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NCTR Releases Black Educators Initiative Annual Report

CHICAGO (January 27, 2021) - The National Center for Teacher Residencies (NCTR) released its [Black Educators Initiative \(BEI\) Annual Report today](#).

NCTR piloted the BEI in September 2019 after receiving a \$20 million grant from the Ballmer Group. Funds from the grant are being utilized to recruit, prepare, and retain 750 Black residents through NCTR's national network of teacher residency programs. The funding allows NCTR to invest in residency programs that are redesigning their teacher preparation programs to better serve Black residents. In the first year of the program, NCTR granted funding to Alder Graduate School of Education (Bay Area, California), Chicago Public Schools Teacher Residency (Chicago, Illinois), East Harlem Teacher Residency (New York, New York), Memphis Teacher Residency (Memphis, Tennessee), Minneapolis Special Education Teacher Residency and St. Paul Urban Teacher Residency (Minneapolis, Minnesota), Nashville Teacher Residency (Nashville, Tennessee), New Visions and Queens College Urban Teacher Residency (New York City, New York), and RTR (Richmond, Virginia).

NCTR granted \$2.2 million in funding in year one of the five year effort with nearly \$700,000 awarded directly in scholarships directly to Black residents. Residencies identified numerous strategies to improve the recruitment, selection, preparation, and support experiences of Black teacher residents. Among the strategies were direct scholarships, stipends, emergency funds, test preparation support, mentor training, induction services, and training for diversity, equity and inclusion for program staff.

As a result of the investment, 115 Black residents were supported during the 2019-2020 academic year and 184 residents were recruited for enrollment in the 2020-2021 academic year.

"We found that this investment made a significant difference in terms of offering Black residents a value proposition that positions them to be supported financially and from a social and emotional standpoint," said Erica Hines, who directs the BEI at NCTR.

"Looking forward, we are making Year Two investments in the same programs with the goal of seeing how long-term investments in these residencies make a year over year difference in the recruitment and retention of Black residents because we think there is value in these programs being able to offer Black residents an opportunity to count on long-term support," said Tabitha Grossman, Chief External Relations Officer at NCTR.

NCTR made grants to 14 residencies last fall. The goal now is to expand the BEI and plans to do that are underway. “We would ideally like to expand the BEI to more Black residents and develop a BEI-like initiative for Latino residents,” said Erica Hines. “NCTR has a commitment to teachers of color and we are learning so much through BEI, our ability to apply what we are learning to Latino residents would be a huge opportunity,” she continued.

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About NCTR: The National Center for Teacher Residencies is a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing, launching, supporting, and accelerating the impact of teacher residency programs. Headquartered in Chicago, NCTR’s mission is to disrupt historical educational inequities by advancing the teacher residency movement to prepare effective, diverse, culturally responsive educators. For more information about NCTR, please visit [www.https://nctresidencies.org/](https://nctresidencies.org/)