

**TOPIC: 2008-2009 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB), IMPROVING
TEACHER QUALITY GRANTS**

PREPARED BY: HEATHER DELANGE

I. OVERVIEW

In September 2008, the Department of Higher Education distributed over \$800,000 in federal No Child Left Behind grant dollars to four authorized teacher education programs in Colorado. Grant recipients, along with a brief overview of the proposed projects, are listed at the end of this report.

Awardees are expected to complete their projects by December 2009. A six-month, no-cost extension is permitted per federal rules and regulations.

This report is for information; no action is needed.

II. BACKGROUND

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, Improving Teacher Quality, is a federal program that focuses on the preparation, training, and recruitment of highly qualified teachers. To achieve these goals, the Colorado Department of Higher Education is authorized to administer competitive grants to higher education institutions. For 2008, approximately \$840,000 was available for distribution. In 2007, the Department approved and funded six grants for a total of \$807,000. These grants supported teachers and thousands of students throughout the state.

III. OVERVIEW OF 2008-2009 GRANT PROCESS

In summer 2008, the Department solicited proposals that focused on the following areas:

- A. Professional development activities for teachers in the mathematics, science and reading content areas at high need public and private schools.
- B. Projects that support first-year teacher retention and mentoring.
- C. Projects that empower teachers to use data from student academic achievement assessments to improve instructional practices and student academic achievement.

Five proposals were submitted by five public higher education institutions. A six member review team comprised of, DHE staff and teacher education professionals from throughout the state reviewed the proposals.

IV. DESCRIPTIONS OF 2008-2009 NCLB GRANT PROJECTS

Institution: Colorado State University **Amount:** \$263,506
Title: Everyone Teaches, Everyone Learns: An Interdisciplinary, High-Need Professional Development School Model
Project Director: Donna Cooner

Summary: The proposal funds a partnership model based on a successful model with Adams City High School to establish the first CSU Professional Development School in a high-need school with a highly diverse population. The PDS collaboratively designed through this project will become a self sustaining model for future collaborative PDS efforts in high-need schools. The objectives for the partnership include: 1) Develop a school-university partnership committed to the preparation of future educators that embraces their active engagement in the school community; 2) Provide for ongoing and reciprocal professional development for all participants guided by need; and 3) Develop a shared commitment to innovative and reflective practices by all participants.

Institution: Colorado State University-Pueblo **Amount:** \$141,867
Title: Southern CO K-16 Professional Development Initiative
Project Director: Victoria Marquesen

Summary: To strengthen the quality of teaching and learning in K-12 classrooms in southeastern Colorado by providing quality professional development opportunities. The project has four specific goals: 1) to provide high quality professional development that will increase the number of highly qualified teachers currently teaching in partnership schools, strengthening teachers' understanding of the content they teach; 2) to develop and implement effective K-16 professional development learning communities that focus on both content and pedagogy; 3) to provide development opportunities for beginning teachers, and 4) to develop a network among K-16 institutions that will sustain activities at the completion of the project. Activities of the project will also provide information about effective processes for delivering professional development and evaluating the effectiveness of various professional development approaches. A number of activities of the project address the goal of increasing the number of special educators who are highly qualified in content areas in which they provide instruction. The input of teachers and administrators in K-12 partnership districts has guided the design of the project.

Institution: Metropolitan State College of Denver **Amount:** \$197,506
Title: Metro's Mathematics for Rural Schools Program: Creating Highly Qualified Mathematics Teachers in Rural Schools
Project Director: Brooke Evans

Summary: Uses web technology and distance learning to make available a series of content-oriented courses specifically developed to model teaching practices which are directly transferable to K-12 mathematics classrooms, support development of mathematical proficiency, and foster a mathematical community among teacher-learners. The courses are available for graduate credit for practicing teachers and serve as a model for high-quality, content-centered professional development for K-12 mathematics teachers in rural schools across Colorado.

Institution: University of Northern Colorado

Amount: \$236,506

Title: Northern Colorado Mathematics and Science Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) Partnership

Project Director: Lori Reinsvold

Summary: The project aims to improve science and mathematics teachers' use of student academic assessment data to improve instruction and student achievement; deliver quality induction and mentoring programs in science and mathematics, emphasizing underserved students' needs; improve teachers' science and mathematics content knowledge and pedagogy through high-quality professional development, enhancing their discipline-specific content knowledge and related pedagogical content knowledge; improve students' mathematics and science achievement.