

**PRESS RELEASE****Contacts:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Teacher Residency Programs Explore Excellent Instruction in Seattle Schools**

*Chicago* – Teacher residency programs from around the country gather in Seattle this week for the [National Center for Teacher Residencies'](#) (NCTR) annual Instructional Rounds.<sup>1</sup> The event is hosted by and developed in partnership with the [Seattle Teacher Residency](#) (STR).

As part of NCTR's Next Generation Network, a professional learning community of teacher residency programs, Instructional Rounds provides residencies with an on-site opportunity to observe residents, mentors, and clinical instructors in action.

Instructional Rounds at Seattle Teacher Residency will examine how STR residents understand and enact equitable instruction in standards-aligned classrooms. Focused on providing excellent instruction for students in Seattle Public Schools (SPS), STR works to improve the preparation, support, and retention of teachers from diverse backgrounds to ensure they can effectively serve the students, families, and communities that have the greatest needs, as well as access the assets and resources they bring. In service to this mission, STR has developed a residency program that enacts an equity-focused, standards-aligned teacher preparation curriculum.

"The Seattle Teacher Residency team has been a continuous learning organization since its inception, seeking best practices across residencies and teacher prep, and reviewing and revising our practices in collaboration with our partners," said Marisa Bier, STR Program Director. "For this reason, we are honored and excited to host Instructional Rounds this year. By accessing the experience of this remarkable peer network of residencies from around the country, we have a unique opportunity to improve the ways we serve the students of Seattle Public Schools."

Teacher residencies are a model of teacher preparation based on medicine's approach for preparing doctors—new teachers spend a full year working in schools alongside an excellent

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<sup>1</sup> The NCTR Instructional Rounds are designed around the illustrative work of City, Elmore, Fiarman and Teitel in *Instructional Rounds in Education: A Network Approach to Improving Teaching and Learning* (2009).

mentor teacher to learn and practice the craft of being an effective teacher. Annually, NCTR Network members convene at a host residency to focus on program improvement. Over two days, the residencies examine a problem of practice—a specific problem of instructional improvement that the residency program is wrestling with and would like the Network’s feedback on.

### **Participating Residencies**

A team of 12 STR staff members will be joined by 11 NCTR Network partner residencies:

Aspire Teacher Residency  
Boettcher Teacher Residency  
Center for Inspired Teaching  
Denver Teacher Residency  
Denver Student Teacher Residency  
Jacksonville Teacher Residency  
Los Angeles Urban Teacher Residency  
Memphis Teacher Residency  
New York City Teaching Collaborative  
Project Inspire (Chattanooga)  
San Francisco Teacher Residency

For more information about the Seattle Teacher Residency, please visit <http://www.seattleteacherresidency.org>.

Learn more about the National Center for Teacher Residencies’ core services, impact, and partners at [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.