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TEACHFORAMERICA

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900 NEW AFRICAN AMERICAN TEACHERS ENTER CLASSROOMS AS PART OF LARGEST-EVER TEACH FOR AMERICA CORPS

39 Percent of Teach For America's 6,000 First-Year Teachers Identify as People of Color

NEW YORK CITY, September 17, 2013—Teach For America announced today that nearly 900 new African American teachers, or 14 percent of its incoming corps, are entering classrooms nationwide. They are among the 39 percent of all 6,000 new Teach For America teachers who identify as people of color.

This incoming corps is the largest in Teach For America's 24-year history. Twenty-seven percent of these new teachers were the first in their families to attend college, nearly 40 percent received Pell Grants, and 23 percent were graduate students or professionals before joining Teach For America.

"Race doesn't make or break a teacher's effectiveness, but it's so powerful for young African American students to have teachers who share their background," said Elisa Villanueva Beard, co-CEO of Teach For America. "This can have a profound positive impact, especially when coupled with a true belief in their potential."

Combined, over 1,500 first- and second-year African American teachers make up 14 percent of Teach For America's total corps of more than 11,000. These teachers will impact more than 750,000 students this school year, in 48 regions across 35 states plus the District of Columbia.

This year, Teach For America selected from its largest-ever applicant pool. Roughly 57,000 individuals applied, 42 percent of whom identify as people of color. Fourteen percent of all applicants were accepted.

Teach For America is committed to developing powerful and lasting partnerships with African American national and community organizations. Longstanding partnerships with the United Negro College Fund, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, Ron Brown Scholar Program, Jackie Robinson Foundation, and Sponsors For Educational Opportunity, among others, expand access to the life opportunities afforded by an excellent education.

"Teach For America is acting with purpose to bring diversity into classrooms," said Johnny Taylor, president of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. "We are a proud partner in their focus on increasing the number of African American teachers in high-need schools in our country. We share the belief that a diverse teaching force can help bring about educational equity."

Through its 32,000 alumni, Teach For America is building a strong pipeline of leaders in education. Nearly two-thirds of alumni are working full-time in the field, with more than 800 serving as school principals or school system leaders.

A growing body of rigorous, independent research demonstrates that Teach For America teachers are well-prepared and effective in the classroom. Most recently, [a report](#) by Mathematica Policy

Research found that students taught by Teach For America corps members made gains in math that amounted to an additional 2.6 months of learning in just one year.” Last year, a University of North Carolina report identified Teach For America as the most effective source of early-career teachers among 12 teacher-preparation programs in the state. Recent studies in Louisiana and Tennessee also found Teach For America to be among the most effective new-teacher-preparation programs in each state.

Earlier this year, *Essence* recognized Teach For America as one of the top 25 employers for African American women.

About Teach For America

Teach For America works in partnership with communities to expand educational opportunity for children facing the challenges of poverty. Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding individuals of all academic disciplines to commit two years to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the movement to end educational inequity. Today, more than 11,000 corps members are teaching in 48 urban and rural regions across the country while nearly 32,000 alumni work from across sectors to ensure that all children have access to an excellent education. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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