

## PRESS RELEASE

**Contacts:**

Anissa Listak, Executive Director

Phone: 312-397-8878 x114

Tamara Azar, Chief External Relations Officer

Phone: 703-981-8074

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### **National Residency Network Accelerates Impact as New Transformation Center**

*Chicago* – The National Center for Teacher Residencies (NCTR) has received \$6.8 million to become a Teacher Preparation Transformation Center as part of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation initiative.

NCTR's Transformation Center, called the Four Drivers Project, will accelerate the impact of effective teacher residency programs and broaden the adoption of research-based practices in teacher preparation. NCTR will act as a research and evaluation laboratory identifying, testing, and scaling best practices for clinically-based preparation. Partnering with more than 30 residency programs, NCTR's Transformation Center providers will prepare 2,500 new teachers for high need schools.

A unique component of the Four Drivers Project will be NCTR's partnership with five Demonstration Sites that will implement and test programming aligned to high quality preparation, act as a laboratories of learning and improvement, and serve as models for all of the Center's providers.

"It's an incredible learning opportunity," says David Montague, President of the Memphis Teacher Residency. "As a Demonstration Site in NCTR's Transformation Center, Memphis Teacher Residency will have support to codify, expand and share our best practices as well as learn from other innovative residency programs around the country."

NCTR will guide continuous learning and program improvement using data, research, and analysis of exemplar practices to:

- Refine provider programming to be competency-based and clinically-focused;
- Collect and use implementation and impact data to improve program design;
- Improve educator effectiveness; and
- Ensure graduates are successful in their school systems and communities.

To support evaluation and the broad dissemination of findings, NCTR will continue a partnership with American Institutes for Research, capitalizing on their depth of expertise in teacher quality and program evaluation.

NCTR recently launched a new website that outlines core services, impact, and partners. To learn more about the National Center for Teacher Residencies, please visit [www.nctresidencies.org](http://www.nctresidencies.org).

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**About NCTR:**

The National Center for Teacher Residencies (NCTR) is a not-for-profit organization created to improve student achievement through the preparation of excellent new teachers for high need school districts. Based in Chicago, NCTR's two-fold mission is to build and support high performing teacher residency programs and to impact and inform the transformation of teacher preparation writ large through the dissemination of research and best practices. NCTR was formerly Urban Teacher Residency United.