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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 26, 2011 | Lena T. Rodriguez | (816) 581-2900 | LRodriguez@uepkauffman.org

### **Urban Entrepreneur Partnership (UEP) Associate Co-Hosts New KTWU Episode**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (August 26, 2011)** – Entrepreneurial expert Lena T. Rodriguez, Ph.D., co-hosts a discussion on teacher salaries in the latest episode of “IGI,” a community affairs talk show on KTWU, Topeka’s public broadcasting affiliate. Rodriguez is chief marketing and development officer at the Urban Entrepreneur Partnership Inc. (UEP), a program of the Kauffman Foundation.

The new “IGI” episode, “Teacher Pay: Worth & Value,” airs on KTWU August 28th at 3:00 p.m. and August 29th at 9:00 p.m. and is already available on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/KTWUtube?feature=mhee#p/u/6/nUFnHtSHI9Y>.

Guests on the program include Wade Anderson and Blake West of the Kansas National Education Association; Rashanda Rhodes of the Sumner Academy of Arts & Science; Charles Walther, an English teacher at Shawnee Heights Middle School; and Betsy Wiens, a recently retired math teacher at Washburn Rural Middle School.

“There’s no more important role in society than that of teachers—from preschool through college level—who not only educate our children, but prepare them as future citizens of our global community,” Rodriguez said. “It’s especially relevant to focus on their critical contributions now, at a time of widespread education budget cuts and teacher layoffs.”

At the Urban Entrepreneur Partnership, Rodriguez is responsible for implementing communication, marketing, and public relations strategies for the \$12.5 million Kauffman program, which comprises the UEP, UEP Gulf Coast, and UEP Detroit 150, and for advancing the organization among prospective clients, donors and community stakeholders.

An entrepreneur herself, Rodriguez consults in the private and nonprofit sectors and speaks on topics of entrepreneurship, business management and marketing. She holds a doctorate in organizational behavior, entrepreneurship and international management from the University of Nebraska.

#### About the UEP

Distinguished by a unique and innovative one-to-one coaching model, the UEP offers a suite of business solutions that help entrepreneurs grow their businesses, create new jobs and help to revitalize the economy. Entrepreneurs can access these UEP services through a choice of delivery systems—video coaching, a traditional brick-and-mortar model, or a hybrid of the two.

Operating as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the UEP is a program of the Kauffman Foundation and is supported by public, private and nonprofit-sector resources. For additional information on Urban Entrepreneur Partnership (UEP) programs, visit [www.uepkauffman.org](http://www.uepkauffman.org).

#### About the Kauffman Foundation

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation is a private nonpartisan foundation that works to harness the power of entrepreneurship and innovation to grow economies and improve human welfare. The Kauffman Foundation empowers individuals to attain economic independence by advancing educational achievement and entrepreneurial success. Founded by late entrepreneur and philanthropist Ewing Marion Kauffman, the Foundation is based in Kansas City, Mo. For more information, visit [www.kauffman.org](http://www.kauffman.org), and follow the Foundation on [www.twitter.com/kauffmanfdn](https://www.twitter.com/kauffmanfdn) and [www.facebook.com/kauffmanfdn](https://www.facebook.com/kauffmanfdn).