

PR Award #	U350B110012
Name of Organization	The University of North Carolina General Administration
Name of Project	North Carolina Innovative Statewide Program to Improve the Recruitment of Educators (NC INSPIRE)
City, State	Chapel Hill, North Carolina

**PROJECT ABSTRACT**

The University of North Carolina General Administration (UNC GA) in partnership with 12 rural high-need Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and four institutions of higher education is requesting funding from the Transition to Teaching grant program for the implementation of the North Carolina **I**nnovative Statewide **P**rogram to **I**mprove the **R**ecruitment of **E**ducators (NC INSPIRE). NC INSPIRE will expand upon the recruitment efforts of the Transition to Teaching: NC TEACH programs by providing an innovative high quality alternative licensure route to the classroom which includes a research-based curriculum and comprehensive support. NC INSPIRE provides tuition support for participants to complete a combination licensure and advanced degree program through high quality MAT cohort programs at selected UNC system campuses. In addition, NC INSPIRE provides an intensive new teacher induction program and ongoing professional development opportunities to prepare selected highly qualified individuals to successfully teach in rural high-needs schools. The program also provides each participant with a mentor/coach for on-going support throughout the participants' first two years in the classroom. NC INSPIRE intends to recruit 120 mid-career individuals and new or recent college graduates as potential candidates to teach in high-need licensure areas (specifically secondary and middle grades mathematics and science, and K-12 Special Education as determined by the needs of the partnering high-need school districts). NC INSPIRE participants will commit to teach in a North Carolina high-need rural LEA for a minimum of three years. Through NC INSPIRE's unique design and comprehensive combination of services, the program strategically addresses and supports state and federal education legislation, state teacher quality efforts, state recruitment efforts, state beginning teacher support policies, and the need for an innovative alternative certification program focused on recruiting teachers of high-need subject areas for rural high-need schools in high-need LEAs.