

PR Award #: S336S240032

Organization Name: Southwest Center for Educational Excellence

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Absolute Priority: 2

Competitive Preference Priorities: 1 - 4

Requested 5-year Total Award Amount: \$4,357,640

Project Description:

The proposed MoACT teacher residency program is a reformed teacher preparation program developed in collaboration with Missouri Southern State University (MSSU), the Southwest Center for Educational Excellence and 4 Southwest Missouri rural, high-need LEAs. Key program tasks include: 1) increasing the supply of well-prepared, high-quality teachers, including underrepresented populations and mid-career professionals, in high-need rural districts, 2) supporting and increasing academic achievement of underserved students within the partnering districts, and 3) providing institutions of higher education with a model for a reformed teacher preparation program.

Project Expected Outcomes:

To effectively recruit and select 50 qualified participants to complete a Master's Degree in Teaching through MSSU over the 5 year grant cycle, thereby increasing the number of certified, well-prepared, high-quality new and prospective teachers available to the participating high-need LEAs and the 83,800+ students they serve. Of those attaining a degree, the project's expected outcome is to provide employment and ongoing support for all participants within the 48 partnering LEA's leading to increased student achievement across the districts.

Project Special Features:

MoACT's teacher residents will be placed in cohorts designed to foster professional collaboration among graduates of the teaching residency program and between graduates and mentor teachers in the receiving schools. Mentors will be assigned to residents throughout their residency, providing coaching and support to help them build confidence, feel secure in their roles, and establish a supportive network for ongoing collaboration and growth. Additionally, MoACT will offer ambitious, sustained professional development (PD) in pedagogical practices and mentorship. This PD will be conducted by top content experts in the education field and the project team and strategically selected based on the results of a previously conducted needs assessment.

Project Partners:

Missouri SD, Missouri Southern State University.