

**Voorhees College** (501(c)(3) non-profit, private, Historically-Black College & University and fiscal agent) – in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Education, The Institute for Organizational Coherence, National Center for Research in Advanced Information and Digital Technologies, and eleven rural public school districts located in seven counties within the South Carolina Low Country “*Corridor of Shame*,” proposes *IMPACT: Improvement Science Propels Achievement and Critical Teaching!*, an Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Early Phase grant to improve educator effectiveness and raise student achievement in some of the highest-need schools in South Carolina (>50% free/reduced lunches). *IMPACT* is supported by strong evidence of effectiveness (per *What Works Clearinghouse* standards - **Absolute Priority # 1**). *IMPACT* addresses **Absolute Priority # 3 – Teacher Directed Professional Learning** – *IMPACT* will demonstrate the efficacy of improvement science and networked improvement communities, combined with mid-career, teacher-selected literacy professional learning (PL), on teacher quality and its subsequent impact on improving and sustaining higher levels of student achievement in English Language Arts (ELA) and Reading. During the 5-year grant period, *IMPACT* will support 375 rural, mid-career (10-20 years teaching), K-12 teachers and their students. Each year, 75 teachers will attend a summer Professional Learning Intensive on the Voorhees campus, where they will learn and practice the tenets of Improvement Science: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Teachers will collaborate with their Advisors and Mentor Coaches to write White Papers, chronicling their problem of practice, the data, the solution, the literacy professional learning and its role and results. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] These teachers will then become the mentor coaches in the Virtual Network to the next cohort of their peers and so on for each year of the grant. At the end of Year 5, a statewide convening will highlight accomplishments and share results, tools and White Papers with teachers throughout the state. *IMPACT* also addresses **Competitive Preference Priority 2) State ED Agency Partnership**. The South Carolina Department of Education has agreed to partner with Voorhees College to offer Continuing Education Units, ensuring that *IMPACT* results in improved teacher quality and student achievement in the state of South Carolina. *IMPACT* will meet and exceed the following goal and objectives:

<b><i>IMPACT GOAL and Objectives</i></b>	
<b>GOAL</b>	<b>To raise the academic achievement of high-need students by improving educator effectiveness.</b>
<b>Objective 1</b>	Improve academic achievement in high-need, rural South Carolina schools.
<b>Objective 2</b>	Equip educators with knowledge, tools and skills to improve student literacy in high-need schools.
<b>Objective 3</b>	Increase number of educators prepared to use improvement science to measurably improve practice.
<b>Objective 4</b>	Increase impact of <i>IMPACT</i> through effective replication and scaled impact studies.

Evaluation will include randomized control assessment of outcomes through comparison of Treatment and Control Group educators. Data will be collected for Performance Indicators, including six required measures.