

**PR Award #:** S336S220065

**Organization Name:** University of Southern Mississippi

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**Absolute Priority:** 1

**Competitive Preference Priorities:**

**Invitational Priority (GYO):** N

**Requested Total Award Amount:** \$1,206,930

**Project Description:**

The goal of the USM: NEST project is to reform USM's current residency model to recruit local teacher candidates with minority status into a clinically intensive teacher preparation and induction program embedded in a local high need school district. USM: NEST residents will complete one year of residency in a high-need district under the direct supervision support of a mentor teacher during their undergraduate senior year (fall and spring). Graduates will then transition from a highly mentored residency to a robust two-year induction program. USM: NEST residents will receive intensive support from USM faculty, a dedicated clinical supervisor, the district, mentor teachers, and an instructional coach as they grow in their teaching development over three years.

To (a) reforming USM's current elementary undergraduate residency program (e.g., *where* courses are delivered, *how* they are delivered, and *increasing* clinical experience hours), (b) changing course format (e.g., four 8-week courses and one summer course), (c) recruiting local PTCs with minority status and other needs of the partner high need LEA, (d) providing a year-long clinical experience, (e) developing and implementing a two-year induction program that includes additional professional development (PD) and ongoing coaching, and (g) training mentor teachers to provide quality coaching and support to PTCs.

**Project Expected Outcomes:**

Targeted outcomes of USM: NEST include increased teaching development, an increase in teacher certification test scores, increased retention of teachers in a high-needs LEA, increased mentorship abilities of mentor teachers, and a sustainable and replicable residency and induction program.

**Project Partners:**

Forrest County School District – Mississippi, North Forrest Attendance Center, The University of Southern Mississippi - College of Education and Human Sciences, School of Education