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## **TEACH FOR AMERICA ANNOUNCES THE SCHOOLS CONTRIBUTING THE MOST GRADUATES TO ITS 2010 TEACHING CORPS**

*University of Texas, Northwestern, Spelman Are Top Contributors in Their Size Categories*

**NEW YORK CITY, July 14, 2010**—Teach For America today released its annual ranking of the colleges and universities contributing the greatest number of graduating seniors to its 2010 teaching corps. The University of Texas at Austin ranks No. 1 among large schools, with 80 graduates beginning their two-year Teach For America commitment this fall. Northwestern University tops all medium-sized schools, contributing 57 graduates. Among small schools, Spelman College ranks highest, with 18 graduates joining the corps. All three schools have appeared on the list since it was first released in 2008, and each year UT-Austin and Spelman have been among the five largest contributors in their size categories.

Teach For America corps members are top college graduates and professionals who commit to teach for two years in underserved schools and become lifelong leaders in the pursuit of educational equity. Teach For America recruits individuals from all academic majors and backgrounds who have demonstrated outstanding achievement, perseverance, and leadership.

Admission to the teacher corps this year was even more selective than in previous years, with a record 46,000 individuals applying to join and a 13 percent acceptance rate. Because of the enormous number of highly qualified candidates, Teach For America was able to increase both the size and strength of the incoming corps. The 4,500 incoming corps members have an average GPA of 3.6 and 89 percent have significant leadership experience. Twenty-eight percent of incoming corps members received Pell Grants. Almost one-third are people of color, including 7 percent who are Hispanic and 11 percent who are African American. In comparison, at the top 400 colleges and universities, 5 percent of graduates are African Americans and 6 percent are Hispanics.

Following are the five colleges and universities contributing the highest number of graduates to the 2010 corps in the three school-size categories (as defined by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching):

- **Large Schools**

University of Texas at Austin (80 graduates to serve in the 2010 teaching corps)

University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (79)

Cornell University (60)

University of California-Berkeley (57)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (55)

- **Medium-Sized Schools**

Northwestern University (57)

Duke University (51)

Yale University (46)

University of Pennsylvania (43)

Georgetown University (41) / Washington University in St. Louis (41)

- **Small Schools**

Spelman College (18)

Barnard College (16)

Grinnell College (13)

Kenyon College (13) / Mount Holyoke College (13) / Smith College (13)

**[View a complete list of the top contributors»](#)**

A growing body of rigorous research demonstrates the effectiveness of Teach For America teachers. A [new study](#) from the University of North Carolina compares the effects on student achievement of graduates from the UNC teacher-preparation system with teachers from other pathways, including Teach For America. At every grade level and subject studied, students taught by Teach For America corps members did as well as or better than those taught by the traditionally prepared graduates. Middle school math students of Teach For America teachers received the equivalent of an extra half-year of learning.

“We have empirical data that proves the enormously positive impact that Teach For America teachers have on their students,” said Erskine B. Bowles, the president of UNC. “Imagine how it changes the life of a young person who gains up to an extra half-year of learning

for every year they are in the class of a Teach For America teacher. I couldn't be a bigger fan. We are working hard to scale the Teach For America model in our schools of education.”

Beyond their impact as corps members, two-thirds of the more than 20,000 Teach For America alumni across the country are working full-time in education. More than 450 Teach For America alumni serve as school principals or superintendents, over 500 work in government or policy, and 30 serve in elected office.

### **About Teach For America**

Teach For America is the national corps of outstanding recent college graduates who commit to teach for two years in urban and rural public schools and become lifelong leaders in expanding educational opportunity. This fall, more than 8,200 corps members will be teaching in 39 regions across the country while 20,000 Teach For America alumni continue working from inside and outside the field of education for the fundamental changes necessary to ensure educational excellence and equity. For more information, visit [www.teachforamerica.org](http://www.teachforamerica.org).