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PRESS RELEASE

National Teacher Residency Network Expands Reach to Improve Teaching

Chicago – Urban Teacher Residency United (UTRU) announces a \$675,000, two-year grant from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation to embed data literacy into UTRU network support services. Over the last five years, UTRU has supported the development of 20 new residency programs in 13 states, building the nation’s only network of high-quality residencies. Annually, these network programs seek support, guidance, and innovative consulting services from UTRU to help them achieve scale and maintain quality.

The grant supports the enhancement of UTRU support services to network programs in three key areas: strengthening curriculum in data literacy and Common Core standards, measuring teacher effectiveness, and building long-term financial sustainability.

To this end, UTRU will design a data literacy curriculum to integrate into both new residency program development and ongoing support for network programs. A majority of UTRU partners identified data literacy as a critical area of need for content support and expertise, followed by support in addressing the Common Core and STEM content delivery. “This grant allows UTRU to provide responsive, relevant and timely support to our network of urban teacher residency programs around a critical need—keeping student learning at the center of teacher preparation,” said Anissa Listak, UTRU’s Executive Director.

The funding supports UTRU to build staff capacity and expertise in data literacy and data driven instruction; identify, codify, and distribute effective practices from high-performing residency programs; and embed effective, data-based practices into the preparation of more than 1,200 residency-trained teachers who are entering high-need classrooms across the country.

Michael & Susan Dell Foundation Program Officer Micah Sagebiel said,

“School districts have high expectations for new teachers to understand, apply, and respond to student data, and teacher preparation must respond by giving novice educators the background and opportunity to apply these skills. UTRU is working to keep student learning at the center of new teacher development.”

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.