PR Award #: S423A200013
Organization Name: University of North Florida
Address: 1 UNF Drive Jacksonville, FL 32224
Program Contact: Diane Yendol-Hoppey
Phone: 904 620 2455
Email: orsp@unf.edu
Absolute Priority: AP 1 (Supporting Effective Teachers)
Competitive Preference Priorities:
2) Fostering Knowledge and Promoting the Development of Skills That Prepare Students to Be Informed, Thoughtful, and Productive Individuals and Citizens; and
3) Spurring Investment in Qualified Opportunity Zones.
Requested Total Award Amount: 3,574,624.00
Project Description:
Project InTERSECT is an entirely online set of professional learning and enhancement experiences for pre-kindergarten through second grade (PK-2) teachers and teacher candidates. The project supports early childhood educators in building intersecting, cross-domain STEM+C content knowledge, finding the pedagogical intersections of STEM+C instruction, and using problem- and project-based learning (PBL) to integrate engaging STEM+C instruction within their classrooms. Recognizing that strong instructional practices emerge at the intersection of content, pedagogy, and implementation, the project strengthens educator knowledge through self-directed, collaborative inquiry, and provides personalized, stackable pathways for professional learning and enhancement. 28

Project Expected Outcomes:
The program will serve 180 teachers and candidates across three cohorts, and includes a business-as-usual comparison group (*n*=270) to assess the impact of InTERSECT in achieving three goals: (1) Increase STEM+C achievement of PK-2 students; (2) Increase the STEM+C efficacy of PK-2 teachers; (3) Refine a replicable model for stackable, collaborative, inquiry driven STEM+C professional learning and enhancement for early childhood educators. Intended outcomes include increases in teacher STEM+C CK and PCK, self-efficacy for STEM+C instruction, and teacher practice, which are in turn expected to impact student interest in STEM+C, self-regulation, and achievement in mathematics, science, and computer science.

Project Special Features:
Through rigorous evaluation of implementation and impact, we expect to identify a sustainable, cost-effective, and replicable approach to transforming early childhood educator readiness and capacity to engage in STEM+C instruction.

Project Partners
University of North Florida's College of Computing, Construction and Engineering; College of Arts and Sciences; Florida Institute for Education; and other regional, state, and national organizations committed to sustaining