

Teach For All For Immediate Release

Anseye Pou Ayiti launches in Haiti, partners with global Teach For All network

GONAÏVES, HAITI – JANUARY 26, 2015

Today **Anseye Pou Ayiti** (“Teach For Haiti” in Haitian Kreyòl) announced that it has joined the **Teach For All** global network and continues to seek candidates for a new teacher leadership development program. An independent nonprofit organization, Anseye Pou Ayiti’s mission is to recruit, train, and support Haitian university graduates and current teachers to teach in schools in rural and underserved areas of Haiti, and become leaders in the effort to increase educational opportunity throughout the country.

Although education has consistently been a valued priority in Haitian society, the average Haitian child has only five years of formal education due to a mix of access and quality challenges. In rural communities, where over 50 percent of Haitians reside, access to high-quality education is particularly limited. Meanwhile, most primary school teachers in Haiti have limited training, with only 20 percent being formally trained in teaching. Anseye Pou Ayiti aims to help increase Haitian students’ access to an excellent education in rural and underserved areas, by increasing the number of excellent teachers and leaders.

“From my days at École Des Frères in Grande-Rivière-du-Nord to leading the third largest school district in the United States, I’ve come to appreciate the significance of effective and caring teachers” says Haitian native Jean-Claude Brizard, former CEO of Chicago Public Schools and Anseye Pou Ayiti Board Chair. “Education must focus on a student’s full development not simply to create a just society, but to create a prosperous economy. Through education, Anseye Pou Ayiti will contribute to the socioeconomic development of Haiti. I am proud to support Nedgine and Anseye Pou Ayiti as founding board chair.”

Nedgine Paul, Anseye Pou Ayiti’s co-founder and CEO, is deeply committed to expanding equal educational opportunity in Haiti. Paul is a Haitian native, whose father was a schoolteacher and principal in Gros Morne and Port-au-Prince. A graduate of Yale University and the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Paul has worked with Achievement First schools in the U.S., and with Partners in Health, including leading management training sessions in Haiti. Her work founding and leading Anseye Pou Ayiti led to her being named a 2014 Echoing Green Global Fellow. She is grateful to be returning home to join the movement of education changemakers devoted to empowering teachers to provide students with the education they deserve—including at the school her father once led.

“We are excited to harness the energy and passion of a diverse coalition from across Haiti to promote equal educational opportunity for all,” said Paul. “The ingenuity and determination of the Haitian people are some of the greatest resources of our nation. There are so many talented people in Haiti who want to return to their hometowns, to affect change for students and their communities. Anseye Pou Ayiti will not only provide a path for these teachers, but will instill in them a lifelong commitment to education as a human right rooted in Haitian culture, customs, and community.”

This month, Anseye Pou Ayiti began to recruit and select up to 30 candidates to become its first cohort of “teacher leaders” (participants of the Anseye Pou Ayiti program). These teachers will work in schools in several communes including Gonaïves, Gros-Morne, Boucan Carre, and Mirebalais. (The final set of schools will be confirmed prior to the 2015-2016 school year.) Anseye Pou Ayiti will provide these teachers with support and training throughout their initial two-year commitment, including coaching, mentorship, and regular classroom support. Following the two-year commitment, Anseye Pou Ayiti will continue supporting these teachers as active “ambassadors” of the organization’s mission.

“Teacher training is a priority for Haiti,” says Michel DeGraff, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Professor of Linguistics and Director of MIT-Haiti Initiative. “I hope Anseye Pou Ayiti will help enhance teacher excellence in rural areas while also enhancing core aspects of Haitian culture, including Haitian Kreyòl. The latter is our national language and an essential tool for literacy and for learning second languages including French, English, Spanish, alongside science, math, social sciences, etc.”

Anseye Pou Ayiti has formally partnered with Teach For All, a global organization dedicated to expanding educational opportunity in countries around the world. Teach For All supports organizations like Anseye Pou Ayiti that recruit and develop a diverse group of individuals from a range of academic disciplines to commit to teach for two years in their nations' high-need classrooms and become lifelong leaders for educational excellence and equity. Each partner organization adapts this approach to their country's context and needs. Anseye Pou Ayiti will join more than 30 other Teach For All partner organizations working toward the common goal of expanding educational opportunity for all children.

"We are thrilled to welcome Anseye Pou Ayiti to the Teach For All network," said Wendy Kopp, co-founder and CEO of Teach For All. "The work that Nedgine Paul and her team are doing has the potential to have a profound impact on the futures of students in Haitian communities, and their insights and innovations will without doubt bring real value to other Teach For All partners who are working hard to address educational inequity in their nations."

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About Anseye Pou Ayiti

Anseye Pou Ayiti will raise education outcomes in disadvantaged areas of Haiti by recruiting and training outstanding Haitian teacher leaders for existing schools. Transformational teaching and leadership will equip all children with the knowledge, skills, and mindsets to achieve their full potential with equal opportunity, pursue lives of mutual prosperity, and contribute to a more enlightened 21st century world. A Haitian-led and Haitian-run organization, Anseye Pou Ayiti is investing in top Haitian talent for the long haul, so our alumni ambassadors fill a critical gap in local capacity. For more information, visit AnseyePouAyiti.org and follow us on Twitter @AnseyePouAyiti

About Teach For All

Teach For All is a global network of over 30 locally led and funded independent partner organizations with a shared vision for expanded educational opportunity in their countries. Each partner recruits and develops diverse leaders to commit two years to teach in their nations' high-need classrooms and to work throughout their lives to increase opportunity for children. For more information, visit TeachForAll.org and follow us on Twitter @TeachForAll



Nedgine Paul, CEO, Anseye Pou Ayiti



Anseye Pou Ayiti logo