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**TEACHFORAMERICA**

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## **TEACH FOR AMERICA RETURNS TO DETROIT, BRINGING 100 DEDICATED TEACHERS TO HIGHEST-NEED SCHOOLS THIS FALL**

*National Nonprofit Joins Local Effort to Improve Educational Outcomes for Detroit Public School Students*

**DETROIT, May 4, 2010**—Teach For America announced today that it will return to Detroit, bringing 100 top college graduates to teach in some of the state's highest-need schools for the 2010-11 school year. The Teach For America teachers will apply for open positions in Detroit Public Schools and area charter schools.

"We welcome Teach For America to Detroit and look forward to partnering in the effort to improve educational outcomes for our students. Teach For America's expansion to Detroit signals a critical step forward for our students in Detroit," said Ralph Bland, superintendent of Detroit Edison Public School Academy.

"We continually seek partnerships with strong organizations like Teach For America that can bring value to our children. We look forward to a successful partnership and will do all we can to make sure it is a lasting one," said Dr. Barbara Byrd-Bennett, chief academic and accountability auditor for Detroit Public Schools.

Teach For America is the national corps of top college graduates and professionals who commit to teach for two years in under-resourced schools and become lifelong leaders in the pursuit of educational equity. Teach For America's Detroit corps members are part of a national corps selected from an applicant pool of more than 46,000. Among these applicants were 12 percent of all Ivy League seniors and more than 1,300 individuals from across Michigan, including 7 percent of the senior class at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, 3 percent of seniors at Michigan State and 20 percent of seniors at Kalamazoo College. The University of Michigan-Ann Arbor was the top producer of Teach For America corps members in 2009.

"We're excited to return to Detroit and join the innovative efforts of leaders across the city to expand educational opportunity for all children," said Wendy Kopp, founder and chief executive officer of Teach For America. "We are inspired by the leadership of Governor Granholm, the United Way of

Southeastern Michigan, and the Skillman Foundation, and are tremendously grateful for the support from district and school leaders, community groups, and local philanthropists in Detroit. This commitment will enable us to develop a strong pipeline of dedicated teachers and education leaders for the city.”

Teach For America previously placed teachers in Detroit schools from 2001-2003 and will return this coming school year amid widespread community support. The organization selected Detroit, one of four expansion sites for the coming school year, due to remarkable community leadership, an innovative vision for closing the academic achievement gap, and the city’s commitment to ensure Teach For America’s presence can be sustained over time. Teach For America corps members in Detroit will apply for open positions in high-needs subjects and schools and will be considered alongside other new teacher candidates.

“I am pleased to welcome Teach For America to Michigan. The leadership that this organization provides, by recruiting talented teachers for high-need classrooms, is critical to the economic viability of Detroit and the academic and life success of our state’s future generation of leaders,” said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm.

“Teach For America’s return to the region signals to the nation that Detroit is a vibrant center for real educational reform and a region that draws the best and the brightest to it,” said United Way for Southeastern Michigan CEO Michael J. Brennan. “That is why United Way has worked for two years to build partnerships and secure alternative teacher certification to help bring Teach For America back to the region.”

A broad coalition of supportive community groups, corporations, local philanthropists, and local school leaders made Detroit an ideal location for Teach For America. The Skillman Foundation is a lead investor in Teach For America – Detroit, contributing grant funds totaling \$1.5 million. The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, a national Teach For America supporter, has contributed \$1 million to bring Teach For America teachers back to Detroit.

“Teach For America’s expansion to Detroit will bring great teachers to our city’s most challenging classrooms and change the trajectory for underserved students, which is a top priority of the new citywide Excellent Schools Detroit Coalition,” said Tonya Allen, vice president of program for The Skillman Foundation. “We are proud to support this effective program that is helping to build good schools and strong leaders who set high standards and shape students for success both in and out of the classroom.”

Teach For America’s local university partner will be the University of Michigan. All Teach For America corps members in Detroit will enroll at the university to obtain their state teaching certification. Teach For America selected the University of Michigan due to its history of fostering innovation in education and its focus on preparing teachers for urban schools.

"We are pleased to be able to partner with Teach For America," said Deborah Loewenberg Ball, dean of the School of Education at the University of Michigan. "We are committed not only to improving educational outcomes for children in Detroit but to transforming our system for preparing and licensing teachers in this country. This partnership will allow us to work with our colleagues at Teach For America to develop and study effective approaches to preparing and assessing teachers. Our program for Teach For America-Detroit corps members will be part of the Teacher Education Initiative, our effort to redesign teacher education--from undergraduate to master's and now alternative route programs--so that it is more focused on practice, and to build materials and tools that will serve the field broadly."

A growing body of rigorous research demonstrates that Teach For America corps members are highly effective in the classroom. An Urban Institute study published in 2008 and updated in 2009 found that high school students taught by Teach For America teachers outperformed their peers, even those taught by fully certified teachers. The updated study is available at [www.caldercenter.org/upload/TFA\\_final\\_v-March-2009.pdf](http://www.caldercenter.org/upload/TFA_final_v-March-2009.pdf).

Teach For America's network currently includes more than 7,300 corps members in 35 regions and 17,000 alumni across the country working from every professional sector to level the playing field for children and families in low-income communities. Detroit is home to some 215 Teach For America alumni. Nationally, about two-thirds of Teach For America alumni remain in education, where they are starting schools, serving as principals and district administrators, and winning accolades in the classroom, including the 2007 teacher of the year awards in two states and the 2005 National Teacher of the Year Award.

### **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. Today, 7,300 corps members are teaching in 35 regions across the country while 17,000 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).

### **Additional Remarks from Supporters**

"The vigor, expertise, and technological savvy Teach For America corps members bring to their classrooms will help advance the academic success of Detroit children. The combined efforts of these dynamic young leaders and our established strong teachers will bring hope and progress to our schools and students." —*Ann Crowley, Detroit Public Schools teacher and president, Detroit Children First*

"The tide has turned in Detroit, and Teach For America is an important factor in providing every child a world-class education. We are proud to help bring Teach For America back to the city's classrooms so Detroit students can benefit from their national success."—*Eli Broad, Founder, Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, and graduate of Detroit's Central High School*

"Parents deserve the best teachers preparing their children for a global world. Teach For America will provide another pipeline of leadership to our existing pool of talented teachers in Detroit."—*Sharlonda Buckman, Executive Director, Detroit Parents Network*

"Our schools need more high-quality teachers to help kids reach their full potential. Teach For America teachers have a proven track record of leading students to achieve remarkable academic success, and we welcome their partnership."—*Doug Ross, Founder, University Preparatory Academy; CEO, New Urban Learning*

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