The school year is in full swing and a big time for education continues. Here’s a look back at 2014’s key news & numbers—and a look forward to what’s coming up in 2015.

**UChicago Impact Wins Innovation Fund Competition**

Great news to kick off the year! On January 8, 2015, the University of Chicago announced the winners of the Innovation Fund, including UChicago Impact and the Consortium’s joint venture “Becoming Effective Learners,” a project to translate research on noncognitive factors into a new classroom tool to help students stay engaged in school and improve their chances of getting to and through college.

Key news coverage by the University of Chicago, Crain’s Chicago Business.
Q: What else is helping kids to & through college?

UEI Launches The To & Through Project

On December 9, 2014, UEI’s Consortium on Chicago School Research and UChicago Impact launched a three-part release of tools and data reports aimed at equipping schools, families, students, and civic leaders with the information they need to drive significantly higher college graduation rates. To & Through Part 1, an analysis by the Consortium spanning 2006-2014, revealed key new CPS numbers for college attainment, high school completion, and other key academic trends across the city.

Chicago Public Schools nearly doubled the proportion of ninth graders estimated to go on to earn a four-year college degree by their mid-20s.

New estimate of CPS freshmen estimated to complete their bachelor’s by their mid-20s compared to 8 of 100 estimated in 2006.

In 2015 To & Through Part 2: School Reports will provide individual schools in the CPS system with data on key college success metrics and Part 3: Interactive Tool, developed by UChicago Impact, will release an online tool that allows users to interrogate school-level data on key points along the path from middle grades, high school, on through college graduation. Stay tuned!

Q: What is helping fuel greater high school and college success?

Consortium Validates Freshmen OnTrack

Since the Consortium first discovered the Freshmen OnTrack indicator in 2005-07, we’ve long known that passing freshman core courses is incredibly predictive of whether or not a student will ultimately graduate high school. The question remained: could improving Freshmen OnTrack in turn improve high school graduation rates?

On April 24, the Consortium released a report led by Melissa Roderick showing that 20 CPS schools that made early gains on Freshmen On-Track later made remarkable, lasting improvements in graduation rates—leading the way in a system-wide shift in Chicago.

84% of Chicago Public Schools freshmen are OnTrack, an improvement of 27% over 7 years. That means approximately...

7,000 more freshmen each year have earned their high school diplomas.

+28.3 The improvement among African American males—from 43% in 2005 to 71% in 2013—was the biggest jump of any subgroup.

So far high school graduation rates have closely followed the Freshmen OnTrack rate and all signs indicate this will continue.

Q: What innovative models of schooling are working?

Leading Economists Feature UEI Models

Restoring Opportunity

In early 2014, two of the nation’s leading economists and education scholars—Harvard University’s Richard Murnane and University of California-Irvine’s Greg Duncan—showcased UEI’s models in their new book, *Restoring Opportunity: The Crisis of Inequality and the Challenge for American Education*, as one among three of the nation’s most promising educational solutions.

On June 24, we hosted a book talk with Dr. Murnane, our experts, and community stakeholders to foster dialogue on what’s really working for urban schooling. The sheer number and diversity of the event attendees and the models featured in the book itself highlighted the integrative work across research, policy and tools, practice, and training happening in the city and at UEI.

Featured in *Restoring Opportunity* are two graduates of UEI’s Urban Teacher Education Program. Those alums are depicted using STEP™, the literacy program that forms the instructional backbone of the UChicago Charter NKO Campus and was developed by UChicago Impact, UEI’s non-profit arm that pushes the best research from the Consortium to practice and scale nationwide.

**+40 Math**

**+30 Reading**

Average test score difference on an SAT-type scale between students who enrolled at UChicago Charter NKO versus students who applied but did not get selected in the random admissions lotteries.

Q: How else can we support our teachers?

UChicago UTEP Book Feature
Inspiring Teaching

In October, the Urban Teacher Education Program was featured in the new book *Inspiring Teaching: Preparing Teachers to Succeed in Mission-Driven Schools* as a highly successful program designed to prepare educators for lifelong careers in urban education.

90% of UChicago UTEP graduates remain teaching in urban schools after five years—an extremely high retention rate compared to 50% of teachers leaving the profession within five years nationwide.

Half of alumni cohorts with more than five years experience as certified teachers are serving in education leadership positions.

Excerpt

“UTEP explicitly promotes teaching as intellectual work that requires nuanced understanding of the context, subject-matter expertise, extensive clinical and pedagogical training, and knowledge of self. Toward that end, several themes of inquiry are embedded in an interdisciplinary manner into the UTEP curriculum. These inquiries result in exploration of self, children, practice, and of social-justice oriented teaching.” (p. 19)

Key news coverage by The Washington Post, “What keeps good teachers teaching?” — learn more at utep.uchicago.edu
Q: What’s the college story for our students?

UChicago Charter School’s
College Success in Chicago Tribune

On October 31, a Chicago Tribune cover story ranked UChicago Charter’s college-enrollment rate #2 among all high schools in Chicago and its surrounding suburbs. UChicago Charter also celebrated...

100% College acceptance for its graduating seniors for the third year in a row.

In the past year, graduates have been accepted to Stanford, University of Chicago, Oberlin, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, to name just a few.

Key news coverage of UChicago Charter by The New York Times Blog, The Atlantic, FOX32 News
Q: And what about youth in Chicago and beyond?

**Urban Ed / Crime Lab Expands BAM + Match**

UEL-studied and -proven intervention Becoming A Man and Match tutoring received $10 million in new funding, highlighted as part of President Obama’s My Brother’s Keeper initiative to support young men of color nationwide. The funding will support UEL’s expansion and long-term study of BAM and Match in Chicago and beyond.

44% reduction in violent crime arrests for participants of BAM sports mentoring.

3 years of math learning within 6 months of participating in Match tutoring.

**Hi, NY** Crime Lab New York officially launched in December, bringing the Lab’s expertise to help tackle the Big Apple’s biggest challenges.

Thank you for your support in 2014!

In 2015, look out for To&Through Part 2 + 3, more on OnTrack, exciting Urban Ed & Crime Lab news, the Education Writers Association National Conference at UEI, and much, much more.

Thank you again for your interest, efforts, and unfailing resolve to create reliably excellent schooling for all our students. Let’s make 2015 even better than 2014, by focusing on what matters most for children growing and learning across urban America.

The University of Chicago Urban Education Institute represents a model for how to engage in the systemic improvement of pre-K–12th grade schooling. UEI conducts applied research, prepares classroom teachers, operates multiple school campuses, and creates and disseminates tools and solutions that are research-based and practice-proven. No other institution in the country joins these domains of work and depth of expertise under a single roof. This integrated whole creates a powerful mechanism to improve student outcomes nationwide—UEI is uniquely positioned to make lasting and significant changes to the quality of American education. This is the promise of UEI. Learn more at uei.uchicago.edu