

ABSTRACT

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) seeks School Leadership Program funding to push the boundaries for how higher education can partner with LEAs to prepare and develop effective school leaders. Funding will support modeling and empirical analysis of developmental practices that grow leadership aptitudes that transform student learning outcomes by building stronger, more sustainable adult learning environments in elementary and secondary schools. This work builds out from a decade of nationally-recognized efforts at UIC to transform principal preparation from a conventional, course-based master's program into a four-year continuum of aggressive, practice-based, leadership development. UIC has identified three high-leverage strategies for advancing program effectiveness and formalizing program models for wider dissemination. We seek SLP funding to support our work with all three of these strategies:

1. We must continue to work with Chicago Public Schools to improve the selectivity of 20 candidates annually, largely by deepening the pool of applicants with dispositions and qualities of past experience that correlate most highly with school leaders who improve student learning outcomes (*Invitational priority 2*).
2. We must successfully execute several, thoroughly-redesigned, program elements, especially tighter integration of leadership coaching with academic coursework, and more structured use of ongoing cycles of inquiry to advance knowledge-construction and leadership effectiveness across all four years of the program (*priorities 1 and 2*).
3. We must continue to improve our capacity for gathering and using evidence at the program level that supports strong cycles of inquiry and fuels continuing improvement over time (*Invitational priority 2*).