

PR Award #: S336S240017

Organization Name: Reach University

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Organization Name: Reach University

Absolute Priority: 1

Competitive Preference Priorities: 1 - 4

Invitation Priority: 1

Requested 5-year Total Award Amount: \$9,923,196

Project Description:

Reach University, an accredited institution of higher education and teacher preparation provider, in an eligible partnership with Reach Teachers College and the College of Arts & Sciences, Jefferson Parish Schools, high-needs schools with Jefferson Parish, the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching, and Delgado Community College (a Predominantly-Black Institution) present the **Louisiana Educator Apprenticeship Partnership (“LEAP”)**. The partnership will implement an apprenticeship-based degree and certification teacher preparation model that will increase the number of certified teachers in high-need local education agencies (“LEAs”) in Louisiana’s largest school district, and build a sustainable pipeline of community-based high-quality teacher candidates who represent the students of Jefferson Parish Schools.

Project Expected Outcomes:

Goal 1: Build AA-BA-Licensure Pathways for Teacher Pipelines. The partnership will: build pathways that lead aspiring educators who have earned (or will soon earn) their associate degree (in any subject/major) to “transfer” into a paid apprenticeship-based position (e.g., paraprofessional) at Jefferson Parish (other high-need LEA partner), where the job leads to their Bachelor’s degree and teaching credential through Reach University and Jefferson Parish’s Embark Aspiring Educators alternative certification program (or similar). **Goal 2: Teacher Preparation, Licensure, & Induction.** The partnership will recruit 350 aspiring educators in pre-bac pathways to earn certification in shortage areas; increase the number of teachers of color in high-need Louisiana schools; develop and implement a teacher induction program . **Goal 3: High-Need Partnership Expansion.** The partnership will grow to serve an additional 4 high-need LEAs in Louisiana suffering acute teacher shortages by the end of the grant period, 50% of which will serve rural communities.

Project Special Features:

This project will develop and implement reforms to the status quo approach for preparing high-quality teachers, addressing systemic challenges in traditional teacher preparation approaches, and opening the profession to previously overlooked talent pools. Further, the apprenticeship-based degree and certification model will be disseminated through Reach University’s National Center for the Apprenticeship Degree (“NCAD”), a technical assistance initiative that provides resources, expert guidance, and collaboration platforms to bridge higher education and industry, empowering employers to grow their own local, specialized talent to solve long-standing labor shortages through apprenticeships.

Project Partners:

LEAs: Jefferson Parish Schools, including William Hart Elementary; Emmett C. Gilbert School of Excellence at Ford; T.H. Harris Middle School; Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School; East Jefferson High School. IHEs: Reach University; Delgado Community College.