

**PR Award #:** S336S220019

Frostburg State University

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**Program Contact Information:**

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**Absolute Priority:** Absolute Priority 1

**Competitive Preference Priorities:** CPP 1- 4.

**Project Title:** Rural Educators for Appalachian Children (REACH)

**Project Description:** Frostburg State University's (FSU) College of Education (COE) and College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS) propose to partner with five high-need LEAs, including Allegany County (MD), Mineral County (WV), Morgan County (WV), Pendleton County (WV), and Turkeyfoot Valley Areas School District (PA) on Rural Educators for Appalachian Children (REACH), a Teacher Quality Partnership project responding to Absolute Priority 1, the four Competitive Preference Priorities, and the Invitational Priority. REACH serves the goals of improving student achievement and long-term outcomes in high-need schools, and developing a comprehensive and collaborative model for strengthening the teacher career continuum in rural America. It will achieve its goals through four focused strategies: (1) Co-Implemented, clinically based undergraduate dual certification program in special education and elementary, (2) Two-year induction program featuring targeted professional learning and microcredentials on the science of reading, classroom management, and culturally responsive teaching, (3) Teacher leader pathway for teacher mentors, induction coaches, and any teacher interested in pursuing National Board Certification, and (4) MegaCommunity for systemic capacity and linkage building involving more than 20 organizations to leverage cross-sector expertise and resources.

**Project Expected Outcomes:** REACH will serve 5 school districts, 120 teacher candidates, and 210 additional educators, for a total of 330 adults directly served and approximately 10,000 students indirectly served. It will result in increases in the number of highly effective, culturally responsive teachers for special education in Appalachia, and improve teacher support, retention, and advancement in high-need schools, while validating the impact of a national model. Building on common goals and leveraged resources among partnering agencies, the partnership is well-positioned to successfully impact the teacher career continuum and student achievement in Appalachia.

**Project Partners:** Frostburg State University's (FSU) College of Education (COE) and College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS) propose to partner with five high-need LEAs, including Allegany County (MD), Mineral County (WV), Morgan County (WV), Pendleton County (WV), and Turkeyfoot Valley Areas School District (PA).