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Leading Nonprofit CDFI IFF Will Oversee Completion of UNO Soccer Academy Charter High School

Chicago, IL, May 28, 2013 — Leading nonprofit community development financial institution (CDFI) IFF, which serves the facilities needs of Chicago and Midwest charter schools, announced today that it will oversee the completion of the construction of the new UNO Soccer Academy Charter High School. IFF said that it would employ "the same objective, highly cost-conscious and time-efficient approach to the project that we have employed successfully in prior school projects."

IFF's Real Estate Services division will have the sole discretion to approve any and all contractors, subcontractors or material providers performing work relating to the project.

"Helping provide low-income children an enhanced opportunity for success is the primary impetus for our involvement in this project -- as it is for all our charter school work," explained IFF CEO Joe Neri. "While we provide facilities loans and real estate service to nonprofits, we don't invest in concrete, bricks and wiring; we invest in children, families and underserved communities. And our new project with the UNO Soccer Academy exemplifies our vision and our work."

"Student performance and attendance is high across the UNO Charter School network and provides compelling evidence that UNO Soccer Academy offers great promise for future academic achievement," Neri added. "We heartily concur with UNO's proclamation that 'excellence is not a hope, but an expectation.'"

Singular Leadership Assisting Charter Schools

IFF has established itself as the only one-stop shop in the Midwest offering affordable financing and real estate services at every stage of school development. IFF was among the first community development financial institutions in the nation to provide below-market rate financing specifically for charter schools and has gained national recognition for its innovative use of U.S. Department of Education credit enhancement grants to finance charter school projects.

IFF Stands for Comprehensive Community Development

One of America's leading nonprofit community development financial institutions (CDFIs),

IFF strengthens nonprofits and their communities through lending and real estate consulting that help these organizations plan, finance, and build facilities that are critical to their success. Founded in 1988, IFF has total assets of more than \$235 million and serves nonprofits working with low-income communities and special needs populations in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin. Midwest-wide, IFF's lending has leveraged over \$1 billion dollars to invest in child care and primary health care centers, supportive housing, charter schools, shelters and affordable housing—helping to provide child care for over 4,617 children, a quality school facility for 28,792 students, 3,477 units of affordable housing, 179,684 health care visits and 49,636 jobs. IFF's strong financial performance and wide-reaching community impact has earned it the highest rating from the CDFI Assessment and Rating System (CARS). This makes IFF one of only four CDFIs nationwide – and the only one in the Midwest – to earn CARS' highest rating of “1” for Financial Strength and Performance; “AAA” for Impact Performance; and a “Policy Plus” for leadership in policy changes supporting disadvantaged people and communities. To learn more about IFF, visit www.iff.org.

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