Objectives:

- Increase effective collaboration among teachers, administrators and higher education
- Provide engaging experiences in personal character development to strengthen classroom teaching
- Increase participant awareness of effects of teacher personality and relational effectiveness with students
- Improve teachers' “life choices” in their education careers
- Encourage positive changes in teacher attitudes and character development
- Broaden teacher perspectives and focus on educating the whole student through character and competency development
- Create continued learning experiences and ongoing engagement with participating teachers

Benefits:

Participating teachers –

- Experience a unique collaborative opportunity across grade levels, disciplines and schools
- Reflect on emerging issues in personal character development and improvement
- Create opportunities in teacher character, choices and personality to strengthen relationships with students
- Broaden focus on total person education and the synergies with current academic competencies
- Expand and improve perspectives in the role of teachers in character development
- Attain Professional Growth Plan points or possible graduate credits while completing dynamic learning experiences

Students of participating teachers –

- Become interested in issues related to character development as well as academic skills
- Maintain a better relationship with the teacher
- Learn character traits and why they are important to life
- Collaborate more effectively with other students
- Become introduced to matters that impact life choices and learn how to make better life choices
Passport to Innovative Education engages a select collaborative cohort of teachers (with five years of experience or less)

- Cohort members interact in an online community focused on education issues that matter
- Cohort members engage in a one-week institute at The Summit
  - Attend workshops on various character traits essential to “life-changing” teaching and participate in meaningful group discussion on relevant and emerging education issues
    - Effective practices in educating the whole student
    - Strengthening connections between teacher and student character development
    - Relevant job factors within teacher control
    - Effective methods of stress management & avoiding teacher burnout
  - Formulate a Personal Character Development Plan
  - Develop and receive grant money for a classroom project for 2013-2014 implementation
  - Participate in individual conferences with education mentors
  - Assess individual personality and how it relates to teaching
  - Volunteer at a local youth organization
  - Receive professional development experience (including meals and on-site housing) at no cost
  - Engage in crucial conversations that strengthen personal and professional character development

- Cohort members experience education in other cultures through a global education study tour
  - Travel to 2-3 other countries and meet with education organizations and their leaders
  - Experience cultural differences that offer opportunities for teacher and student learning
  - Strengthen collaborative relationships with other teachers and education professionals
  - Create new learning experiences based on broadened understanding of different cultures

- Cohort members participate in a weekend follow-up institute
  - Evaluate cohort experiences through various assessments (qualitative and quantitative)
  - Present finished classroom projects and publish in cohort book
  - Build foundation for further project work and growth in character development