

Collaborative Partner: Central Valley Higher Education Consortium, National University, Fresno Pacific University - Upskilling Masters for Dual Enrollment

Project #18: Dual Enrollment Teacher Upskilling Pathway – MA degrees for English High School Teachers and MA degrees for Math High School Teachers 2.0

Pathway(s): Upskilling Masters for Dual Enrollment

Project Summary

Central Valley Higher Education Consortium (CVHEC) with the Collaborative partners will be executing their proposal (attached) to support a collaboration of two CVHEC member universities with CVHEC member community colleges and high schools in the Central Valley. This proposal recognizes the design principles in the two initial proposals from CVHEC/National University and Fresno Pacific to deliver Master’s degrees in English and mathematics opportunities to high school teachers from partner K-12 districts to develop faculty who can teach dual enrollment courses on their home campuses. The project will address the need to develop a pool of high school teachers who hold master’s degrees to teach community college dual enrollment English and math courses on local high school campuses. This project expands the geographic reach of the initial CVHEC and Fresno Pacific projects to include feeder high schools to Merced College, Madera College, Reedley College and the two colleges of the West Hills Community College District (West Hills College Coalinga and West Hills College Lemoore).

National University and Fresno Pacific University are prepared to offer flexible rigorous online master’s degree programs which, when completed, enable high school math and English teachers in these areas to achieve California community college minimum qualifications. National University would offer high school English teachers in these areas an online Master of Arts degree program in English. Fresno Pacific plans to offer high school teachers in these areas with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics an online Master of Arts degree program in mathematics education.

With this proposal, CVHEC is requesting funding from the Fresno K-16 Collaborative for this project to increase the number of high school English teachers qualified to teach dual enrollment English courses on their campuses. Additionally, the proposal seeks funding to increase the number of high school math teachers qualified to teach dual enrollment courses on their campuses as well.

The National University and Fresno Pacific University online programs would be offered in such a way as to provide flexibility for high school teachers, who already have extensive responsibilities, while at the same time providing rigorous programs in English and math.

CVHEC further proposes working with National University and Fresno Pacific University and the K-16 Collaborative K-12 partners to find ways to:

Create cohorts of master's candidates of approximately 20 students (in English and math) who would go through the program at the same time.

Reduce the cost of tuition (which is already by nationwide standards reasonable) through various options, including, but not limited to, tuition reduction scholarships and fellowships. Encourage master's candidates to contribute to the cost of their tuition in such a way as to show commitment to the programs without putting undue financial strain on themselves or their families.

Finally, CVHEC proposes to work with member institutions to commence these online programs within the next six months. The outcomes of this proposal would include:

- Enabling all high school students in the expanded geographic area, especially disproportionately impacted students, the opportunity to successfully complete transferable college English and math courses in high school, thus accelerating their timeline to college completion and their overall success in college.
- Enabling high school English and math teachers in the expanded geographic area with increased educational advancement in their disciplines, to increase their knowledge, skills, and overall capacity for the benefit of all of their students.
- Providing salary advancement opportunities for these teachers within their school districts as well as increased opportunities to teach college courses on community college campuses.

- Providing CVHEC community colleges with an increased pool of adjunct English and math professors from which to draw.
- Provide high school teachers the opportunity to connect with a Community College Mentor to develop a positive relationship between high schools and community colleges in the region.

This proposal replicates the initial project approved by the K16 Collaborative Board, through the ninecounty CVHEC region on a more limited basis in the Fresno K-16 Collaborative service area as identified in its "Fresno K-16 Collaborative Overview & Work Plan" in one of its prioritized pathways (Education – Dual Enrollment Teachers - Master's degrees for high school teachers to teach dual enrollment).

Fresno Pacific University with the Collaborative partners will be executing their proposal (attached) to support a collaboration to deliver Master's degrees in mathematics opportunities to high school teachers from partner K-12 districts to develop faculty who can teach dual

enrollment courses on their home campuses. The project will address the need to develop a pool of high school teachers who hold master's degrees to teach community college dual enrollment math courses on local high school campuses. This project expands the geographic reach of the initial CVHEC and Fresno Pacific projects to include feeder high schools to Merced

College, Madera College, Reedley College and the two colleges of the West Hills Community College District (West Hills College Coalinga and West Hills College Lemoore).

Fresno Pacific University is prepared to offer flexible rigorous online master's degree program which, when completed, enable high school math teachers in these areas to achieve California community college minimum qualifications. Fresno Pacific plans to offer high school teachers in these areas with a bachelor's degree in mathematics an online Master of Arts degree program in mathematics education.

The Fresno Pacific University online programs would be offered in such a way as to provide flexibility for high school teachers, who already have extensive responsibilities, while at the same time providing rigorous programs in math. CVHEC further proposes working Fresno Pacific University and the K-16 Collaborative K-12 partners to find ways to:

Create cohorts of master's candidates of approximately 20 students in math who would go through the program at the same time.

Reduce the cost of tuition (which is already by nationwide standards reasonable) through various options, including, but not limited to, tuition reduction scholarships and fellowships. Encourage master's candidates to contribute to the cost of their tuition in such a way as to show commitment to the programs without putting undue financial strain on themselves or their families.

Finally, CVHEC proposes to work with member institutions to commence these online programs within the next six months. The outcomes of this proposal would include:

- Enabling all high school students in the expanded geographic area, especially disproportionately impacted students, the opportunity to successfully complete transferable college math courses in high school, thus accelerating their timeline to college completion and their overall success in college.

- Enabling high school math teachers in the expanded geographic area with increased educational advancement in their disciplines, to increase their knowledge, skills, and overall capacity for the benefit of all of their students.
- Providing salary advancement opportunities for these teachers within their school districts as well as increased opportunities to teach college courses on community college campuses.
- Providing CVHEC community colleges with an increased pool of adjunct math professors from which to draw.
- Provide high school teachers the opportunity to connect with a Community College Mentor to develop a positive relationship between high schools and community colleges in the region.

This proposal replicates the initial project approved by the K16 Collaborative Board, through the ninecounty CVHEC region on a more limited basis in the Fresno K-16 Collaborative service area as identified in its “Fresno K-16 Collaborative Overview & Work Plan” in one of its prioritized pathways (Education – Dual Enrollment Teachers - Master’s degrees for high school teachers to teach dual enrollment).

Project Progress Report

CVHEC & National University 2.0

To date, CVHEC, Fresno Pacific University and National University team members have met to discuss progress on recruitment for the 2.0 cohort of math and English high school teachers for the upskilling project. Fresno Pacific and National University along with CVHEC Regional Coordinators have made contacts with superintendents in Merced, Madera, Greater Fresno County and Kings Counties to disseminate information about the program. Both universities are planning recruitment events this spring with an anticipated starting date in May for the 2.0 math cohort and a July starting date for the 2.0 English Cohort.

Recruitment is currently taking place to identify English and math community college professors to serve as mentors for the high school teachers involved in the project.

FPU

Fresno Pacific University’s launch into the pathways work began with the conversations among the Fresno County K12 districts (Fresno Unified, Clovis Unified, Sanger and Central), institutions of higher education (Fresno State and FPU....later adding Brandman, National and UC Merced)

which was focused on the “north star” of supporting K16 education completion for all Fresno County students. This work was informed by the support of Jobs for the Future (JFF) and convened by Ashley Swearengin at the Fresno County Community Foundation. Initially, Fresno Pacific’s Provost, Dr. Gayle Copeland, attended these working meetings. As Associate Dean of Partnerships and Pathways, Dr. Linda Hoff attended the meetings, as did Jon Endicott, VP of Enrollment and Dr. Katie Fleener, Dean of the School of Business.

As this work moved forward, the Community Foundation leaders launched the DRIVE initiative which was aligned with the Governor’s valley-focused initiative, Regions Rise Together. Linda

Hoff was invited to Chair the Teacher Workforce proposal which was one of 18 proposals that together became the DRIVE proposal which was showcased at the California Economic Summit in Fresno. The proposal met with enthusiastic response from participants from throughout the state and garnered significant funding opportunities.

During these years, Dr. Hoff had been tasked with developing a Pathways initiative at FPU. Initial partnering work began with an invitation from Dr. Lori Bennett, President of Clovis

College. Dr. Bennett was directly involved in this emerging partnership as was Dr. Copeland and Dr. Hoff. Initial conversations lead to the development of an MOU between the two institutions. Dr. Megan Bennett was assigned as lead faculty for the work. The initial proposal was modeled after the California Community Colleges “Guided Pathways” model which defined the work. Michelle Stricker, formerly faculty at Reedley College, became a key informant for Dr. Hoff. Michelle had become a fulltime Pathways Coordinator working under the Chancellor of the CCC system.

When the K16 Collaborative team put together the RFP for the grants which were made available to the institutional partners that had convened several years before, FPU applied for funds in support of the pathways named in this report. Because of the collaborative relationships that had formed over the previous years, FPU was able to partner in significant ways with Clovis College and Fresno County Superintendent of Schools. In fact, FCSS provided significant funding from their K16 grant to support tuition needs for the Math MA at FPU that is now providing this degree to math teachers throughout the region. Additionally, the close relationship between FPU and Clovis College lead to aligned proposals. These proposals highlighted these institutions’ commitment to features of Pathway partnerships such as:

- Curricular maps that maximize efficiency of planning and lead to ADT degrees.
- Protected schedules of coursework, based on a cohort model, that enables CC students to work in schools as Teaching Fellows.
- Shared vision and development of student success teams

Fresno Pacific has embraced a vision of Pathways. Dr. Hoff launched an ad Hoc committee, FPU Pathways, wherein department faculty and program directors meet with staff from the registrar's office, career development, enrollment and marketing. While only STEM teaching pathways and Business/Accounting are receiving funds from the K16 grant, the pathways work at FPU encompasses numerous additional pathways (e.g.: Criminology, Kinesiology, Early Childhood, Social Work, to name just a few). One of the most significant pieces of this shared work has been the development of BA programs that students can complete in 3 years, saving them both time and money. At this point, FPU offers 3 STEM majors with teaching emphases that can be completed in 3 years. The same is true for our Business/Accounting major. Other programs are considering this redesign as well. As coordinator of the K16 Grant, and leader of the FPU Pathways project, Dr. Hoff envisions the development of a "roadmap" for launching Pathways at FPU that will address barriers to higher education such as time to complete and cost.

Finally, the K16 grant collaborative has provided a framework for enhancing our commitment to equity and diversity. To that end, we were able to hire a Pathways Coordinator whose role is to reach out to regions and institutions wherein we can connect with families and students that may have seen FPU as too expensive. Securing significant new grants has begun and we expect to continue to seek funding that will make FPU affordable for many who would have seen that opportunity as out of reach.