

ABSTRACT

Planting the Seed: Engaging, Educating and Advancing teachers in STEM and Common Core

The *Planting the Seed Project* represents a collaboration between a national nonprofit organization and a large, state-funded university – the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) and Arizona State University (ASU). The Planting the Seed Project addresses the SEED (Supporting Effective Educator Development) Absolute Priority 1, Absolute Priority 2, Competitive Priority 1, Competitive Priority 2, and Competitive Priority 3. NIET and ASU will partner with 21 school districts across Arizona to accomplish the following five goals:

- (1) Implement a plan demonstrating a rigorous, competitive selection process (Absolute Priority 1). The project includes recruitment strategies and financial support (living stipends) to increase the number of participants from groups traditionally underrepresented in STEM and provides (Competitive Priority 3) a \$25,000 stipend to eligible Masters and Certification students or a \$10,000 stipend to eligible undergraduate students. In order to be eligible for the stipend, students must agree to teach in a school with a high concentration of high-needs students for minimum period of 2 years.
- (2) Increase the number of highly effective STEM teachers by preparing talented individuals to work in schools with high concentrations of high-needs students (Absolute Priority 1, Competitive Priority 3). The Project will increase the number of highly effective teachers by recruiting, selecting, and preparing *220 talented new teachers* who will teach STEM subjects in schools with high concentrations of high-needs students, who are highly effective, and who serve for a minimum of two years in a high-needs school (Absolute Priority 1).
- (3) Provide induction support to graduates in their first year of teaching (Absolute Priority 1)
- (4) Provide professional development to in-service teachers in the Common Core Writing Standards (Absolute Priority 2)
- (5) Implement innovative and sustainable uses of technology and open educational resources (Competitive Priority 2). The Project incorporates innovative and sustainable uses of technology, including NIET's TAP System online training portal and ASU's data dashboard system. In addition, the Project will implement and expand the use of open educational resources, including the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College Professional Learning Library.