



THE ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation Awards \$124,000 Grant to Teach For America

February 20, 2012

The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation has awarded a two-year, \$124,000 grant to [Teach for America](#) to launch a leadership-training academy for Teach for America's early childhood education teachers.

The goal of the leadership academy is to ensure that Georgia has leaders who are able to drive the change necessary to close the achievement gap. Pre-k corps members will participate in training seminars throughout their two-year commitment with Teach for America. The seminars will provide context on the current early childhood education landscape of Metro Atlanta, build knowledge of policy and advocacy skills, and teach corps members how to leverage their leadership skills to effect lasting change.

Teach For America provides a critical source of talented, qualified, motivated early childhood teachers to the field. Since 2006, Teach For America has been recruiting, training, placing, and supporting corps members in pre-K classrooms across the country, including placements in Metro Atlanta since 2011, as part of its early childhood education initiative. Teach For America seeks to expand educational opportunity in ways that are life-changing for children and transformative for our country. Across the nation, Teach For America alumni are rapidly advancing to positions of leadership, driving education reform from both inside and outside the field of education. Equipped with the insights gained from their time in the classroom, Teach For America alumni become lasting leaders in ensuring educational equality from all career sectors, including teachers, principals, policy makers, doctors, lawyers, and nonprofit leaders.

"The achievement gap begins in early childhood and widens as children get older, making effective Pre-K teachers and leaders critical to eliminating educational inequity," said Shyam Kumar, Teach For America – Metro Atlanta executive director. "Support from the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation will help us to prepare our teachers to be classroom leaders."

"Increased investment in high-quality early education is essential to the nation's future," said Blank Foundation President Penelope McPhee. "We must prepare our early childhood educators to be leaders who will inspire lasting change for our youngest students."

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About The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation

The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation promotes positive change in peoples' lives, builds, and enhances the communities in which they live. The Foundation seeks innovative solutions that enable young people, families, and communities to achieve results beyond what seems possible today. Formed in 1995, the Foundation invests in early childhood development, education, green space, and the arts, and leads giving programs for each of the Blank Family of Businesses, including the Atlanta Falcons.

Learn more at <http://www.blankfoundation.org>

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 9,000 corps members are teaching in 43 urban and rural regions across the country, while nearly 24,000 alumni are working across sectors to ensure that all children have access to an excellent education.

Learn more at <http://www.teachforamerica.org>