

KEN GRIFFIN DONATES MORE THAN \$3.5 MILLION TO EDUCATION NONPROFIT ACHIEVE MIAMI TO IMPROVE MIAMI SCHOOLS AND TACKLE THE TEACHER SHORTAGE

Funds will support the Teacher Accelerator Program (TAP), a new Achieve Miami initiative launched in partnership with University of Miami and Teach for America

Miami (February 9, 2023) — As Miami grapples with a rapidly-mounting teacher shortage and fast growing student population, Citadel founder and CEO Ken Griffin has committed more than \$3.5 million to close learning gaps in the city’s public schools and develop a new generation of teachers. Mr. Griffin’s gift will fund nonprofit Achieve Miami’s newly launched [Teacher Accelerator Program](#) (TAP), which is creating a pipeline of teachers to fill vacant positions in Miami-Dade County classrooms beginning in the fall of 2023. The privately funded program – a collaboration between [Achieve Miami](#), the University of Miami, and Teach for America – is aiming to transform local schools and eliminate the teacher shortage by recruiting and training educators.

TAP is launching this semester at the University of Miami, with participants enrolling in a one-semester course that will be followed by a paid summer internship with Teach for America or Achieve Miami. Upon completion of the program, TAP students will earn their Florida teaching certification and a full-time employment contract with Miami-Dade County Public Schools. They will then receive ongoing mentorship during their first year of teaching. Achieve Miami is already in advanced discussions with colleges in other cities about expanding TAP nationally.

Mr. Griffin’s gift and the launch of TAP coincide with a chronic teacher shortage that is adversely affecting students across Florida. According to the Florida Department of Education, there were more than 5,200 teacher vacancies on the first day of the 2022-23 school year. In Miami, which recently surpassed Chicago to become the nation’s third largest school district, hundreds of teaching positions were unfilled at the start of the year.

“The performance of our public schools and our ability to provide every child with a quality education are directly linked to the health and economic vitality of our community,” said Achieve Miami Founder Leslie Miller Saiontz. “Miami cannot uphold a high standard of learning if our classrooms are without teachers. Ken Griffin’s investment in the Teacher Accelerator Program will ensure Achieve Miami has the financial resources necessary to enlist and develop a new generation of educators.”

“Each of us has a story of how a teacher has changed our lives,” said Ken Griffin. “I care deeply about bringing more high-quality educators into Miami classrooms to help ensure the children of Miami will continue to enjoy the impact of life-changing teachers.”

Mr. Griffin has a longstanding commitment to improving education and has contributed more than \$700 million to providing greater access to a high-quality education and pathways to success for students in Florida and across the country. In 2021, he funded another Achieve Miami initiative, Miami Connected, which brought free high-speed internet access to tens of thousands of Miami-Dade County students who were thrust into remote learning during the pandemic.

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ABOUT THE TEACHER ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

The Teacher Accelerator Program (TAP) creates a clear pathway for college seniors not in the field of

education to graduate and enter the teaching profession. The pipeline begins at the University of Miami with a one-semester undergraduate course, followed by a paid summer internship with Teach for America or Achieve Miami, professional teaching certification and full-time employment contract with Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

ABOUT ACHIEVE MIAMI

Since its founding in 2015, Achieve Miami has supported thousands of students, bolstered programming for 60+ local schools, and engaged thousands of volunteers. Achieve Miami is dedicated to fostering a transformational education ecosystem in Miami. Together with partners from the public and private sector, Achieve Miami designs and manages programs that bring together members from various parts of the community to extend learning opportunities for students, teachers, and community leaders.

ABOUT UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

The University of Miami is a private research university and academic health system with a distinct geographic capacity to connect institutions, individuals, and ideas across the hemisphere and around the world. The University's vibrant and diverse academic community comprises 12 schools and colleges serving more than 17,000 undergraduate and graduate students in more than 180 majors and programs. Located within one of the most dynamic and multicultural cities in the world, the University is building new bridges across geographic, cultural, and intellectual borders, bringing a passion for scholarly excellence, a spirit of innovation, a respect for including and elevating diverse voices, and a commitment to tackling the challenges facing our world.