For nearly a century, Bread Loaf students and professors have gathered for intensive, six-week sessions exploring literature, pedagogy, writing, and theater. The nation’s largest English graduate program, Bread Loaf has a significant year-round impact on K–12 education around the country and the world.

Bread Loaf is both a community of engaged learners attending summer courses on three distinctive campuses and a network of English teachers at grade schools and high schools across the country and around the world. The innovative practices and programs teachers develop during Bread Loaf summers benefit tens of thousands of young students in networked projects that span the globe.

WHAT MAKES BREAD LOAF UNIQUE?

Students: From 75 to 80 percent of Bread Loaf’s students are English teachers. They come from every region of the U.S. and from countries as distant as Kenya, India, Haiti, and Australia. They teach at public, private, and international schools—urban, suburban, and rural. After a summer of intense intellectual engagement, they return home reinvigorated, with new networks of support and fresh approaches to teaching literature and writing. Through them, Bread Loaf has a profound effect on the way English is taught.

Faculty: Bread Loaf selects its faculty from the most distinguished colleges and universities—including Middlebury College—in the United States and the United Kingdom. These dedicated scholars are an active part of the community, many drawn to Bread Loaf by the privilege of educating educators.

Curriculum: Bread Loaf’s distinctive curriculum includes courses in literature, integrated imaginatively with the study of literacy, pedagogy, creative writing, and theater arts. Ideally suited to the needs of teachers, the course offerings

“Students thrive on knowing that what they are doing in Bread Loaf classrooms is prized as challenging, innovative, and transformative—intellectually, educationally, and socially. They not only immerse themselves fully in the process of learning; they come to understand themselves as leaders in thought and education.”

EMILY BARTELS | Director, Bread Loaf School of English
incorporate innovative teaching models and ways to employ technological resources in the classroom. Bread Loaf’s curricular and cocurricular programming leads students towards pragmatic considerations rarely emphasized in graduate education.

Summer Schedule: The intensive, six-week summer schedule permits teachers and other working professionals to maintain their careers while pursuing graduate degrees. Returning each summer for four or five years transforms students, allowing them to grow into master teachers, writers, and thinkers.

Campuses: Each of Bread Loaf’s three campuses offers a distinct cultural and curricular experience, emphasizing unique, place-based courses: in Oxford, on British literature and drama; in Santa Fe, on Native American, Hispanic, and Southwestern literature; and in Vermont, on theater.

Theater: Each summer, professional Equity actors come to Vermont to become part of the Bread Loaf Acting Ensemble. They assist in classrooms, dramatizing texts and bringing the process of interpretation to life in groundbreaking ways. Working alongside students, the ensemble stages a major theatrical production. The program in theater offers instruction in acting, directing, playwriting, and stagecraft as tools for use in the classroom.

THE BREAD LOAF COMMITMENT

Students like to say that what happens at Bread Loaf doesn’t stay at Bread Loaf. Over the past century, Bread Loaf’s thousands of graduates and faculty members have helped to shape how literature and writing are taught in America and abroad. Here are a few examples:

- At the end of each summer, more than 300 teachers return to their classrooms in large cities and rural towns and put their experience to work.
- Our alumni have risen to highly influential positions in city and state school districts and departments of education throughout the U.S., including Kentucky, Ohio, Massachusetts, and New Mexico. Bread Loaf alumni have been named teaching ambassadors by the U.S. Department of Education and invited to participate in the national dialogue on education policy.

Partnerships with schools and school districts across the country bring Bread Loaf’s expertise to still more students. Andover Bread Loaf at Phillips Academy in Massachusetts, for example, trains inner-city teachers and involves children and their parents in better writing.

THE BREAD LOAF TEACHER NETWORK

Established in 1993, the Bread Loaf Teacher Network (BLTN) is made up of teachers educated at Bread Loaf and is supported by Bread Loaf faculty and staff. The network’s primary goal is to encourage year-round, online collaboration among Bread Loaf teachers and students on innovative writing and reading projects.

The network takes the vitality of Bread Loaf summers—the revolutionary classroom approaches, the transformative relationships, the reinvigorating connections with literature and language—and extends its reach throughout the academic year and across the globe.

These teachers’ year-round activities are supported by BreadNet, our telecommunications network, in existence since 1984. Bread Loaf teachers are trained in the use of BreadNet during the summer session; then they and their students carry out cross-classroom, online writing projects during the academic year. Their students benefit enormously from this widening of the classroom, and teachers report dramatic improvement in students’ writing when they are writing for an audience of their peers at another school or engaging in a literary discussion with a college professor.

Initially founded with funding from the Dewitt Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund, the Carnegie Corporation, and the Rockefeller Foundation, the network has recently garnered support from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations and Partners in Health/Centers for Disease Control to help chart new directions in digital teaching and learning and to address the challenges teachers confront as they prepare students to navigate a global society. BLTN has also received a gift to create a Vermont chapter of the network to encourage social change and community revitalization through education and collaboration. The network’s transformative work and broad reach have won recognition from the U.S. Department of Education and the Smithsonian Institute. To learn more about BLTN, visit go.middlebury.edu/bltn.

CONNECTING CLASSROOMS AROUND THE GLOBE

In Tanzania, Port-au-Prince, Mumbai, and Nairobi, as well as across the U.S., BLTN teachers are developing pioneering exchanges inspired by Bread Loaf courses, faculty, and students. One such project connects the Louisville,
CHANGING LIVES, CHANGING TEACHING

Teachers from around the world are using the skills and insights acquired at Bread Loaf School of English to improve how students are taught. Our goal is to provide enough financial aid to help every applicant who has the drive, talent, and determination to attend Bread Loaf and who has the potential to change a community.

“Bread Loaf has made me a stronger teacher. My studies became exponentially more meaningful when I was able to bring what I had learned back to my classroom and make it a better place for my students.”

GRANT SWANSON, MA CANDIDATE
Sixth-grade teacher, St. Francis, South Dakota

Teaching at the isolated St. Francis Indian School on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, Grant welcomes the opportunity to travel in the summer and meet other teachers from across the country. Scholarships have enabled him to complete two Bread Loaf summers in Vermont and Santa Fe, and he’s looking forward to studying at Oxford next summer.

“I hope to spark in my students a belief that they can control who and what they want to be. Literature is one vital way to expose them to new visions of their futures.”

ALEISHA SMITH, MA ‘14
First-grade teacher, Asheville, North Carolina

In five summers at BLSE, Aleisha studied at each of the program’s campuses, finishing up and graduating at Lincoln College at the University of Oxford, England. With the help of scholarships for three summers, she was able to complete the program without taking out any loans. She would like to keep working toward a PhD and eventually teach at the college level.

“Bread Loaf has changed the way I teach. Teachers are often isolated within their schools, but at Bread Loaf you are surrounded by people who are passionate about teaching and eager to share their ideas and experiences.”

KATE CARROLL ‘92, MA ‘99
High school teacher, Middlebury, Vermont

Kate had been teaching for three years when she first had an opportunity to attend Bread Loaf with the aid of a fellowship. She returned for four more summers and received an MA in English, in 1999; now she is pursuing an MLitt at Bread Loaf. Kate is also part of a new Vermont Bread Loaf Teacher Network that is engaging Vermont students from selected high schools in innovative, community-linked collaborative research projects centered on the Vermont family farm.
Kentucky, classrooms of Bread Loafers Paul Barnwell ’04, MA’13 and Brent Peters with students of the Navajo Nation over the topic of food literacy. Partnering with Bread Loaf alumnus and vice president of the Navajo Nation Rex Lee Jim MA ’01, the Kentucky BLTN members have formed a multidisciplinary course that expands student literacy through an exploration of health, sustainability, and food production. Online collaboration between students at both sites has led to face-to-face visits and joint presentations at the 2013 National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention, at a symposium at Middlebury College, and at the 2014 National Tribal Public Health Conference. The Navajo Kentuckian project is a model of experiential education that can reach across cultural and institutional bounds.

THE ROLE OF FINANCIAL AID
The number one fundraising priority for the Bread Loaf School of English is securing student scholarships and fellowships. Last summer, 57 percent of students received financial aid. Still, every summer, students are unable to enroll, because their scholarships cannot stretch far enough to cover their costs. Many are young teachers with undergraduate loans and other commitments, who cannot fund a summer from their earnings.

The cost of a Bread Loaf summer varies by location. While tuition was $5,005 at all locations in 2014, room and board and fees are set locally. The total cost last summer ranged from $7,695 at the Vermont campus to $10,320 at Oxford. The average grant was $4,025.

BREAD LOAF AT A GLANCE
- Campus locations: Ripton, Vermont; Oxford, England; Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Curriculum: literature, literacy and pedagogy, creative writing, and theater arts
- Number of students enrolled in 2014: 403
- Students who are teachers: 78%
- Degrees offered: Master of Arts, Master of Letters
- Number of degrees granted in 2014: 86
- Total number of degrees granted: 4,251 MA degrees since 1920 and 219 MLitt degrees since 1971
- Number of years Robert Frost was associated with Bread Loaf: 43
- Alumni satisfied with their Bread Loaf education (according to a 2012 alumni survey): 100%

Our goal is to provide enough aid to enable all students to attend who have the talent, the determination, and the drive to be at Bread Loaf and the potential to change their communities. That means that we need to provide more immediate aid for current students, while also building long-term scholarship support.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TODAY
Annual gifts can be used right away to provide financial support for students who are currently enrolled. Gifts of every size are welcome. A gift of $2,500 or more provides a significant portion of the average scholarship for one student.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOREVER
An endowed fund can establish a permanent scholarship. Such a fund requires a commitment of $50,000. When fully funded, Middlebury can draw 5 percent of the fund’s value each year for Bread Loaf scholarships. Such endowments are often funded over a period of time. Someone might contribute $10,000 a year over five years, for example. When the scholarship is fully funded, the first grant can be awarded.

Some donors who are building an endowed fund want to have an immediate impact. In that case, the donor could contribute $12,500 a year for five years: $10,000 for the endowment and the additional $2,500 to go to a student right away. Over time, as the fund grows through investment returns and additional gifts, so too does its impact.

FUNDING BLTN
Funding is also needed to support the work of the Bread Loaf Teacher Network. Gifts enable BLTN to implement new ideas for connected learning and help it to expand its membership, reach, and visibility. Gifts also support production and dissemination of the BLTN e-journal, which makes the innovative practices and research of its members accessible to all teachers across the country. Learn more about the BLTN e-journal at http://www.middlebury.edu/blse/bltn/journal.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES
Bread Loaf brings together professors from some of the finest colleges and universities in the world to share their insights with BLSE students. Gifts enable us to recruit and retain these scholars and support curricular innovation and the development of digital tools.