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TEACHFORAMERICA

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TEACH FOR AMERICA—OKLAHOMA CITY ANNOUNCES NEW REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

*New Board Members Will Support Teach For America's Local Efforts to Strengthen Educational Equity
and Excellence in Oklahoma City*

OKLAHOMA CITY, September, 2016— Teach For America—Oklahoma City today announced its new board of directors that will support the local non-profit's mission to ensure students in this region have access to the high-quality educational opportunities they deserve. Teach For America recruits top college graduates and professionals and prepares them to teach in urban and rural public school communities and become lifelong leaders expanding educational opportunity. As alumni, Teach For America participants work across a variety of sectors to address the need of low-income communities.

"We are thrilled to welcome a new cohort to our board that will partner with us in creating bright, community defined futures for the children we exist to serve," said executive director Art Serna Jr. "These community leaders have the drive and expertise to help Teach For America oversee a bold, inspiring vision and plan that rallies our coalition of diverse leaders in support of schools and classrooms that are building student skills that are essential for engaged citizenship, work and life in the 21st century."

New Teach For America—Oklahoma City board members include:

- Susan Harroz, community volunteer
- Carole Kelley, Oklahoma Public School Resource Center
- Cinthya Allen, AT&T
- Kristin Holland, Cox Communications
- Mollie Bennett McCurdy, Bebe's Home Decor
- Linda Neal, community volunteer
- Adam Rainbolt, BancFirst Insurance Services
- Debbie Schramm, Saxum
- Pamela Taylor, community volunteer
- Sandino Thompson, It's My Community Initiative
- Kyla Turner, Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores

Continuing on Teach For America – Oklahoma City's board are: Chair Bob Ross, Inasmuch Foundation; Ruth Ann Regens, Westminster School; and Jessica Martinez-Brooks, University of Oklahoma.

"Teach For America corps members and alumni have made significant strides in their respective classrooms and school communities to inspire Oklahoma City's next generation of leaders through education," said Teach For America—Oklahoma City's board chair Bob Ross. "Undoubtedly, a strong coalition of parents, students, community leaders and partner organizations is key to permanently ending educational inequity, and we are proud to be a part of the local movement."

This fall, Teach For America—Oklahoma City welcomed 45 new teachers to local schools as part of the incoming national corps of 3,400. The first-year teachers will join approximately 60 second-year corps members for a total Oklahoma City corps of nearly 100 members along with more than 130 alumni. Formerly a part of Teach for America—Oklahoma, Teach For America’s programs serving the respective communities of Tulsa and Oklahoma City have each become their own regions this year. Teach For America has been a part of the Sooner state’s educational community since 2009.

Recently, the [What Works Clearinghouse](#) (WWC) published a new review of research on Teach For America, identifying seven rigorous studies of corps members that were previously conducted and met their bar of research standards. Collectively, the studies looked at more than 65,000 students in grades pre-K through 12 in a variety of states across the country. The review concluded that Teach For America first- and second year teachers have positive effects on student outcomes, especially in mathematics and science. Teach For America is among the most rigorously evaluated teacher preparation and development programs in the country.

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 effort to end educational inequity. Today, more than 53,000 Teach For America corps members and alumni are leading within schools, school systems, and every sector and field that shapes them. Among them are 19,000 teachers, including nearly 7,000 first and second year corps members in 53 urban and rural regions across the country. Teach For America is a proud member of the AmeriCorps national service network. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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