Project American Success through Purposeful Instruction and Rigorous Education (A.S.P.I.R.E.)

PR Award #: U422A170006
Organization: Kentucky Educational Development Corporation
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CPP 1 Component: Serving high need students
CPP2 Component: Using the Resources of the National Parks
Total Projected Award Amount: $3,495,500.00

Project Description: Project ASPIRE will use yearly themes of: 1) Creating and Defining a Nation, 2) Preservation and Redefining a Nation, 3) Industrialization and Civic Evolution, 4) World War and Growth of Executive Power, 5) Civil Rights and the Growth of Judiciary Power to provide over 98 hours of Professional Development yearly through a NCHE 5-day Colloquium presented daily by a Historian, a History Education Specialist and a Master Teacher. Teachers will also participate in a 4-day Experiential Immersion Presidential Academy to a significant historical city within the theme to provide further first-hand opportunities to pull from when teaching. Partners listed above will provide expert content while onsite. Teachers will also delve into readings about the time period to gain in-depth knowledge of the subject matter. Students of participating teachers will also be immersed into rich content during Congressional Academies with yearly themes. These will be provided by Eastern Kentucky University with a follow-up trip to Washington DC. The goals of the project are to increase teacher content knowledge, increase student achievement and interest, crate partnerships and improve principal effectiveness.

Project Expected Outcomes:
Project ASPIRE will support the establishment of: (1) Presidential Academies for the Teaching of American History and Civics that offer workshops for 375 (75 per year for five years) veteran and new teachers to strengthen their knowledge of American history and civics; and (2) Congressional Academies for Students of American History and Civics to provide 875 (175 per year) high-need high school students with opportunities to develop a broader and deeper understanding of these subject.

Project Partners: National Council of History Education, Kentucky Council for the Social Studies, Gettysburg Foundation, Gettysburg National Military Park, Abraham Lincoln Birth Place, the National Constitution Center, EVERFI, The Rendell Center for Civics and Civic Engagement, the Library of Congress, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Georgetown College, Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, the Kentucky Department of Education,