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April 18, 2010

Dillard University Announces Recovery School District Partnership

(New Orleans) Dr. Joyce Roché, Chair of Dillard University's Board of Trustees, and Dr. Paul Vallas, Recovery School District Superintendent, today announced a new teacher-training program they believe will revolutionize teacher education in New Orleans and serve as a model for programs across the country. "This is the most creative partnership we have ever entered," said Dillard University President Marvalene Hughes. "It offers enormous and unlimited opportunities to the student population at Dillard."

Recovery School District Superintendent Paul Vallas agreed. "We are creating a program that will quite possibly be a model for teacher education training in general," Vallas said.

Dillard students interested in teaching would be given an opportunity to function as teaching assistants in the Recovery School District during their sophomore year. Juniors and seniors would be allowed to participate in paid internships. During the summer immediately following graduation, students would receive intensive training followed by teacher certification.

President Hughes said that the partnership and the program initiatives are the result of intensive planning among Dillard's academic committee, the Recovery School District, and Dillard University's Provost Dr. David Taylor. "We are excited about this endeavor because it not only transforms but expands the educational opportunities at Dillard," Hughes said.

"We're thrilled to be partnering with Dillard in this unprecedented program," Vallas said. "It will not only allow us to bolster our already strong alternative pathways initiatives for teachers, but will also bring greater diversity to our efforts – which is always important in a district such as ours."

