

PR Award #: S423A220030

Center for Strategic Leadership and Organizational Coherence

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Absolute Priority: 2

Competitive Preference Priorities: 1, 2, 3.

Project Title: LIFT: Leveraging Innovation Fuels Transformation

Project Description: Through the LIFT project, principals and school leaders from non-traditional preparation and certification routes will be provided with clinical experiences, certification pathways, and the mastery of core competencies required to serve as instructional leaders in traditionally underserved LEAs. LIFT will provide participants with evidence-based professional development that addresses literacy; numeracy; strategies for working with students from special populations; and tools to build inclusive, supportive, unbiased and identify-safe environments where equity and belonging takes center stage and is a driver of the school culture. Through the Instructional Excellence Clearinghouse and Virtual Deeper Learning Network for Improvement, participants will learn to deconstruct problems of practice with turn-around principals and superintendents from around the country. LIFT will provide competency-based leadership modules and 12 micro-credential offerings in SEL, Equity, Special Populations, Instructional Excellence, Literacy, Mathematics, STEM and Computer Science. Additionally, the project will offer training in Improvement Science for up to 200 leaders per year who desire to become “exemplary” in their practice by using their advanced technological acumen to differentiate instruction; foster computational thinking and problem-solving skills; and use coding, analytics, algorithmic processes and computer applications to engage teachers who will then engage students, preparing them for career and college readiness, while eradicating achievement gaps.

Project Expected Outcomes: The project seeks to raise the academic achievement of high-need students by improving leader effectiveness. The four main objectives are: 1) Improve academic achievement in high-need schools in Tennessee; 2) Equip school leaders with skills to promote 21st Century Learning; 3) Increase the number of leaders who attain advanced credentials; and 4) Increase the impact of LIFT through effective replication and scaled impact studies. During the 3-year grant period, LIFT will support up to 700 education leaders to serve as “change agents” who use skills to raise student achievement, eradicate persistent achievement gaps and ensure that students are ready

Project Partners: Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (LEA), Tennessee KIPP Charter School Consortium (LEA), National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (national nonprofit); Tennessee State University College of Education and TSU’s School of Graduate Studies & Research (HBCU/IHE), Lipscomb University College of Education (IHE); The Center for Research & Mentoring of Black Male Students & Teachers at Bowie State University (HBCU/national nonprofit), and The Center of Excellence for Educator Preparation and Innovation at Voorhees University (HBCU).

