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UNIVERSITIES TO TRANSFORM TEACHER-PREPARATION PROGRAMS AND GUARANTEE TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS

Bush Foundation to Invest \$40 Million in 10-Year Initiative

(Saint Paul, MN – December 3, 2009)—Fourteen higher-education institutions and the Bush Foundation today announced a partnership focused on transforming teacher-preparation programs in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Collectively, the institutions will produce at least 25,000 new, effective teachers¹ in the next 10 years. This number represents virtually all of the new teachers that will be needed in the three states in the next decade.

In addition, the institutions are guaranteeing the effectiveness of teachers who graduate from their redesigned programs. To accomplish this goal, the institutions will transform how they recruit, prepare, place and support new teachers and how they work with their K-12 partners.

The Foundation plans to invest more than \$40 million over the next decade in the 14 universities and in related activities to support their success. The institutions working in partnership with the Bush Foundation are:

Augsburg College*	North Dakota State University**
Bethel University*	St. Catherine University*
Concordia University, St. Paul*	St. Cloud State University
Hamline University*	University of St. Thomas*
Minnesota State University, Mankato	University of South Dakota
University of Minnesota	Valley City State University**
Minnesota State University Moorhead**	Winona State University

* As part of the *Twin Cities Teacher Collaborative*

**As part of the *North Dakota and Minnesota Partnership*

“Over nine months, these universities and colleges participated in a rigorous planning process during which they completed detailed proposals for redesigning their teacher-preparation programs,” said Susan Heegaard, vice president and educational achievement team leader for the Bush Foundation. “In each case, the universities are taking a bold, courageous stance in guaranteeing the effectiveness of the teachers they train.” According to Heegaard, the Foundation’s investment will enable the partner institutions to develop and implement their redesigned programs, starting with the 2010-11 academic year.

¹ The institutions and the Bush Foundation define an *effective teacher* as one who ensures that each child learns at least a year’s worth of knowledge for every year spent in the classroom.

“Our nation's ability to lead in the global arena hinges upon how well we educate our youth, and that effort depends largely on the strength of our teachers,” said Dr. Judith A. Ramaley, president of Winona State University. “Regional universities are the backbone of education. With these resources, we can drive teacher preparation to a new level.”

Each institution will launch a unique strategy that plays to the institution's strengths, while challenging the status quo to ensure the teachers they prepare will be highly effective. Innovative concepts include targeted recruiting of high-caliber students representing diverse groups, integration of co-teaching strategies, creation of residency programs to provide teacher candidates with full-year immersion experiences, deep partnerships with K-12 school districts and ongoing support to new teachers through in-person and online mentoring programs.

“We are excited and honored to participate in supporting this vision of re-imagining teacher preparation by harnessing the collective effort of many higher-education institutions,” said Dr. Linda Hanson, president of Hamline University, which is part of the Twin Cities Teacher Collaborative comprised of six private higher-education institutions. “To truly transform how teachers are trained requires greater collaboration and commitment than we've ever experienced.”

“As part of their agreement with the Bush Foundation, each of the schools has agreed to guarantee that its program will produce effective teachers,” Heegaard added. “The key to the guarantee is that they each will partner with the K-12 schools where their graduates will teach, and each university will provide continued support to the teachers for several years after graduation. This type of guarantee has never been offered before that we know of.”

Heegaard noted that delivering on that guarantee will require the universities to act on four fronts—**recruiting** those most likely to succeed as effective teachers, **training** them to be effective instructors, **placing** them in schools led by administrators who will support them in those first critical years in the classroom and then providing new teachers with ongoing **support**.

“It's critical that we support all efforts to effectively train our teachers,” said Dr. Rick Melmer, dean of the School of Education at The University of South Dakota. “By creating this program through the Bush Foundation, it shows that we are not just committed to improving the quality of our teachers, but it also demonstrates an investment in the future of our state's education system.”

Peter C. Hutchinson, Bush Foundation president, noted that this initiative is a critical part of achieving the Foundation's goal over the next 10 years of increasing by 50 percent the number of students in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, from pre-kindergarten through college who are on track to earn a degree after high school, and of eliminating disparities among diverse student groups.

“Research has shown that while many factors play a role in educational success, effective teaching makes a bigger difference than any other in-school variable,” Hutchinson said. “Research also shows that when students consistently experience effective teaching, there are no achievement gaps. By forming partnerships with institutions who are willing to ensure that children across these three states will have effective teachers, we believe that over the decade

we can significantly raise the achievement of every student and reduce disparities among student groups.”

According to University of Minnesota President Dr. Robert H. Bruininks, “Ensuring that our schools have the best teachers in the country is critical to meeting the region's employment needs going forward. In order to be competitive in the global economy, all students need to graduate from high school prepared for some form of post-secondary education. I am very excited that the University of Minnesota will play a strong role in revamping the teacher-education curriculum to improve teaching and learning—for all students—throughout the state and region.”

To support the work of its education partners, the Bush Foundation also is working with the [Value-Added Research Center](#) (University of Wisconsin-Madison) to develop assessment tools and reporting mechanisms that teachers, schools and higher-education institutions can use to measure effectiveness and improve performance.

The Foundation’s efforts to increase educational achievement are part of its strategic [Goals for a Decade](#), launched in 2008, which also includes work to develop courageous leaders and engage entire communities in problem-solving and to support the self-determination of the 23 Native nations that share geography with Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. For more information on this initiative, refer to our [Teacher Effectiveness Initiative](#) page.

*The **Bush Foundation** was established in 1953 by 3M executive Archibald Bush and his wife Edyth. The Foundation strives to be a catalyst to shape vibrant communities in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota and the 23 Native nations that share the states’ geography by investing in courageous and effective leadership that significantly strengthens and improves the well-being of people in these areas. www.bushfoundation.org.*

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Refer to the following page for more information about the partner institutions.

Bush Foundation Partner Institutions

Minnesota State University, Mankato, a comprehensive, doctoral university with 14,950 students and two satellite sites, is part of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, which comprises 32 institutions across the state. Its College of Education, with 1,100 undergraduate and 600 graduate students, provides forward-looking leaders for school districts throughout Minnesota. Three Minnesota State Mankato doctoral programs prepare educators for high-level responsibilities: the Ed.D. in educational leadership, the Ed.D. in counselor education and supervision, and the doctor of psychology program in school psychology.

The **University of Minnesota** is one of the most comprehensive public research universities in the United States and ranks among the most prestigious. It is both the state land-grant university, with a strong tradition of education and public service, and the state's primary research university, with faculty of national and international reputation. Founded in 1851, the University of Minnesota has five campuses—Twin Cities, Duluth, Morris, Rochester and Crookston.

The **North Dakota & Minnesota Partnership** is comprised of the following institutions in the Red River Valley, near Fargo, ND and Moorhead, MN, who are working together as a collaborative.

- **Minnesota State University Moorhead** Minnesota State University Moorhead has been an innovator and leader in teacher education since it was chartered in 1887. The School of Teaching and Learning welcomes this opportunity to continue the vitally important work of teacher preparation for the region. MSU Moorhead has approximately 7,500 students and is comprised of four colleges: the College of Education and Human Services, the College of Arts and Humanities, the College of Business and Industry, and the College of Social and Natural Sciences. MSUM is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.
- **North Dakota State University** is considered a leader among its peers, and has consistently set enrollment records and dramatically expanded its research portfolio in recent years. More than 14,000 students attend NDSU. The University is an innovator in information systems, technology transfer, economic development and lifelong learning. NDSU has 45 doctoral and professional programs, 59 master's degree programs, one specialist degree and more than 100 undergraduate majors.
- **Valley City State University** prepares people for life through visionary leadership and exemplary practices in teaching, learning and service. VCSU is nationally acclaimed for attracting and retaining talented individuals who advance quality learning opportunities and economic growth through technology and innovation.

St. Cloud State University offers its 17,686 students more than 200 undergraduate and graduate programs in five colleges. The University's roots lie in the preparation of education professionals. One of the largest producers of teachers in the nation, St. Cloud State incorporates an interdisciplinary, cross-college approach to teacher preparation, as well as an award-winning co-teaching model. The College of Education offers two doctoral programs, the Ed.D. in educational administration and leadership and the Ed.D. in higher education administration. St. Cloud State is the largest of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system's 32 institutions.

The University of South Dakota is designated as the only public liberal arts university in the state and is home to a comprehensive College of Arts and Sciences, School of Education, the state's only School of Law, School of Medicine, School of Health Sciences, the accredited Beacom School of Business and the College of Fine Arts. It has an enrollment of more than 9,600 students taught by 400 faculty members.

The **Twin Cities Teacher Collaborative (TC2)**, a coalition of six private institutions of higher education in the Twin Cities, came together in 2009 to transform the way Minnesota recruits, prepares, places and supports teachers. The TC2 members are:

- **Augsburg College** is a private college of the liberal arts and sciences located in the Twin Cities with a branch campus in Rochester, MN. Augsburg's approximately 4,000 students come from diverse religious, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Augsburg College emphasizes intellectual freedom in the search for knowledge, responsiveness to the needs of society and the world, and the preparation of students for services and leadership in church and society. Founded in 1869, Augsburg is a college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Augsburg is the most-diverse ELCA institution and offers undergraduate degrees in more than 50 areas of study.
- **Bethel University** is a leader in Christ-centered higher education with approximately 6,300 students from 48 states and 29 countries enrolled in undergraduate, graduate, seminary and adult education programs. Based in St. Paul, MN, with additional seminary locations on both coasts, Bethel offers rigorous bachelor's and advanced degrees in nearly 100 relevant fields.
- **Concordia University, St. Paul** is a comprehensive, private university of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and one of 10 schools that comprise the Concordia University System. Established in 1893, Concordia offers more than 40 liberal arts majors, including business administration, education, fine arts, science and church professions. Concordia is a regional leader in accelerated undergraduate and graduate programs in business, education, criminal justice and Christian outreach.
- **Hamline University** is home to nearly 4,900 undergraduate, graduate, and law students. At Hamline, students are challenged in and out of the classroom to create and apply knowledge in local and global contexts, while cultivating an ethic of civic responsibility, social justice, and inclusive leadership and service. Hamline is the top-ranked and only "Great Schools, Great Prices" university of its class in Minnesota, according to U.S. News & World Report. Founded in 1854, Hamline is Minnesota's first university and among the first coeducational institutions in the nation.
- **St. Catherine University** is a dynamic university for women and men with the nation's largest undergraduate college for women at its center. Through a diversity of programs, St. Kate's offers the intimacy of a four-year liberal arts college and the opportunity to complete baccalaureate, associate, master's and doctoral degrees in a variety of healthcare specialties, liberal arts and professional programs. Committed to meeting the educational needs of women of all ages, as well as men in its associate and graduate programs, the University offers many of its degree programs in both traditional and weekend formats. With campuses in St. Paul and Minneapolis, St. Catherine University has a total enrollment of 5,277.
- The **University of St. Thomas**, a comprehensive, Catholic university with more than 11,000 students on campuses in St. Paul, Minneapolis and Owatonna, MN, and in Rome, Italy, is Minnesota's largest private university.

Winona State University is a comprehensive, regional public university with more than 8,500 students on its three campuses in southeast Minnesota. The oldest member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, Winona State offers more than 80 undergraduate, pre-professional, licensure, graduate and doctorate programs. Winona State's College of Education offers degree programs at the baccalaureate, post-baccalaureate, master and specialist levels. Degrees, certificates or licenses are offered in more than 25 different specializations.