

- **Project Title;** Educational Service Unit 2 EIR EMPOWER (E<sup>3</sup>)
- **Type of Grant Requested;** Early-Phase
- **Absolute Priorities;** As demonstrated in the project Logic Model, the rationale for ESU 2 EIR EMPOWER (E3) is based on three research-based studies showing promise.
  - A study supporting instructional coaching for teachers as a way to improve teacher skills and student engagement.
  - A study related to student self-efficacy and confidence in STEM/CS course work as predictors of later student success in high-level science and math courses.
  - A study related to the use of mentors to increase student academic achievement, especially in minorities, students of poverty, special needs students, and females. The promising practice of project-based learning will be explored and expanded to include credit-recovery as a suitable method of credit attainment for students failing traditional teacher-led instructional formats or on-line course credits.
- **Competitive Priorities;** Project Lead the Way computer science courses delivered to students in two districts defined as rural schools as outlined in the application. In addition, special mentoring services will be provided to underrepresented populations.
- **Total number of students to be served in the project;** 2,759
- **Grade levels to be served by the project;** K-12
- **Your definition of high-need students;** Students qualifying for free and reduced priced meals, minorities, students of disabilities with 504 or IEP plans, and females.
- **Brief project description including project activities;** In-class instructional coaching for teachers through STEM Leadership Academy, mentoring of underrepresented students (matching female STEM professionals with females, etc.), Project-based credit recovery opportunities, non-traditional summer and after-school STEM/CS opportunities for students.
- **Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes;** Improve student engagement, achievement, self-efficacy, and opportunities in STEM and Computer Science.
- **Any special project features;** Project-based credit recovery opportunities for middle and high school students.
- **List all organizations partnering with this project;** Educational Service Unit 2, Raymond Central Public Schools, Schuyler Community Schools, Wayne State College, Discovery Education, Project Lead the Way.