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PRESS RELEASE

**National Teacher Residency Network Expands Research and Evaluation**

Chicago – Urban Teacher Residency United (UTRU) has been awarded \$498,580 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support its network of high-performing teacher residency programs. In addition, the grant will help to develop UTRU’s new Research and Evaluation department, which will serve to support the continuous improvement of UTRU’s core business areas—Strategic Consulting, Next Generation Network, and Practice to Policy. The organization is also committed to the dissemination of best practices and lessons learned to influence teacher preparation practices writ large.

UTRU is a not-for-profit organization that serves a growing national network of innovative teacher preparation programs. UTRU is the only organization in the nation dedicated to developing, launching, supporting, and accelerating the impact of residency programs. UTRU partners with school districts, charter management organizations, institutions of higher education, not-for-profits, and states to develop teacher residency programs as quality pipelines of effective and diverse new teachers.

Based on the medical residency model, teacher residencies are district-based education programs that pair graduate-level education coursework with a rigorous full-year classroom apprenticeship under the guidance of an experienced mentor teacher.

With the grant support, UTRU will conduct research on the impact and implementation of the residency model and collect information on new approaches and standards in teacher preparation, to continuously refine and infuse innovations into the model. UTRU will disseminate new learning and innovations in the model, dedicate efforts to improve the financial model, redesign program assessments and evaluation metrics, and make policy recommendations.

Further, UTRU will build upon its existing programming and services supporting Next Generation Network (NGN) partners to design a data-driven approach to ensuring program quality and effectiveness for programs within the UTRU network. The NGN is comprised of partners of “excellence” that embody and value learning, knowledge sharing, and innovation.

Network services are developed from the research base of best practices in teacher preparation to promote and support high-performing residency programs in urban markets.

For more information about Urban Teacher Residency United, the UTRU Network, and the residency model, visit our website, <http://www.utrUnited.org>.

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**About UTRU:**

Founded in 2007, Urban Teacher Residency United (UTRU) is a not-for-profit organization created to help expand teacher residencies. Based in Chicago, UTRU's mission is to build and manage a national network of high performing teacher residencies dedicated to accelerating student achievement through the training, support, and retention of excellent urban teachers. UTRU is a vital resource for emerging residency programs and has evolved as a national entity from which information, assistance and the expertise necessary to plan and launch an urban teacher residency can be gained. UTRU is a dynamic and coordinated network of urban teacher residencies which synthesizes and communicates residency best practices, partners with emerging residency programs to ensure success via innovative technical assistance, develops and implements common program evaluations, and pursues national policy initiatives to support the introduction and ongoing support of high-quality teacher residencies.