

NxtGEN Teacher Preparation: Closing the Achievement Gap in Urban and Rural Colorado

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Organization: University Colorado Denver

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Priorities: AP1, CP1, CP2

Award Amount: \$1,267,014.00

Abstract: The University of Colorado Denver School of Education and Human Development (SEHD) has been working with its partners over the last five years to build a transformative teacher preparation agenda with pathways leading to both conventional and 5th year licensure. All pathways share several key definitional elements: extensive clinically-rich, practice-based pedagogies; partnerships across university, districts and non-profit organizations; situated & customized preparation in the contexts of the districts served as well as the goals of the state; and collaboration with districts on targeted recruitment efforts to meet the needs of the community and support the academic goals of students. With a clear focus on closing Colorado's achievement gap for diverse students and addressing teacher quality, diversity and retention, NxtGEN will extend SEHDs transformative agenda to recruit, prepare, and retain 340 locally recruited, diverse "next generation" teachers for urban and rural settings through the development of a new 4 year, undergraduate urban teacher residency with Denver Public Schools and an expansion of the 5th year licensure with rural partners to address critical shortages, including STEM, for all partners. NxtGEN will create innovative systems and human capital networks to support recruitment and retention of diverse candidates and utilize the CO State Model Evaluation System for Teachers to individualize induction support blended with mentored communities of practice.

Summary of Project Goals and Activities:

Goal 1: Create a 4-year undergraduate, urban teacher residency (4Y-UGR) to recruit, support, prepare, and retain 220 diverse teachers for DPS aligned with district hiring priorities AP-1

Goal 2: Create the Teacher Preparation for Rural Education Partnership (T-PREP) to determine needs and deliver customized services and support for 5th year initial licensure, induction, and ongoing professional development of 120 teachers in 24 rural districts within 3 BOCES to meet their teacher workforce development needs AP-1

Goal 3: Align SEHD's outcome-based assessment and evaluation system with new teacher effectiveness frameworks of district partners to support continuous improvement AP-1

Goal 4: Develop a next generation, differentiated approach to teacher induction AP-1

Goal 5: Leverage Learning Assistants (LAs) program in partnership with CLAS to improve STEM content preparation for all teacher candidates and to recruit STEM candidates into SEHD secondary STEM preparation program CPP-1

Goal 6: Serve as model IHE with state education agencies to implement national and state level reforms including alignment with the college-and career-ready elementary and secondary academic standards within the Common Core CPP-2

Project Partners: University of Colorado Denver School of Education and Human Development, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Denver Public Schools (DPS); 28 high-need rural districts represented by the San

Luis Valley, South Central and Santa Fe Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES),
CO Department of Higher Education and CO Department of Education