



NEWS RELEASE

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Carnegie Corporation's Vartan Gregorian Applauds Bush Foundation's Teacher Preparation Program

New York, New York, December 4, 2009 -- Vartan Gregorian, President of Carnegie Corporation of New York, offered his support for the Bush Foundation's new partnership to transform teacher preparation programs at 14 institutions of higher education in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. The Minnesota-based foundation yesterday announced a \$40 million initiative aimed at producing at least 25,000 new, effective teachers over the next 10 years. Read the Bush Foundation's [announcement](#).

Commenting on the Bush Foundation's partnership, Vartan Gregorian said, "Erik Erikson once remarked that human beings are the teaching species and I strongly agree. Our teachers bear an extraordinary moral, social, and historical responsibility for instructing today's students who tomorrow, will be leading our nation into its future. If we really want to continue to improve student achievement we have no choice but to improve teaching—and the Bush Foundation's new partnership is an important step toward that goal."

Gregorian continued, "The Bush Foundation's new teacher-preparation partnership is a direct response to one of the nation's most critical education challenges: preparing excellent and effective teachers who can serve students in both high-needs rural and urban schools. Highly trained and deeply knowledgeable teachers are at the heart of education reform."

In education, the Corporation works to create pathways to opportunity for many more students by promoting systemic change and innovation in secondary and higher education. The foundation places a priority on pursuing its work in collaboration with other donors.

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“The new multi-state partnership inspires, encourages, and supports the professional men and women who are shaping our next generation,” said Michele Cahill, Vice-President, National Programs and Program Director, Urban Education at Carnegie Corporation. “After all, we now know, after extensive research based on thousands of student records in schools across the country, that the teacher is the single most important factor in pupil performance.”

Cahill added, “I am especially pleased that the 14 institutions of higher education partnering with the Bush Foundation will guarantee that the teachers produced by their re-designed programs will be effective. To accomplish this goal, these 14 colleges and universities have committed to radical changes in the way they recruit, place, support, and, with their K-12 partners, retain top talent.”

In addition, said Cahill, “These proposed new practices represent a vast change from the way teacher preparation programs have been operated in the past, and require hard work, tough decision making, and political will to succeed.”

Carnegie Corporation of New York is a philanthropic foundation created by Andrew Carnegie in 1911 to do "real and permanent good in this world."