

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The National Center for Teacher Residencies receives funding to help launch residencies in Illinois, support communication work

CHICAGO – The National Center for Teacher Residencies has been awarded \$350,000 from the Joyce Foundation to assist the Illinois State Board of Education, three Chicago-area school districts, and their university partners in the development of new teacher residency programs.

The grant will allow NCTR to accelerate its work with state boards and education departments, which are increasingly turning to the residency model to develop well-prepared, committed teachers for high-need schools and students. Since its founding in 2007, NCTR has helped launch more than 50 teacher residency programs, as well as the nation's first state-run residency, in Mississippi.

“We are seeing significant leaps forward as state policymakers have recognized that residencies are an important part of a comprehensive strategy to improve teacher effectiveness, to diversify the profession, and to lift student achievement,” said Tabitha Grossman, NCTR’s Director of Development and Partnerships. “We are excited to help grow residency programs in our home state of Illinois, and are grateful that the state board and the Joyce Foundation are committed to the residency model of teacher preparation.”

The Joyce grant will allow NCTR to partner with the Illinois State Board of Education and three districts and their partner universities in a “community of practice” so that the participants can share ideas, plans, resources and key learnings as they work to launch their programs. When up and running, the new residencies will develop as many as 40 elementary teachers each year for students in Chicago Public Schools, the Woodstock Community Unit School District 200, and the North Chicago Community Unit School District 187. Those districts have each received grants from the state board to plan for residency programs that will allow candidate teachers to also earn endorsements in shortage areas such as special education or English as a Second Language. Participating universities are National Louis University, Roosevelt University, and Aurora University.

In addition to the work with the new residency programs, Joyce funding has also been allocated to help support NCTR's efforts to communicate about and expand the residency model nationwide.

For more information on NCTR and teacher residency programs, please visit www.nctresidencies.org.

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About NCTR: The National Center for Teacher Residencies is a not-for-profit organization created to improve student achievement through the preparation of excellent new teachers for high-need school districts. Headquartered in Chicago, NCTR's mission is to advance a network of high-performing residency programs dedicated to preparing highly effective teachers that will transform educational practices nationwide.