

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BANK STREET COLLEGE OF EDUCATION RECEIVES GRANT TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR HIGH-QUALITY TEACHER PREPARATION**

***College's Division of Innovation, Policy and Research Secures \$400,000 Grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to Launch Sustainable Funding Project***

**New York, NY – February 8, 2016** – Bank Street College of Education, a recognized leader in early childhood education, teacher preparation, and early education research and policy, is pleased to announce a \$400,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant will support an initiative aimed at developing long-term strategies to establish sustainable streams of public funding to support high-quality teacher preparation programs nationwide.

The Sustainable Funding Project will be launched by Bank Street's Division of Innovation, Policy and Research to address the growing need for a systematic approach to strengthening the quality and diversity of teacher candidates, their preparation experiences, and their efficacy as early career teachers. The program will partner with teacher preparation programs, K-12 educators, intermediary organizations, and government officials at the district, state, and federal levels to explore and ultimately establish approaches to publicly funding high-quality teacher preparation.

"To ensure a high-quality teacher in every classroom, we must first ensure that student teachers have equitable access to high-quality preparation that incorporates sustained clinical practice," said Josh Thomases, Dean of Innovation, Policy and Research, Bank Street College of Education. "Our aim is to remove obstacles within the current system that hinder teacher recruitment and classroom competency for novice teachers. A public investment in high-quality teacher preparation will broaden access to the profession and better prepare teacher candidates for effective practice."

Bank Street has deep experience in teacher preparation, professional development, and school reform and is well positioned to develop a new funding framework in alliance with colleagues across the nation. The project will build on the College's relationships with the broader education community and other thought leaders to document the critical components of innovative, clinically-rich practices and funding models and to build a coalition of support for a sustainable and systematic approach to expanding these practices and funding streams.

**About Bank Street College of Education**

For one hundred years, Bank Street's focus has been children: how they learn, what they need, what teachers need to help children learn, and what kind of schools and communities learners of every age need in order to reach their full potential. Learn more about Bank Street's Children's Programs, Graduate School of Education, and Division of Innovation, Policy and Research at [bankstreet.edu](http://bankstreet.edu).

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