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URBAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL NAMES THOMAS GILL AS ITS NEW PRESIDENT
Elevates Leader of School's Recent Campus Expansion, Capital Campaign

Cleveland, Ohio – Urban Community School (UCS) today announced the promotion of Thomas Gill to the position of President, where he will succeed Sister Maureen Doyle OSU at the end of the 2016-17 academic year. Gill has served UCS since 2010, initially as the Development Director, then Chief Operating and Development Officer, and as Associate Director since 2015. He recently guided the school's "Better Starts Here" \$20-million capital campaign and attendant construction project that led to the opening of The Thomas Jeckering Middle School in 2014.

"I'm honored to be chosen by the board to continue the legacy of Sister Maureen as Director of Urban Community School," said Gill. "I know that I have some big shoes to fill, and I'm looking forward to partnering with our faculty, staff, board, and the community to continue growing the school and serving our children and families. Urban Community School has always been an innovator in Cleveland's education environment, and I'm committed to continuing that tradition to the benefit of our students."

In only seven years, Gill's accomplishments at UCS have been impressive. Most visible has been his leadership on the campus expansion, leading a \$20-million capital campaign and overseeing construction for the new Thomas Jeckering Middle School. The addition, opened in fall 2014, provides a dynamic learning environment and the expanded space to grow enrollment by more than 30%, from 450 to 600 students – a long time goal of UCS. The campaign also added \$12 million to the UCS endowment, providing additional funds needed for long-term sustainability of the rapidly growing school.

Beyond the campaign, Gill also led internal efforts to revise the board's committee structure; created a parent engagement staff liaison position; and instituted weekly open-door sessions between parents and school administrators. Administratively, he worked to improve staff culture and efficiencies and to enhance the school's academic program with new internal and external resources.

"I can't think of a better successor for Sister Maureen than Tom Gill," said Joe Juster, board chair for UCS. "Over the past seven years, Tom has proven himself a strong, savvy leader who has helped position our school for long term success. He simply improves everything and everyone he touches. As important as his skill set is that Tom believes deeply in our mission, and cares for the children and families who find a home and a future at Urban Community School." Juster said that Sister Maureen and the UCS Board have been engaged in conversations and a thorough discernment process regarding succession for over two years. "With the full support of Sister Maureen and our founders, the Ursuline Sisters, we came to the unanimous decision that Tom was the best person for the job. Frankly, it was obvious."

"I'm thrilled for Tom and for the school, and have complete confidence in his ability to lead UCS for many years to come," said Sister Maureen Doyle. "Tom and I have worked hand in hand since 2010 to set strategy and build on the board's vision for the school, and I have seen his success. I also have been impressed by how deeply and sincerely Tom cares about education and about our mission and the school's focus on serving primarily low-income families and children," said Doyle. "He will dedicate all of his energy to providing those kids with opportunity in life."

Doyle also stated that Gill had been an innovator for UCS, leading collaborations with Cleveland Food Bank, Refugee Response, Neighborhood Family Practice, Cleveland Botanical Garden, Open Doors Academy, Schools That Can, Urban Squash Cleveland, The Foundry Rowing and Sailing Training Center and U.S. Lacrosse. "Those partnerships are so important, because they enable the school to serve students and their families beyond the classroom and broaden their horizons without adding to our budget," she said.

"Tom's ministry history clearly shows a man who is mission-driven," said Sister Susan Durkin of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland. "The Ursuline Sisters are confident that he will uphold the rich tradition of Ursuline education that has been the hallmark of UCS since its inception. We are pleased to support him as he assumes the role of President of UCS."

After earning his BA from Saint Louis University, Gill served for two years in El Salvador as a program coordinator for Casa de la Solidaridad, a study abroad program located at the Jesuit Universidad Centroamericana in San Salvador. He next earned an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School, then returned to Cleveland as a Cleveland Executive Fellow at the Cleveland Leadership Center, where he served successive internships with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, the Cleveland Indians, the Cuyahoga County Land Bank, and St. Martin de Porres High School. Gill is also a graduate of the FBI's Citizens Leadership Academy and graduate of Case Western Reserve University's Leadership Deep Dive.

Gill possesses a passion for community service, urban policy, and education. Beyond his role on the UCS campus, Gill has shared his talents with other non-profits, having served as board chair of both The Refugee Response and Neighborhood Family Practice, a Federally Qualified Health Center, while also serving on the Community Advisory Board of the Cleveland Food Bank. A native Clevelander, Gill attended Saint Ignatius High School and now lives in Ohio City with his wife and young son.

Gill said as a first order of business he intends to launch a new strategic planning process in the fall to clarify school initiatives over the next few years. "Sister Maureen and our board have accomplished a lot recently, but as the education environment in Cleveland continues to change and the needs of our students continue to evolve, we know that UCS must always look forward."

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ABOUT URBAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Urban Community School (UCS) is an independent, non-graded, pre-K through 8th level school that provides primarily low-income children from Cleveland's near west side with an individualized, innovative, and challenging education. Founded and sponsored by the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, UCS is an ecumenical school in the Catholic tradition. For more information, visit urbancommunityschool.org.