



Contact: Anissa Listak  
Executive Director  
Phone: 312-397-8878 x114  
Day-of: 773-308-6333

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Senator Michael Bennet speaks at Capitol Hill Briefing on Urban Teacher Residencies**

#### **Urban Teacher Residency United, its partner programs, policy leaders, and funders gather at the 2011 Policy Convening on Urban Teacher Residencies**

Washington D.C., March 11, 2010 – Urban Teacher Residency United (UTRU) on March 15 launches its first annual Policy Convening on Urban Teacher Residencies (UTRs), bringing together the nation’s leading UTR programs.

The convening assembles more than a dozen partners of the UTRU network, along with guests representing Congress, the U.S. Department of Education, and education policy leaders committed to impacting student achievement through clinically-rich, innovative teacher preparation programs.

The convening seeks to highlight and refine the critical role of UTRs as a key human capital strategy for high-need school districts, and to discuss the UTRU Network’s commitment to using student outcomes as key measures of successful teacher preparation. In addition to a federal panel with representatives from Congress and the Department, UTRU and its partners will present recommendations for federal action to support residencies in a Capitol Hill briefing, hosted by Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO), who is also speaking.

“UTRU is a key player in the development, support, and sustainability of Urban Teacher Residency programs nationwide, and this gathering in Washington is a great example of the power behind the Network,” said Bob Hughes, President of New Visions for Public Schools in New York. “New Visions is excited to be a part of this national dialogue about the sustainability and scalability of UTRs, particularly at a time when the nation is exploring what high quality teacher education programs look like.”

Speakers at the Convening and Hill Briefing include:

Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO); Michele McLaughlin, Senior Education Policy Advisor, U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA); Lindsay Hunsicker, Senior Education Policy Advisor, U.S. Senate HELP Committee, Ranking Member Michael Enzi (R-WY); Brad Jupp, Senior Program Advisor, Teacher Quality Initiatives, U.S. Department of Education; Talia Milgrom-Elcott, Program Officer, Education, Carnegie

Corporation of New York; Robin Gelinas, Senior Policy Advisor, EducationCounsel; Tim Cawley, Managing Director of Finance & Administration, Academy for Urban School Leadership; Jennifer Stern, Executive Director of Teacher Effectiveness & Performance Management, Denver Public Schools; and Anissa Listak, Executive Director, Urban Teacher Residency United.

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**About UTRU:**

UTRU is a national network of teacher residency programs dedicated to accelerating student achievement through the training, support, and retention of excellent teachers. UTRU serves its growing network by partnering with school districts, institutions of higher education, and not-for-profits to develop and support strong residencies. UTRU's goal is to expand the number of high-quality teacher residency programs nationwide in order to place and retain high-performing teachers in high-needs districts, thereby dramatically improving student achievement.

To this end, UTRU has developed Quality Standards, which identify, define, and describe the specific program design elements that are essential for a quality UTR. These quality standards act as the foundation for the network's programmatic and learning activities. UTRU utilizes these standards to support individual program development as well as a dynamic professional learning community in which best practices are developed and disseminated.