

**PR Award #:** S336S220032

**Organization Name:** University of Arkansas

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**Absolute Priority:** 1

**Competitive Preference Priorities:** 1 - 4

**Invitational Priority (GYO):** Y

**Requested Total Award Amount:** \$525,013

**Project Description:**

The project seeks to create a new Grow Your Own teacher pipeline to serve underrepresented students and their communities in small and rural schools in Northwest Arkansas by providing equitable opportunities to preparation pathways. The project will holistically support the development of highly effective teachers through selection, preparation, induction, and retention including mentoring and professional development. Multiple entry points are proposed including high school courses with paraprofessional certification, 2+2 agreements, a professional development school, and paid teacher apprenticeship in the yearlong clinical experience. The project also institutionalizes a model of induction that provides two years of mentoring to increase the retention of highly qualified teachers.

**Project Expected Outcomes:**

Expected outcomes include preparing teachers for small and rural schools by: reforming the traditional four-year teacher education program model into a site-based program offered in a diverse, economically challenged, and rural school district; preparing new teachers to teach students with disabilities and limited English proficient students; preparing teachers who have attained initial state certification by passing all necessary licensure certification assessments within one year of program completion; enhanced and ongoing professional development for students, mentor teachers, and current teachers through face-to-face training, coaching, and mentoring.

**Project Special Features:**

Goals reflect an innovative teacher education pathway that coincides with the Arkansas (pre-bac) teacher residency model; well-developed recruitment plan that targets underrepresented populations; individuals to teach in rural communities and teacher shortage areas, and paraprofessionals currently employed in the rural district; a paid year-long clinical experience with innovative supervision utilizing apprenticeships; weekly seminars led by Clinical Instructors on site; integration of co-teaching models for clinical candidates and mentors.

**Project Partners:**

Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), UA College of Education and Health Professions (COEHP), UA Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences (Fulbright) Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC), Decatur Public Schools (DPS), the University of Arkansas Education Renewal Zone (ERZ), and Northwest Arkansas Educational Service Cooperative (NWAESC).