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PRESS RELEASE

**Teacher Residency Network Launches Critical Learning Initiative**

Chicago –Urban Teacher Residency United (UTRU) has launched a Critical Learning Initiative to examine issues of national significance in support of its network of innovative residency programs. Through the Critical Learning Initiative (CLI), UTRU will drive program improvement by examining and integrating leading-edge education innovations into residencies in the network. The project has been made possible as part of a grant from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, which will also support UTRU in developing capacity to grow and scale teacher residency programs nationwide.

UTRU is a not-for-profit organization that serves a growing national network of residency programs, and is the only organization in the nation dedicated to developing, launching, supporting, and accelerating the impact of residencies. Rooted in 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.

This year, the CLI will focus on ensuring partner residency programs are preparing residents to teach to challenging college and career ready standards, leading to strong program graduates with the ability to impact student achievement. With a full year of embedded preparation, residency programs are uniquely positioned to prepare teachers who are ready to teach to the college and career ready standards on day one leading to improved student achievement.

The grant is part of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation’s broader investment in reform efforts within and outside of U.S. school systems that improve educational opportunities and outcomes for all students.

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.