

Collaborative Partner: Fresno State – Single Subject Teachers

Project #7b: Pathways for Teachers and Equitable Access to STEM Resources in the COVID Era

Pathway(s): Single Subject Teachers

Project Summary

Fresno State – Single Subject with the Collaborative partners will be executing their proposal (attached) to support this project that aims to provide STEM teachers to areas of high underrepresentation in STEM by identifying prospective teachers who have self-identified as interested in teaching and interested in STEM but who have encountered significant barriers to completing current certification requirements of the State of California. Some of these barriers include economic opportunities, achievement scores, access to higher education advising and mentorship, unaligned programs and course trajectories between community colleges and universities, and support for those experiencing continued economic and other trauma during an era of attending school during a global pandemic. We aim to successfully shepherd more than two dozen underrepresented STEM teachers through their single subject certification and place them in schools that are in need of strong, highly qualified, and committed teachers while also filling the call for equity in schools and providing successful mentors and role models for future STEM students. Further we will secure their retention within these diverse communities by offering them post program support during their commitment to serve at least 2 years in a school of high needs.

We will support a cohort of paraprofessionals who are currently working in schools of diverse communities who have expressed interest in math, physics, and biology and have also worked within the educational system and would like to complete teacher certification. These teachers have already been identified within the Fresno Unified School District as paraprofessionals of education operating and serving in this district without a teaching certificate. We will provide stipends to these teachers for attending college courses, books, and fees while attending Fresno City College or Clovis Community College. We will also coordinate their offerings by streamlining and aligning their trajectories in direct consultation with representatives of STEM departments as well as administration. During their coursework we will also provide working opportunities coordinated within Fresno Unified as employees to assure their fiscal stability and minimize the need for work outside the school as we have in or shared Residency programs. We will also provide monthly support through workshops and meetings throughout the year which may complement the content preparation they are receiving. This will include academic support for tutoring, exam-preparation, and other academic support as needed. Courses will be developed and modularized for this cohort and for future cohorts and provide ubiquitous

access to excellent resources to protect and assure the success if the COVID era is unpredictably prolonged as we know that online and virtual offerings meet the gap in educational opportunities given the proper support. Finally, mentors will also be identified in STEM fields from among this cohort to both recruit but support the learning of underrepresented STEM teachers.

Project Progress Report

As of Friday, March 19th we have done the following:

- December 11th, 2020: Informational flyer with link to application for scholarship to all paraprofessionals in FUSD
- January 2020: Meeting with higher institution representatives to ensure all candidates to begin and/or continue their education for their individual and specific pathways to being a STEM teacher, in particular math
 - Early Start Classes at CCC
 - Courses at FPU
 - Courses at FSU
- December 2020 - January 2020: Continued recruitment and acceptance of application for scholarship
- February 2020: Selection of 20 Fellows with FUSD representatives
- February 10th, 2020: Initial meeting with all 20 Fellows
- February 2020 - March 2020: Collaborating with higher institution representatives and FUSD to have every Fellow in an education program and pathway to become a STEM teacher, in particular math
- March 6th, 2020 - 1st monthly meeting with Fellows