TEACHFORAMERICA

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Media Contact:

Takirra Winfield
917-991-7945
Takirra.Winfield@teachforamerica.org

New NAEP Results Show DC and Tennessee Made Biggest Gains in Nation

Teach For America salutes alumni in leadership roles; praises dedicated teachers, principals and administrators

New York, NY (November 8, 2013) - Teach For America today praised Tennessee and Washington, D.C. for realizing the largest increases in the country on average student scores on the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP). The organization congratulates everyone who played an important role in this unprecedented progress, including families, educators and community leaders. In particular, Teach For America recognized the efforts of our teachers, school leaders, and other alumni working from inside and outside the school systems in Tennessee and the District of Columbia to educate and support students, as well as the alumni working to lead these educational improvement efforts – D.C. School Chancellor Kaya Henderson (New York '92), Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Education Kevin Huffman (Houston '92) and their very committed teams. These results tell only part of the story for success in our nation's schools, but remain an indicator of progress.

New 2013 NAEP results in 4th and 8th grade reading and math show:

- Tennessee, DC and Department of Defense Schools were the only school systems to demonstrate "significant growth" across each of the four tests.
- Tennessee's growth ranged from 4 to 7 points on each of the tests while DC's growth ranged from 5 to 7 points. (10 points = 1 grade level)
- Tennessee moved from scoring in the bottom ten in the country on all four tests in 2011, to scoring within one scale score point of the national average on three of the four tests in 2013.

In a statement, Teach For America co-CEOs Elisa Villanueva Beard and Matthew Kramer said, *"Seeing the academic progress made by students in DC and Tennessee reminds us of the extraordinary potential of every child. We applaud their efforts, and those of their families,*

teachers, principals and administrators who work hard every day to make an impact and build up our children's future. So many Teach For America alumni contributed to this progress, including teachers and school leaders as well as system leaders Kevin Huffman and Kaya Henderson whose visions for student success played such important roles in this progress. Watching Kevin and Kaya, we are reminded of the power of leaders with the unshakable conviction that all students can succeed that only comes from having personally led students to meaningful progress.

"At the same time, we know how many students are struggling right now in urban and rural schools. While we recognize and celebrate this progress, we still have a long way to go before educational equity is real in Tennessee, Washington, D.C. and across the country. We are pleased that our over 11,000 corps members and over 32,000 alumni all across America are making a difference in our nation's schools and are hopeful that they will continue to be an important source of the energy and talent that our nation needs to fulfill its promise of equal opportunity for all."

Teach For America has long embraced a dual mission of developing great teachers to work in low-income urban and rural schools and cultivating long-time leaders inside and outside the field of education who can drive systemic change. Among its over 32,000 alumni are more than 750 school principals and more than 175 school system leaders. Nearly two-thirds of alumni work full-time in education today, and one third of all alumni are teachers. Countless others have found new ways to improve education. Teach For America continues to pursue strategies to best support and develop ongoing leadership among alumni who work toward educational equity.

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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 over 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.