

Data Citizens Western New York (WNY)

PR Award #: U422B170045

Organization: D'Youville College

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Competitive Preference Priority 1 Component: Leveraging Technology to Support Instructional Practice and Professional Development

Total Projected Award Amount: \$1,492,475

Project Description: The project will design, implement, and evaluate an innovative professional development model for Civics and Geography educators that will improve teacher competence, providing teachers with technological skills needed to prepare tomorrow's spatial citizens. The teacher professional development model is designed to support geography, civics, and government teachers and students as they explore global historical questions using geo-spatial data to analyze and address civic issues. The program will be delivered via three phases: Phase I: GIS training for teachers and students and modeling geo-spatial methods for history, global, and civics inquiries. Phase II: Teachers apply new understandings in a "Living laboratory" with students; a teacher-led community engagement project; and a model is provided such that teachers can reproduce it in the classroom. Phase III: Classroom implementation of the model, on-going coaching and support, teacher-created monthly professional development seminars, online learning community, and teacher-led engagement project. The project seeks to serve 45 teachers and 360 students over the project period.

Special Project Feature: Teachers will learn to utilize cloud-based SaaS GIS platforms to increase usage among teachers and students. The project will also train teachers to create instructional experiences utilizing open source data.

Project Expected Outcomes: Teachers will demonstrate increases in attitude, efficacy, intention, and proficiency in GIS technology to teach social studies/civics. Students will report increases in attitude, acquisition of skills, and intent to participate in civic engagement.

Project Partners: Buffalo Public School District, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, Homeless Alliance of Western New York, Elmwood Village Association