

**Early-Phase Competition Absolute Priority 3 (STEM)**

**The College Bridge, Inc.**

**S411C220047**

**The Dual Enrollment Math Bridge (DE Math Bridge) Project: An innovating high school intervention to close equity and attainment gaps in college math and college completion.**

College Bridge: The Dual Enrollment Math Bridge Project

Executive Summary

The Dual Enrollment Math Bridge (DE Math Bridge) Project is an Early-Phase grant request that addresses Absolute Priorities 1, 2, & 3, and Competitive Preference Priorities 1 & 2, is an innovative intervention using dual enrollment college-level math classes with support to improve college readiness for underprepared high school students. The project is based on an evolving series of longitudinal research/practice projects that College Bridge has successfully implemented since 2013. Nearly 2,000 underprepared students participated in previous versions of the project, with 84% passing a college-level math course through the program. For this grant, DE Math Bridge will include nearly 8,000 low-income, Black, or Hispanic 11th or 12th grade students in rural high schools that lack access to rigorous math courses. The project is a collaboration with six community colleges in California's Central Valley and 21 high schools within the colleges' service areas. Project goals include three student-level goals: closing equity and achievement gaps in mathematics, improving rates of underrepresented students pursuing STEM majors, and completion of College Transition Plans; professional development goals to creating sustainable continuous improvement models for intersegmental math, counseling, and admin teams; and two goals focused on sustainability and scaling. DE Math Bridge builds upon Academic Disjuncture Theory, which suggests that a seamless K-16 educational pipeline is key to unfettered progress for students between educational segments; and College Readiness Indicator Systems (CRIS), which are valid, reliable, and actionable indicators of three dimensions of college readiness: academic preparedness, academic tenacity, and college knowledge. Using a randomized control trial design, the project will address six research questions focused on implementation, impact analyses, and co-variables and mediators. The RAND Corporation will conduct a rigorous and independent evaluation of the project.