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TEACHFORAMERICA

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TEACH FOR AMERICA AND SIGMA LAMBDA GAMMA NATIONAL SORORITY INC. PARTNER TO PROMOTE EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Partnership Affirms Need for Diverse, High-Quality Teachers in Classrooms Across the Country.

NEW YORK, February 2, 2015—Teach For America today announced a national partnership with Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc. Sigma Lambda Gamma (SLG) is the largest Latina-based, multicultural sorority in the United States, with over 150 chapters and alumnae associations across the country. This partnership affirms the leadership and educational contributions of SLG members as well as Teach For America's ongoing commitment to bringing diverse, talented leaders to the classroom.

"Latino leaders have a critical role to play in addressing the educational disparities in our public schools," said Veronica Lucena, manager of Teach For America's Latino Engagement and Partnerships program. "Working with SLG's large network of diverse leaders is a big step toward increasing the diversity of the teaching profession."

The goal of the partnership is to help address the disparity of access to quality education, which disproportionately affects Latino students and other students of color. As part of the partnership, Teach For America will attend Sigma Lambda Gamma's national leadership retreat this summer to connect with campus chapters to create programming for members. Along with Teach For America's other Latino Greek partners, SLG members will have access to professional development opportunities, including online events, Latino leadership summits, and local workshops.

Last year, SLG contributed the largest number of Latino Greek applicants to Teach For America's 2014 corps. The same year, more than 13 percent of Teach For America's incoming corps identified as Latino, compared to 7 percent of teachers nationally. Currently, more than 20 SLG members are first or second year corps members, impacting students across more than a dozen regions.

"SLG sisters share a strong commitment to education and community," Lucena said. "As corps members, they bring this commitment to the classroom and serve as powerful role models for their students."

Teach For America launched its Latino Greek Initiative in 2012 in order to bring more Latino leaders into classrooms and expand opportunities for students. Other Latino Greek partners include the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations, Omega Delta Phi, Lambda Upsilon Lambda, Phi Iota Alpha, and Kappa Delta Chi.

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 college graduates and professionals to make an initial two-year commitment to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the movement to end educational inequity. Today, 10,600 corps members are teaching in 50 urban and rural regions across the country while more than 37,000 alumni work 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.

About Sigma Lambda Gamma

Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc. is a historically Latina-based, multicultural social sorority established on the mission of empowering all women. Founded at the University of Iowa in 1990, the sorority's founding principles are academics, community service, cultural awareness, morals and ethics, and social interaction.

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