The 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.
Across four integrated units, the Urban Education Institute:

CONDUCTS RIGOROUS APPLIED RESEARCH

TRAINS EXEMPLARY TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS

OPERATES A MULTI-CAMPUS PRE-K TO 12 SCHOOL

PROVIDES EMPIRICALLY BASED TOOLS AND TRAINING NATIONWIDE

The Challenges in Urban Education

The majority of our nation’s public schools fail to prepare students from low-income families to succeed in college and life. The odds that children growing up in urban America will finish college are discouraging.

We have amassed decades of empirical evidence that demonstrates the extraordinary influence schooling can have on the lives of poor children. And we are convinced that by building knowledge born from exemplary practice and scholarship, by creating new methods to develop and support teachers and school leaders, and by creating scalable tools and models for improving urban schools we can influence the lives of children nationwide.

“UEI was created in the Dewey tradition to discover better ways to educate children growing up on Chicago’s South Side and across urban America.”

Timothy Knowles, John Dewey Director, Urban Education Institute

Consortium on Chicago School Research leads UEI’s applied research effort, informing practice, policy, and the public about schooling in Chicago. Since its founding in 1990, the Consortium has undertaken research to document, analyze, and assess Chicago’s school reform efforts. It is a national model for undertaking research to track the progress of urban school systems, partnering closely with district leaders, creating and administering longitudinal surveys of schools, and creating indicators and methods to deepen understanding of school reform and improve educational practice. UChicago CCSR has inspired replicas in New York City, Los Angeles, Baltimore, San Diego, and other major cities nationwide.

Urban Teacher Education Program prepares exemplary teachers for Chicago Public Schools while empirically testing a model for urban teacher preparation and support. UChicago UTEP is a two-year graduate program accredited by the Illinois State Board of Education. Students enroll in rigorous course work and receive intensive clinical preparation over a 15-month period. Graduates receive three years of in-classroom coaching upon entry into Chicago schools. UChicago UTEP’s five-year retention rate is 90%, far exceeding the national rate of 50% of teachers leaving the profession within five years.

UChicago Charter School is a pre-K–12th pathway to college. UChicago Charter’s four campuses educate 1,900 students on Chicago’s South Side near the University. The Donoghue and North Kenwood/Oakland campuses serve pre-K–5th grade students, the Carter G. Woodson campus serves 6th–8th grade students, and the Woodlawn campus serves 6th–12th grade students. UChicago Charter School is non-selective, admitting all students by lottery. 100% of graduating seniors have been accepted to college for three years in a row and UChicago Charter has one of the highest college persistence rates of any non-selective high school in the city of Chicago.

UChicago Impact provides schools, school systems, and states with the highest quality research-based diagnostic tools and training designed to produce reliably excellent schooling. UChicago Impact tools and training are derived from knowledge culled across UEI — from our applied research, teacher training, and the day-to-day operation of effective schools. All UChicago Impact products are research and practice based — designed to improve instruction, leadership, and college readiness and to accelerate academic achievement. UChicago Impact currently works in 55 major cities across 23 states — including some of the highest performing school systems and charter management organizations nationwide.