

Excite and Ignite: Building the Next Generation of Teachers (NextGen)

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Abstract: Excite and Ignite: Building the Next Generation of Teachers (NextGen) is a proposed project of the Urban Teacher Education Program (UTEP) at Rutgers University-Newark. This proposal will demonstrate how UTEP will meet: 1) Absolute Priority I: Partnership Grants for Preparation of Teachers, 2) Competitive Preference Priority 1: Promoting Science and Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education, and 3) Competitive Preference Priority 2: Implementing Internationally Benchmarked, College and Career Ready Elementary and Secondary Academic Standards.

NextGen aims to enhance UTEP's teacher preparation and to strengthen the quality of its graduates to improve student learning and achievement in secondary schools, particularly in high need areas. Through NextGen, UTEP will increase the pool of applicants. A coherent, content rich curriculum with literacy at the core will prepare prospective teachers to provide instruction for meeting the needs of diverse learners. Pre-service teachers will participate in a yearlong clinical experience and then will receive mentorship and support during their first two years of teaching. Additionally, NextGen will enable the creation of a new model for STEM preparation within informal and formal settings.

The three overarching goals of NextGen are to: (1) improve student achievement; (2) enhance the quality of prospective teachers in general, and STEM in particular; and (3) fill a critical need for teachers in high needs areas for urban districts and in STEM. UTEP will achieve these goals by: (a) revising the course curriculum for college and career readiness in light of state and national guidelines; (b) implementing an effective recruitment and enrollment campaign; (c) revising the clinical experiences; and (d) implementing an induction program.

As a result of NextGen, UTEP expects the following outcomes:

- Prospective teachers in all content areas will: demonstrate mastery of set criteria for pre-service teachers through SMART assignments in UTEP courses; create yearlong curriculum maps and lesson plans using career- and college- ready standards; use proven strategies to effectively instruct ALL their students; use technology to inform instruction; and participate in a yearlong clinical experience and demonstrate mastery of set criteria through formative and summative assessments and through exit presentation.
- Prospective STEM teachers will participate in unique training (tSTEM) that includes formal and informal settings and that uses a constructivist approach.
- Twenty-five new qualified prospective teachers will be admitted into the program each year.
- In-service teachers will participate in a two-year induction program with on-site and digital forums.

UTEP will accomplish its aims in partnership with the Newark Public Schools (NPS) in general, East Side High School (ESHS) in particular, and the Liberty Science Center (LSC). NextGen

collaborators believe that together they have the expertise, authority and resources to create structures and opportunities to grow and sustain the best and brightest future educators.