

PROMISES Abstract

Nebraska Wesleyan University (NWU) is the lead applicant for Providing Rigor and Opportunity: Meaningful Instruction for Success for Every Student (*PROMISES*) project. NWU is a non-profit institution of higher education located in Lincoln, Nebraska. As an institute of higher learning, NWU meets the definition of a single eligible applicant. NWU will partner with Lincoln Public Schools (LPS), a local education agency serving more than 40,000 students.

The *PROMISES* project has the potential to impact 160 teachers serving 8 high schools and 12 middle schools. These teachers have the potential to serve 40,000 students. The project will directly prepare 60 teachers in American history, civics, government, and geography courses to meet the needs of students from currently underrepresented racial identity groups in honors social studies courses. The project will measure the persistence and success of underrepresented students and use these results to shape teacher professional development across LPS. The project removes barriers to equity in honors secondary courses by providing students access to review sessions prior to Advanced Placement (AP) exams and covering the cost of those exams. Participating high school teachers will become eligible to offer dual enrollment as an alternative to AP. The research base of the project demonstrates a rationale for our approach.

PROMISES leverages LPS' theme of media literacy by providing professional development for teachers in applying media literacy practice in secondary social studies courses and measuring student improvement with district common assessments.

PROMISES addresses the absolute priority of the AHC-NA program by offering 60 teachers a series of graduate courses totalling 18 credit hours in using guided inquiry and cultural responsiveness to improve persistence and success of underserved students. The project also addresses both competitive priorities and the invitational priority.