

PRESS RELEASE

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Jan. 23, 2019

The National Center for Teacher Residencies Launching New Programs in California

CHICAGO – The National Center for Teacher Residencies announced today that it has received \$750,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to launch and expand four teacher residencies in California. The new residencies will develop effective, classroom-ready teachers for high-need, underserved schools and districts, and help address that state’s chronic teacher shortages.

“California is a national leader in using the residency model to build and strengthen teacher preparation,” said NCTR founder and CEO Anissa Listak. “State and district leaders recognize that teacher residencies better prepare teachers for high-need schools. This is a strategic way to combat the teacher shortage while also developing talent for hard-to-staff schools.”

For more than a decade, NCTR and its partners have been transforming how educators are prepared for America’s classrooms. Together, they have developed a comprehensive and effective training and technical assistance model that develops teachers who are able to improve student achievement from their first day in the classroom. The residency model also increases the diversity of teachers and reduces teacher shortages in bilingual education, mathematics, science, and special education.

The three-year retention rate for graduates of NCTR’s partner residency programs is 86 percent – more than 30 percentage points higher than the rate in most urban schools. More than half of these new teachers teach hard-to-staff subjects, and in recent years as many as 52 percent of residency graduates have been teachers of color, compared to 20 percent nationally.

Site selection for the new programs is under way. Once selected, NCTR will provide the programs with two years of training, support, consulting and guidance as they develop and grow their residencies. NCTR’s innovative residency development programming sets the standard for teacher training and results in programs that produce effective new teachers who are classroom-ready on day one.

NCTR has deep roots in California, having assisted or supported the following residency programs: the Alder Graduate School of Education in Oakland; the Los Angeles Urban Teacher Residency; Partnerships to Uplift Communities (PUC) Alumni Teach Project in Los Angeles; the San Francisco Teacher Residency; and five California State University system campuses: Sacramento, Turlock, Fresno, Bakersfield, and Monterey Bay.

Teacher residencies provide aspiring educators with an immersive, real school training that cannot be duplicated in a college classroom. Residents learn to teach by working in real schools, in real classrooms and learn alongside experienced, trained mentors and teacher coaches. Simultaneously, residents complete graduate-level coursework that is directly linked to what is happening in their classrooms. Upon completing their residency, graduates are certified to teach, often with a master's degree, and are hired in the school district where they trained.

Since its founding in 2007, NCTR has helped establish 36 residency programs in 17 states. These programs have trained more than 3,500 teachers to work in more than 50 school districts and charter school organizations.

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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.