

PR Award #: U336S190027

Organization Name: Ohio University

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Project Model: Residency Model

Competitive Preference Priorities: (1) Promoting STEM Education

Invitational Priority – Opportunity Zones: N

Requested Total Award Amount:

Project Description:

OHIO and ESCCO will collaborate to improve the quality of OHIO's special education teacher preparation program and thereby to improve the academic achievement of K-12 students. Key program tasks include the creation of: (1) Executive Team that will provide leadership for the project, (2) Curriculum Team who redesign the curriculum of OHIO's program to include knowledge and skills in evidence-based practices, high-leverage practices, and computer information science content, (3) Clinical Team who will redesign the clinical experiences to include a year-long teacher residency and make stronger alignment between curriculum and clinical experiences, (4) Mentoring Team who will create systems and supports to promote ongoing mentoring of prospective students from OHIO faculty, mentor special education teachers, and mentor STEM+ teachers, (5) Induction Team who will create a 2-year induction program for STEM+ FOR ALL that will sustain after the conclusion of the grant, and (6) Professional Development Team who will provide ongoing training and supports for new and mentor teachers, as well as create a Computer Information Science Summer Institute.

Project Expected Outcomes:

To effectively train 104 new special education teachers to successfully obtain licensure in special education for learners with moderate-to-intensive needs and teach K-12 students with moderate-to-intensive educational needs; to create pathways that increase communication, collaboration, and mentorship among prospective special education teachers, expert special education mentor teachers, and expert STEM+ mentors.

Project Special Features:

TTR practices mindful pairing of residents and mentors and recognizes the importance of matching mentor strengths with resident needs as well as ensuring personal compatibility. Given the unique philosophy and instructional model of String Theory Schools, we will be specially selecting potential residents based on their background and fit for the institution. We also run a week-long TTR Summer Institute for residents, mentors, and coaches. Summer Institute topics are designed to prepare residents for work in classrooms, introductions to urban education, culturally responsive teaching, and special education. For TTR+ST we will also devote special sessions to the unique, arts-infused, student-centered curriculum of String Theory Schools.

Project Partners: OHIO (Partner Institution of Higher Education), Patton College of Education and (b) the College of Arts and Sciences, the ESCCO (Partner Local Education Agency) with (a) South-Western City School District and a consortium of high-need schools within the district.