Project Title: Project edPIRATE (Educator Pipeline In Rural Action for Teaching Equity)

Project Description: Project edPIRATE (Educator Pipeline In Rural Action for Teaching Equity) reforms ECU's MAT program at the K-8 level by adding a residency component focused on rural educational justice. Complementing this teacher residency program, a set of microcredentials focused on equitable student engagement, race and rurality, community engagement, and differentiated instruction will be created and implemented in the ECU leadership preparation program (MSA). edPIRATE also adds a mentoring component for new school leaders graduating from the MSA program and continued professional development for principals.

Project Expected Outcomes: Project Outcomes include (A) Improve teacher and school leader preparation, induction, and on-going support through the development of rural educational justice residency and microcredential programs; (B) Produce 80 highly qualified and diverse teacher and leader graduates to be placed in high need rural schools; (C) Improve teacher and school leader retention in high need rural partner districts; (D) Improve 280 school leaders’ knowledge, skills, and dispositions for equity centered curriculum, pedagogy, and leadership. Evaluation partner Policy Studies Associates will provide formative feedback to support continuous improvement as well as a summative evaluation.

Project Partners: East Carolina University (ECU) College of Education (COE) in partnership with ECU’s Thomas Harriot College of Arts & Sciences (THCAS), four high-need rural Local Education Agencies (LEAs): Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools (ECPPS), Greene County Schools (GCS), Lenoir County Public Schools (LCS), and Washington County Schools (WCS), and 28 high-need elementary and middle schools.