

GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT APRIL 2019

Anonymous Funder Donates \$9M

Largest gift in the UChicago Consortium's history will create an unrestricted endowment

The [University of Chicago Consortium on School Research \(UChicago Consortium\)](#) is excited to announce a \$9 million gift from an anonymous donor. This gift is the largest in the UChicago Consortium's history and will create an unrestricted endowment that enables the UChicago Consortium to sustain its work to build capacity for school reform through rigorous research that identifies what matters most for school improvement and student success.

The endowment established by the anonymous donor's gift will enable the UChicago Consortium to build on its track record of success in producing research that focuses the education community's attention and efforts on key levers for fostering greater equity and excellence in the Chicago Public Schools district and school districts across the nation. Launched in 1990, the UChicago Consortium has provided insight and guidance to Chicago Public Schools through a dozen changes in district leadership. The UChicago Consortium is based at the [UChicago Urban Education Institute \(UEI\)](#), which bridges education research and practice to produce knowledge that strengthens public schools nationwide. Over the last 15 years, at least 30 cities and states, including New York City, Los Angeles, and Tennessee, have replicated the UChicago Consortium's model for research-practice partnerships.

"This generous gift will advance our agenda to conduct research that contributes to improving equity and achievement in Chicago's schools and beyond," said [Elaine Allensworth](#), Lewis-Sebring Director of the UChicago Consortium. "We are thrilled that the donor has recognized the important role of actionable research and data for empowering educators and supporting students."

The UChicago Consortium's rigorous research has led to groundbreaking discoveries and insights with far-reaching impact, including improvements in graduation and college readiness through the [Freshman OnTrack indicator](#) and [To&Through](#) projects, and frameworks for understanding how social-emotional and noncognitive factors matter for academic and adult success, including [The Framework for Young Adult Success](#), and the [5Essentials Surveys](#), which shift the focus for school improvement from external policies to internal capacity-building. The endowment established by the anonymous donor's gift will enable the UChicago Consortium to build on its track record of success in producing research that focuses the education community's attention and efforts on key levers for fostering greater equity and excellence in the Chicago Public Schools district and school districts across the nation.

"If you look at the work and the strategy for improving Chicago Public Schools, you see the research that has come out of the University of Chicago and specifically the Consortium," said Chicago Public Schools CEO Janice Jackson at [an event co-hosted](#)

[by the Consortium in 2018](#). “I really think when school systems are serious about improvement, they’re not afraid to have an external partner that will serve as a mirror.”

“We cannot thank our benefactors enough,” said [Penny Bender Sebring](#), Co-Founder of the UChicago Consortium. “Sustainability is only possible with a strong financial foundation, which will support the vital work of long-term relationship building with our education partners and disseminating our learning across the country.”

“This remarkable endowment gift shows how much the donors value the relevant, useful research that the Consortium conducts, which means a lot to us,” noted [John Q. Easton](#), Senior Fellow at and former Executive Director of the UChicago Consortium.

With this gift and a \$500,000 expendable gift to the UChicago Consortium in 2018, the anonymous donor has committed nearly \$15 million to the University of Chicago, including funds to support UChicago Medicine, the Smart Museum, and UChicago Urban Labs.



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