is accepted into the program. Inquirers who have been awarded travel funds will be reimbursed for their travel by submitting a mileage log to the GA NATS Treasurer no later than the final month of the semester in which the inquirer participated in the program.*

In general, Georgia NATS will reimburse an inquiring teacher for up to six trips to the mentoring teacher's studio, at a rate of \$0.54 per mile for the mileage in excess of one hundred miles (round trip) for each trip. The maximum travel funding for any one inquirer will be \$300.

5. Participant Feedback

After the conclusion of the mentor process, the inquiring teacher and mentoring teacher will complete the Teacher Enrichment Program Feedback Form and submit it to the Georgia NATS Vice President. Select participants in the program may be asked to report on their experiences in the program during the Georgia NATS annual business meeting.