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PRESS RELEASE

National Teacher Residency Network Hosts Data Literacy Symposium

Chicago – Urban Teacher Residency United (UTRU) hosts its annual symposium May 7-8, focused on the role of data literacy in developing effective teachers and effectiveness-driven urban teacher residency programs. The symposium, possible with the support of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, draws UTRU Network programs from around the nation and special guests.

Featured speakers include Micah Sagebiel, Program Officer, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and Sarah Buhayer, Senior Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Through Ms. Buhayer's presentation, participants will learn how residencies can implement a data driven approach to teacher development that prioritizes feedback and support through the use of multiple measures, while simultaneously driving program improvement.

"This year's symposium is a "deep dive" into a major topic of interest for residency programs—how to ensure that new teachers are highly effective and have all the preparation and skills necessary to be data literate, and lead data-driven classrooms, before they are responsible for student learning," said UTRU Chief Program Officer, Jill Pitner.

Workshop sessions will be led by UTRU staff experts and innovative Network partner programs including the Aspire Teacher Residency, the Boston Teacher Residency, the Denver Teacher Residency, the Memphis Teacher Residency, New Visions-Hunter College Urban Teacher Residency, the Philadelphia Teacher Residency, and special guest presenters from BloomBoard, Kickboard, Mastery Connect, and YouthTruth.

"Schools today need the data literate teacher who uses multiple sources of student data to plan challenging and engaging instruction. UTRU and their Network partner programs are leading the way to achieve the vision of what data-literate teacher preparation must become," said Sagebiel.

The symposium is a continuation of work stemming from a two-year grant from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation to embed data literacy into UTRU network support services and enhance UTRU services to network programs in three key areas: strengthening curriculum in data literacy and the Common Core standards, measuring teacher effectiveness, and building long-term financial sustainability.

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.