

PR Award #: S336S220005

University of Colorado-Denver

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Absolute Priority: Absolute Priority 1.

Competitive Preference Priorities: CPP 1-4

Project Title: NxtGEN Colorado: A Grow Your Own Approach to Preparing Teachers for Rural Colorado

Project Description: The NxtGEN Program at the University of Colorado Denver is a 'grow your own' pre-baccalaureate model designed in partnership with Denver Public Schools in 2014 to recruit and prepare talented, diverse undergraduate candidates for the teaching force. Key features of NxtGEN are targeted recruitment from local communities including high school concurrent enrollment pathways, summer bridge programs, four years of clinical experiences in paid internships and a full year residency, high-touch, wrap-around socioemotional and academic supports, and a customized approach to induction. NxtGEN Colorado (NxtGEN CO) builds upon the success of NxtGEN to extend the model to four rural regions across the state. NxtGEN CO partners with rural community colleges and rural districts to: 1) implement grow your own strategies that expand access to teaching pathways for diverse, rural, first-generation students, 2) prepare high-quality teachers for rural partner districts in ECE, ELEM, SPED, and secondary content licenses, 3) improve the quality and retention of teachers through supported induction and ongoing professional development, and 4) scale and disseminate NxtGEN elements across CU Denver's existing teacher education programs, extend the model to new partnerships, and inform the teacher education field.

Project Expected Outcomes: NxtGEN CO will: 1) recruit and prepare 86 diverse candidates with 60 additional candidates in the pipeline, supported by a core of 40 trained mentors; 2) improve the expertise of 66 NxtGEN CO graduates through induction and 80 practicing teachers through professional development; and 3) provide early college credit in education pathways to 64 high school students. Overall NxtGEN CO will have a significant impact on the development of 330 current and future rural educators with the goal of improving student achievement.

Project Partners: University of Colorado Denver, Trinidad State College, Trinidad; Trinidad State College, Valley Campus; Otero College, Lamar Community College, and the following rural school districts: Alamosa RE-11J, Campo RE-6, Centennial R-1, Center 26 JT, Crowley County RE-1-J, East Otero R-1, Granada RE-1, Holly RE-3, Huerfano Re-1, Kim Reorganized 88, La Veta Re-2, Lamar Re-2, Las Animas RE-1, Manzanola 3J, Moffat 2, Monte Vista C-8, Mountain Valley RE-1, Primero Reorganized 2, Rocky Ford R-2, Sanford 6J, South Conejos RE-10, Springfield RE-4, Trinidad 1, Upper Rio Grande-Del Norte School District, Vilas RE-5, and Walsh RE-1.