

Abstract: Delta School Leadership Pipeline Project

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Responding to both invitational priorities, Delta State University's (DSU) College of Education and Human Sciences (COEHS) builds upon its existing Educational Leadership Master's Cohort Program to implement the Delta School Leadership Pipeline (DSLPP) Project, which will address the dual goals of increasing student achievement through the preparation of aspiring principals and the professional development of current in-service principals to master core leadership skills. The project will target schools in high-need Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) located in the impoverished region of the Mississippi Delta, a region that consists of primarily rural, isolated small communities sharing characteristics of high rates of poverty, low per capita income, and poor educational outcomes. The goals and expected outcomes are as follows:

1) Through an exemplary Educational Leadership Master's Cohort Program, develop high quality school leaders and place them in high-need schools of the Mississippi Delta region. Outcome:

Twenty-five (25) aspiring new leaders will have successfully completed all requirements of the Educational Leadership Master's Cohort Program for graduation and licensure requirements in the state of Mississippi, and have secured placement as a principal or assistant principal in a high-need school districts in the region.

2) Provide induction support to increase likelihood of initial effectiveness and retention of high quality school leaders in high-need schools of the Mississippi Delta region. Outcome:

Twenty (20) new principals will have successfully completed two years of coaching/induction support, demonstrating leadership effectiveness and indicating likelihood of retention in leadership positions in high-need districts in the region.

3) Improve the instructional leadership of current principal and other school leaders to increase student achievement in high-need schools in the Mississippi Delta region. Outcome:

Current principals and other school leaders will have successfully developed functional school leadership teams engaged in a Continuous Improvement Process to address student achievement in at least two targeted school districts in the region. Current principals and other school leaders will report how professional development activities have had a positive change on their school environment or instructional leadership capabilities.