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SISTER MAUREEN DOYLE TO STEP DOWN AS DIRECTOR OF URBAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Established a legacy milestone achievements over 34 years at school on Cleveland's near west side

Cleveland, Ohio – (February 16, 2017) Urban Community School (UCS) announced today that Sister Maureen Doyle will step down as Director of the school after more than three decades following the completion of the current academic year. During Doyle's tenure as President of UCS, the school – founded in the Ursuline tradition and serving primarily families in need Cleveland's near west side – achieved numerous milestones in academics, fundraising, and facilities.

"It is with immense pride in the community we have built together and strong faith in the future of our truly unique school that I have decided to step down from my role as Director at the close of the 2016-17 academic year," said Doyle, a member of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland. "I am proud of our history, humbled by what we have achieved together, and enthusiastic about what is next for our beloved Urban Community School. It has been an honor to know and serve so many children over the years and I am excited about their futures as I am the school's future."

As leader of UCS, growth has been a core value under Doyle. She led an evolution of the academic program and increased the number of children served by the school, which for years had experienced a significant waiting list. Doyle also completed two major capital campaigns to meet the community's need for innovative, quality education. Launched in 2003, the "It's About Kids" campaign raised \$16 million to build and endow a modern new campus at West 48th and Lorain in Cleveland; the "Better Starts Here" campaign raised nearly \$20 million to build and endow a state-of-the-art middle school addition which opened in 2014, allowing UCS to finally reach its goal of having capacity for 600 students.

UCS, which incorporates innovative teaching methods into its educational model, has also been recognized for its continuing academic achievements under Doyle's leadership. Those range from 1987's recognition with a U.S. Department of Education (US ED) national Blue Ribbon School Award to 2016's National Green Ribbon from the US ED (the only school in Ohio to receive the distinction) and a 5-star rating (the highest possible) from the State of Ohio's Step Up to Quality program for having one of the strongest pre-school programs in the region. The school also received the Isaiah Award from the American Jewish Committee in Cleveland for its commitment to diversity and bridge building.

Doyle was also able to methodically improve the academic, financial, and administrative initiatives of the school over her tenure. She built the school's endowment from scratch, and today the fund stands at nearly \$17 million. She focused on expanding professional development for faculty to continue bringing new ideas to UCS. And she pushed for the school to incorporate green, sustainable practices into its policies and its classrooms. Those efforts led to the establishment of a school learning garden in partnership with Refugee Response and Cleveland Botanical Garden; a 3-night camping experience each year at Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center; and a focus on eating local, healthy food in the school cafeteria aimed at helping children develop positive lifelong habits.

"On behalf of Urban Community School's board, faculty, & staff, and its students, alumni, & families, I would like to thank Sister Maureen Doyle for her incredible vision for our school and her determined passion in making it a reality over the past three decades," said Joe Juster, Chair of UCS's Board of Directors. "What Sister Maureen has achieved

is simply remarkable. Her selfless service to the children of Cleveland has made a meaningful difference in the lives of so many girls and boys who have passed through these halls and have become healthy and successful members of our community. While it is bittersweet that Sister Maureen will be moving on, she has set the school and our students on a path for continued success in the years to come. We cannot thank her enough.”

Juster also stated that UCS’s Board of Directors is working currently on a succession plan and expects to name a new leader in March 2017. “But we also know that Sister Maureen is truly one of a kind.”

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ABOUT URBAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Founded in 1968, Urban Community School (UCS) is an independent, non-graded, preschool through 8th level school that provides primarily low-income children from Cleveland's near west side with an individualized, innovative, and challenging education. In 2016, the school was awarded both a National Green Ribbon from the US ED (the only school in Ohio to receive the distinction) and 5-star rating (the highest possible) from the State of Ohio’s Step Up to Quality program. Founded by the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland and committed individuals, UCS is an ecumenical school in the Catholic tradition. For more information, visit urbancommunityschool.org.