

PR Award #	U350A110031
Name of Organization	North Carolina New Schools Project
Name of Project	The North Carolina New Schools Project Innovative Pathways to STEM Teaching Careers
City, State	Raleigh, North Carolina

PROJECT ABSTRACT

The North Carolina New Schools Project (NCNSP), a statewide public-private partnership that sparks and supports innovation in secondary schools, in cooperation with four high need school districts in its network, proposes the development and implementation of an alternative teacher licensing program. The program will be developed for the purpose of enhancing the pool of highly qualified licensed STEM teachers to NC school districts that have traditionally had problems recruiting and hiring teachers with the life and professional experiences that contribute to successfully graduating students ready for college, careers and life. In addition, the proposed program with its focus on developing highly qualified teachers in STEM fields, will recruit and select college graduates with STEM backgrounds who have interests in teaching, and will then provide them with an opportunity to participate in a highly focused, classroom-based, tuition-free licensure preparation program.

NCNSP and its network of schools have established the following project goals:

- Establish an alternative teacher certification process that successfully prepares and ultimately certifies 48 STEM teachers per year to teach in NCNSP schools with priority given to placement in NCNSP schools in NC districts with the highest rates of under-qualified teachers.
- Establish a replicable statewide model for alternative teacher licensure that prepares teachers to: engage students in reading, writing, thinking, and talking about substantive STEM issues drawn from content that is fundamentally important to STEM disciplines; and participate in a professionally collegial teaching and learning environment that challenges participants to enter the profession as career learners of their craft.

NCNSP and its partner schools will develop twelve sites in its network of more than one hundred innovative high schools that will host recent college graduates and mid-career professionals, possessing the aptitude and desire to go into teaching as a career, in an intense, 120-day preparation program. The proposed program will blend mentored teacher candidate internships, a unique on-line curriculum delivered by WIDE World developed at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and elements of the NCNSP Integrated System of School Support Services to prepare teachers to work in the innovative professional cultures of redesigned and early college high schools.