

Uptown/Rogers Park

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The Uptown/Rogers Park Consortium is one of the three new Illinois Grow Your Own Teachers projects funded for both planning and implementation grants in 2007. The area served by the project may be the most racially/ethnically diverse in Chicago.

The partner organizations are:

**Organization of the NorthEast
Truman College
(City Colleges of Chicago)
North Park University
Chicago Public Schools**

The community organization is the lead organization and fiscal agent on the grant.

The Cohort: There are 15 members of the new Uptown/Rogers Park cohort; as befits a diverse neighborhood, 8 are African-American, 3 are Hispanic, 3 are Asian, and 1 is Caucasian. Two are men; the median age is about 37. Eleven are employed, 6 in the schools; 69% had at least some college experience before entering the program. Twelve have children in their homes.

In order to answer the question about what we felt most proud of, we held two meetings, one with the consortium members and one with the cohort. Our consortium feels proud of implementing a process in the Northside Chicago community in only three months. During these months we talked with more than 100 people and interviewed 50 potential candidates that resulted in the creation of a cohort. Our students are proud that they are “willing to work together for a common goal, with strong desire and determination”.

Our consortium made a strong commitment to support the cohort. Truman College dedicated three administrative positions and two teachers to ensure that the needs of our cohort will be fully satisfied. To meet them halfway, North Park University made a commitment to reduce tuition up to 50%. In a few words: **WE ARE PROUD OF THE CREATION OF STRONG LEADERSHIP WHERE EVERYBODY IS WILLING TO GIVE THEIR BEST AND CONTRIBUTE THEIR EXPERTISE.**

Quotes from the candidates:

“Desire + Determination = Success” -Timothy Dixon

“We are willing to work together for a common goal” -Shazia Tabasum

“This is the biggest step for us for a better future and we are committed with our hard work and dedication”-Hialma Westby

“We are team players. We study together, we come to practice together” -Jhon Baustista



Cohort members collaborate on class work.