

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Project Title: Tennessee SySTEM for College and Career Readiness (the Project). **Grant**

Requested: Early-phase. **Absolute Priorities:** Absolute Priority 1–Demonstrates a Rationale, Absolute Priority 3–Field-Initiated Innovations–STEM, and Competitive Preference Priority 1–Computer Science. **Total number of students to be served by the project:** 1,200 students.

Grade levels to be served by the project: Grades 11 and 12. **Definition of high-need students:**

Black, Hispanic, female, and/or economically disadvantaged. **Brief project description:** The Project will implement work-based courses (WBC) in high schools across Tennessee. WBC are STEM/CS-focused courses that integrate early postsecondary opportunities (EPSOs)—such as dual enrollment and AP—and work-based learning (WBL) and are co-taught by academic faculty and employer instructors, amplifying the benefits of both EPSOs and WBL. To improve student outcomes, strong academic supports and career advising will be core components.

Project objectives and expected outcomes: The Project will measurably improve the outcomes of high-need students, improving high school achievement, postsecondary enrollment and attainment, and career readiness by: 1) designing, implementing, and expanding WBC to increase access to, participation in, and completion of STEM/CS ESPOs and WBL, 2) increasing students' academic achievement and college and career readiness and outcomes, 3) building the capacity of schools to offer high-quality and innovative WBC, and 4) codifying and disseminating best practices in WBC. **Special project features:** Competitive grant process to select 20 high schools in partnership with postsecondary institutions and employers, development of a WBC blueprint to support replication and codification, community of practice to share successes and challenges and feedback. **List of all partnering organizations:** Jobs for the Future, Tennessee Department of Education, and American Institutes for Research.