

**ABSTRACT: College Readiness via Rhetorical Literacies:**

**Expanding and Validating the Success of the Expository Reading and Writing Course**

The **Fresno County Office of Education (FCOE)** is applying for a **Validation** grant for **Absolute Priority 1**, Implementing Internationally Benchmarked College- and Career-Ready Standards and Assessment. The proposed project, College Readiness via Rhetorical Literacies, will expand the evidence-based Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) to encompass both grades 11 and 12 and will scale ERWC implementation in California (CA) and Washington (WA). **Project activities and objectives** are 1) Establish leadership teams to guide ERWC scaling; 2) Revise ERWC curriculum to address all English language arts (ELA)/literacy standards for grades 11-12; 3) Refine course pedagogy, including strategies for English learners and students with disabilities; 4) Lead professional learning, including coaching, for teachers, site leaders, administrators, coaches, and facilitators; 5) Teach the course in study classrooms; 6) Evaluate project effectiveness using a multi-site cluster-randomized trial design and by examining success of ERWC replication. **Expected outcomes** are higher scores on the Smarter Balanced ELA/literacy summative assessments for students having participated in ERWC classrooms at grades 11-12; higher rates of passing credit-bearing English courses for students in their first semester of college; and demonstrated capacity to scale ERWC with fidelity in a new state. The **project will serve** 9,600 students in the evaluation; an additional 50,000 students at schools where the ERWC is already implemented will benefit from improved curriculum and teacher professional learning. **Partners** include the California State University, California Community Colleges, California Department of Education, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, The Foundation @ FCOE, and WestEd.