

Ramp-Up News

January 2017

For You:

School leadership requires boldness, tenacity, and focus. You know this from your work as a counselor, teacher, or principal. As 2017 begins, I want to thank you again for your invaluable work in leading Ramp-Up at your site. When you can, take two minutes to watch a fragment of President LBJ's "The American Promise" speech, given in 1965 (located at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdNEOtGRI_w&app=desktop). His words are still relevant today to the power of determined leadership and to the cause of helping *all* of our students create better lives for themselves.

For Staff:

Recently released 2015 TIMSS and PISA tests, which are international benchmarking exams in math, science, and reading, indicate that U.S. students are remaining somewhat stagnant when compared to other countries. One area where the U.S. has made gains, however, is in the testing performance between rich and poor students. This gap is now closing faster than in any other developed country. The results, however, are quite nuanced and thus simple and quick judgments ought to not be made. Nonetheless, "Economic prosperity, international competitiveness, national security--are a few of the reasons nations take education and these rankings so seriously" says Education Week correspondent Kavitha Cardoza in an eight minute YouTube video, located at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PclP1d9WmrY>. Consider showing this video to your staff, which reinforces the importance of college and career readiness for *all* of our students. Clearly, the stakes are high for our students, but also for our nation.

For Parents:

Do you follow FAFSA on Twitter (@FAFSA)? Many helpful hints are tweeted out from the @FAFSA account, including this tip for parents:

