

## **Developing C.L.E.A.R. Thinking, Auburn University, Abstract**

**Applicant:** Auburn University (institution of higher education) (single eligible applicant)

Auburn University's virtual Disciplined Civic Inquiry Lesson Study professional development (PD) project will provide forty teachers in under resourced districts around the nation longitudinal, reflective, discipline-specific, classroom context PD. Instead of limiting ourselves to a geographic region, we will recruit teachers from anywhere in the nation interested in this PD and conduct the entire PD experience virtually using robust technology. These forty teachers will serve at least 125 students per year for three years, equaling a minimum of 5000 underserved students.

**Absolute Priority:** AU's *Developing C.L.E.A.R. Thinking* project will develop teacher leaders in both Disciplined Civic Inquiry (DCI) and Lesson Study PD. Our virtual DCI Lesson Study builds upon eighteen years of PD and research expertise of Dr. Jada Kohlmeier (co-director) and the Constitutional Law expertise of Dr. Steven Brown (co-director). By providing virtual PD to teachers in under resourced districts, we provide the longitudinal, discipline specific, school-context based, reflective PD that researchers advocate. These teachers will become instructional leaders in their districts in DCI and Lesson Study PD ready to continue this work beyond the life of the grant.

**Competitive Preference Priorities 1 & 2:** Our project provides teachers models and support while developing DCI instruction for over 5000 underserved students. DCI instruction is innovative because it is focused on authentic, ethical questions of the public good, engages students in civic reasoning and deliberation of complex social issues, and assesses student learning with authentic, performance-based tasks analogous to civic action. DCI instruction prepares underserved students to be active participants in a liberal democracy.

**Invitational Priority:** The Developing C.L.E.A.R. Thinking project will develop ten mini-units per year developing student civic reasoning skills including legal, ethical, analogous reasoning. We will feature these units as text and video cases on a resurrected website known around the country for model DCI instruction.