

## Abstract

University Charter School's ambitious goal to **R<sup>3</sup>EACH** every child through 'Rethinking & Renewing Rural Education: Achieving Collaborative Heights,' is a model that proposes an innovative collaboration between the University of West Alabama, a rural, regional public institution of higher education, the surrounding community, and UCS. The model embraces the idea that our nation's challenges present real opportunities for rural places, and a sustainable American future must include a thriving rural landscape that has at its very core a thriving educational system which **R<sup>3</sup>EACHes** every child and guides him/her on a pathway to success in college, career, and life. University Charter School will increase access to a high-quality educational choice for rural high-need students in the region. Through the UCS Academies Program, all students will complete a minimum of 3 hours of dual enrollment credit and will be prepared for both college and career upon graduation. The **overall goal** of University Charter School is to provide a high quality, safe and innovative educational choice for the families and students of Sumter County and the region. The **project objectives** include (i) UCS will create an innovative curriculum that allows all students to demonstrate growth towards mastery in academic subjects and non-cognitive skills, (ii) UCS will prepare all students for admission to and/or success in college AND career, (iii) UCS will be safe, supportive, inclusive community with high levels of student, family and community satisfaction, (iv) UCS will be fiscally and operationally sound, AND (v) UCS will increase the number of high-quality charter schools in Alabama and provide a successful, replicable model for rural K-12 education in Alabama's Black Belt region.