

**PRESS RELEASE****Contact:**

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## **Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University takes on Research on NCTR Black Educators Initiative**

CHICAGO (February 3, 2021) - A professor at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), an R1 institution in Richmond, Virginia is working with the National Center for Teacher Residencies (NCTR) to research its Black Educators Initiative (BEI).

The research will be led by Dr. LaRon Scott, Associate Professor and Executive Director of the [Minority Educator Recruitment, Retention, & Equity Center at VCU](#). Dr. Scott will research why Black residents in the BEI have chosen to enroll in their respective residency programs and why they choose to remain in the program or leave. He will also study why these teachers ultimately are retained (or not) by the teaching profession. "This is a unique opportunity for a researcher. To be invited by NCTR to have access to this special group of teacher educators and data over a period of time--is something you do not often get. The only way for us to better serve Black teachers is to understand their needs and to do that, we have to engage with them in a way that the BEI offers" said Dr. Scott.

NCTR recently offered university researchers the opportunity to access the BEI residents as a means to gather research on their experiences. Dr. Scott was one of the professors who was invited by NCTR to conduct research on the BEI. "We know that we have something special with the BEI. We are collecting our own internal data; however, it is so important to the teaching profession for us to dig deeper into why Black teachers are drawn to residencies and the reasons for their retention..." said NCTR CEO Anissa Listak. "Expanding the opportunities for additional research only helps the field learn how to make strategic investments in Black educators" she continued.

NCTR's BEI is a five-year, \$20 million investment funded by the Ballmer Group. It is designed to support the recruitment, preparation, and retention of 750 Black teachers over the next five years. NCTR released the BEI Annual Report recently. It can be accessed at <https://rb.gy/b4jfvw>.

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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

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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/)