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MEMORANDUM

TO: Chancellors, Presidents, Deans and Faculty (Education/Arts and Sciences) of Tennessee Institutions of Higher Education

FROM: Richard G. Rhoda, Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission

Timothy K. Webb
Commissioner of Education 

DATE: February 17, 2009

SUBJECT: UTeach Replication Sites

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) and the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) are pleased to announce collaborative funding of two UTeach replication sites at Tennessee institutions. Through the Improving Teacher Quality grant program and the Math and Science Partnership grant program, THEC and TDOE will release a joint Request for Proposals (RFP) to award two grants for up to **\$1.825 million** each over a five-year period to establish UTeach replication sites in the awarded institutions.

The UTeach program began at the University of Texas, Austin with the goal of increasing the number of mathematics and science teachers with a strong content knowledge. Since 1997, the program has gained national recognition and expanded throughout the country. The UTeach Institute partnered with the National Math and Science Initiative to fund replication sites through a competitive grant process. Institutions such as the University of Florida, the University of Colorado, the University of California, Berkeley, and Louisiana State University were awarded grants to replicate the UTeach program. Over the next five-years, two Tennessee institutions will have the opportunity to create a UTeach program and collaborate with these and many other institutions in the process.

On March 10, 2009, THEC and TDOE will host a kick-off meeting to introduce the Tennessee UTeach program. Staff members of the UTeach Institute will

introduce the program and provide in-depth information about the forthcoming RFP process. We would like to encourage each institution to send the university/college president or chancellor and/or deans of the Colleges of Education and Arts & Sciences to the meeting to assess interest in applying for the grant. The meeting will be held at the Tennessee Higher Education Commission offices in Nashville, TN from 10:00 AM Central to 4:00 PM Central. Please RSVP with the names and positions of all participants to Katrina Miller (Katrina.Miller@state.tn.us) no later than 2:00 PM, February 27, 2009. For more information about the UTeach program and an example RFP, please visit <http://www.uteach-institute.org/index.cfm> . We would look forward to this exciting and unprecedented opportunity to positively impact math and science education in our state.