Grantee Name: Mississippi State University
Project Name: Project LEAP: Learning and Educating through Alternative Programs
Project Director: Matthew Boggan, 601-484-0177, MBoggan@meridian.msstate.edu


Learning and Educating through Alternative Programs (LEAP) is a Masters of Arts in Teaching in Secondary Education Scholarship Program designed to attract highly qualified mid-career professionals and recent college graduates to fill the secondary teacher shortage in Mississippi. The project, which is a collaborative effort between Mississippi State University's Meridian Campus and the main campus in Starkville will, (1) launch a statewide search for individuals eligible to participate in an alternative route program; (2) certify participants in secondary education; (3) assist participants through a school-wide first year teacher mentoring program; and (4) reduce the severe teacher shortage identified across the state of Mississippi. The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) along with thirty school districts in the state have partnered with MSU and MSU-Meridian to promote this project. Project LEAP participants will complete the program's coursework and field experience requirements in four semesters. The project will recruit 175 participants over the life of the grant (year 1: 35, Yr 2: 35, Yr 3: 35, Yr 4: 35, Yr 5: 35).