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## **RISING LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY KICK OFF YEARLONG PROJECTS TO EXPAND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

*College Students Selected for Rising Leaders Fellowship Convene to Develop  
Action Plans for Campus and Community Projects*

**WASHINGTON, D.C., September 30, 2013**—One hundred student leaders from colleges and universities across the United States met last month to develop projects to expand educational opportunity in their communities. The students have been selected for the Rising Leaders Fellowship, designed to mobilize a diverse cohort of student leaders in direct action to address educational inequity. Their fellowship kicked off August 29–31 with the Rising Leaders Summit, hosted by Teach For America and sponsored by FedEx.

Students are selected as Rising Leader Fellows based on outstanding leadership potential and a desire to take concrete action to expand educational opportunity. The 12-month fellowship, now in its second year, aims to build fellows' understanding of educational inequity and support their direct impact on the issue. Each fellow designs and leads a project that will measurably impact educational opportunities in their community or on their campus.

Fellows attend the Rising Leaders Summit to share their experiences and insights, learn from leaders in the field, and plan and develop their project. They work with mentors who are Teach For America staff members, corps members, and alumni, in order to complete their project.

"It's inspiring to witness the fellows channeling their passion for educational equity into the creation of ambitious plans to impact their communities," said Ahnna Smith, executive director of Teach For America–D.C. Region.

The 100 students in the 2013 fellowship class represent 60 universities across the U.S. They join a national network of 100 fellowship alumni.

At this year's summit, held at the Hilton Garden Inn Capital, fellows received constructive feedback on their project plans and guidance on strategies for turning their plans into action. They also participated in workshops to further develop the skills necessary to execute on their plans.

Through sponsorship of the Rising Leaders Summit, FedEx enables top college sophomores and juniors to develop their leadership capacity in the field of education. FedEx has been a Teach For America supporter since 2007, helping the organization grow in scale and diversity, increase the impact of its corps members, and foster the leadership of an ever-growing force of alumni.

### **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. This fall, 11,000 corps members will teach in 48 urban and rural regions across the country, while 32,000 alumni work

across sectors to ensure that all children have access to an excellent education. For more information, visit [www.teachforamerica.org](http://www.teachforamerica.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).