

Early-Phase Competition Absolute Priority 4 (SEL)

National University

S411C220055

Building Inclusive Environments Project: Integrating Academic, Social, and Emotional Skill Development

Applicant Name: National University. Project Title: Building Inclusive Environments Project: Integrating Academic, Social, and Emotional Skill Development. Grant Type: Early Phase.

Absolute Priorities (AP): AP1: Demonstrates a Rationale, AP4: Field-Initiated Innovations: SEL, and Competitive Priorities 1: Promoting Equity and 2: COVID-19.

Total number of students served: 8,820 students.

Grade levels served: Grades 3–5

Definition of high-need students: Students who are typically underrepresented in social and emotional learning (SEL) programs, including students of color, English Language Learners, and/or economically disadvantaged.

Project description and activities: The proposed Project will compare implementation of an SEL program, Harmony SEL (“Harmony Standard” condition) with a model that combines the SEL program with a taxonomy of academic–SEL integration (“Harmony Integration” condition). The Project will pilot the Harmony Integration professional learning and tools with nine schools. The Project will then randomly assign an additional 40 schools to Harmony Integration or Standard.

Project objectives and expected outcomes: Project partners expect the following high-level outcomes with the Harmony Integration condition: improved (a) educator capacity, efficacy, and SEL and equity competencies to integrate SEL into academic instruction, (b) implementation quality of Harmony, and (c) use of more interactive, culturally-responsive instructional practices, leading to (d) improved classroom climate, and (e) a variety of student outcomes, as compared to the “Harmony Standard” condition.

Project Innovation: The innovation in this Project is an integrative taxonomy to build localized educator capacity, providing a needed exemplar for others to use.

Other Practice: Use of an evidence based SEL program, Harmony SEL. Sites: New York City Department of Education, and San Antonio Independent and Washoe County School Districts

Partnering organizations: Harmony SEL at National University, American Institutes for Research (AIR), San Antonio Independent and Washoe County School Districts, NYC Dept of Ed.