

PR Award #: S336S200021

Organization Name: Voorhees College (HBCU)

Address: 213 Wiggins Drive, Box 678, Denmark, SC, 29042

Program Contact: Ronnie Hopkins

Phone: 803-780-1021

Email: rhopkins@voorhees.edu

Absolute Priority: Partnership Grants for the Establishment of Effective Teaching Residency Programs.

Competitive Preference Priorities:

1) Spurring Investment in Qualified Opportunity Zones

2) Applications from New Potential Grantees

Requested Total Award Amount: \$7,498,864.00

Project Description:

The grantee's project V-NET seeks to improve educator effectiveness and raise student achievement in some of South Carolina's highest-need schools. V-NET is supported by strong evidence of effectiveness and addresses the Absolute Priority – Partnership Grants for Effective Teaching Residency Programs – with an innovative pathway to teaching. V-NET will create, implement and expand an alternative, non-traditional preparation and teacher certification residency program rooted in the tenets of Improvement Science and Equity to attract up to 20 mid-career professionals (per cohort) from STEM and critical shortage fields, with the skill-set to use STEM and computer science as tools to advance equity, raise student achievement, accelerate learning and promote continuous and sustainable academic growth.

Project Expected Outcomes:

During the 5-year grant period, V-NET will support advanced certification and licensure of up to 100 teachers from diverse, non-traditional backgrounds to serve as "change agents" who will enter the profession equipped to use their career skills (STEM, Computer Science, Special Education, Literacy) and their newly-honed education skills as tools to raise student achievement, eradicate persistent achievement gaps and ensure that students leave South Carolina secondary schools, college and career ready. V-NET teachers will employ the tenets of Improvement Science: (a) identifying problems of practice; b) conducting root-cause analysis; c) forming a hypothesis and developing a plan of action; d) course-correcting, if needed; e) solving problems of practice; and f) scaling up results – combined with 21st century learning skills – to transform underperforming schools in our partner South Carolina districts, scaling a new teacher training model that can efficiently and effectively place teachers in critical subject areas. V-NET will empower novice and experienced teachers to enter classrooms as equity leaders, at all levels of education, prepared to break down barriers that create equity gaps and achievement gaps in teaching and learning. Participating educators will develop the insight and skill to differentiate instruction, not just as a strategy for best practice, but as a tool to ensure that every student is equipped with the support they need to achieve and grow, socially and academically.

Project Partners:

University of South Carolina, The Institute for Organizational Coherence, Center for the Education and Equity of African American Students, Bamberg County School District, Barnwell School District 19, Calhoun County School District, Marlboro County School District, Richland One Office of the Superintendent, Williamsburg School District.