

PR Award #: S423A220056

Organization: Saint Louis University (SLU)

Project Title: P2B: Paraprofessional to Bachelor's Degree

Program Contact: Gary Ritter – gary.ritter@slu.edu

Absolute Priority: 1

Competitive Preference Priorities: 1, 2, 3

Three-Year Award Amount: \$6,286,401

Project Description: Through the P2B: Paraprofessional to Bachelor's Degree project, SLU will enroll up to 160 instructional paraprofessionals in a classroom-based, residency-like degree program that will empower the paraprofessionals to earn a bachelor's degree in education and an official teaching license while continuing to work in the classroom under the direct supervision of a certified teacher. Each course within the bachelor's degree program will consist of 3 classroom-based, portfolio-centric learning experiences (worth 3 credit hours/course and delivered via BloomBoard Inc.'s online micro-credentialing platform). SLU will select the cohorts of paraprofessionals from 4 districts with high percentages of minority students who qualify for the free and reduced lunch program in the St. Louis urban area. SLU will consult with the Equity Institute throughout program design and implementation to inform the equity- and SEL-focused content of the P2B courses, assist with the recruitment of diverse teacher candidates, and advise on equitable implementation principles.

Expected Project Outcomes: In the short-term, SLU expects to increase the number of paraprofessionals who earn a bachelor's degree and become state licensed teachers serving high-needs schools in the St. Louis region. In the long term, SLU expects the P2B program will increase the number of qualified and diverse teachers within each participating school, assist schools in filling vacancies with current community members, increase retention rates for these new teachers, and ultimately increase instructional effectiveness and student achievement in schools.

Project Partners/Subcontractors: SLU will enroll paraprofessionals in P2B program from schools within the following 4 LEAs, which collectively serve over 39,000 students: Saint Louis Public Schools, Kansas City Public Schools, KIPP St. Louis Public Schools, and Confluence Academies. Subcontractor Plus Alpha Research & Consulting, LLC will provide program evaluation services. Subcontractors the Equity Institute and BloomBoard, Inc. will provide program design and implementation services.