

BOARD OF REGENTS AWARDS TEACHER EDUCATION GRANTS

\$553,896 Awarded for Increasing the Number of Teachers in Hard-to-Fill Disciplines or Underserved Geographic Areas of Kansas

(TOPEKA) – The Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) awarded four grants for implementation of new programs and expansion of current programs to prepare teachers in hard-to-fill disciplines and underserved geographic areas in Kansas. Proposals from Wichita State University, Pittsburg State University, Kansas State University and Fort Hays State University were selected to receive State funding through H.B. 2185.

The primary purposes of the grants are to reduce the current and projected shortages of teachers in mathematics, sciences, special education, English as a Foreign Language and foreign languages, and to reduce the teacher shortages in western Kansas, Wichita public schools, Kansas City public schools, and Topeka public schools. The grants were awarded on a competitive basis.

Fort Hays State University

Fort Hays State University (FHSU) will develop an undergraduate English as a Second Language (ESOL) minor that leads to an additional 250 endorsements over the next three years. The project will increase numbers of teachers with ESOL credentials in the western half of Kansas. FHSU is partnering with the school districts of Great Bend, Garden City, Dodge City, Liberal, and Hays to recruit candidates and the community colleges of Barton, Dodge City, Garden City, and Seward County to extend the availability of the ESOL minor to their students. Total cost of the first year of this project is \$255,597 of which \$148,466 will be provided by State grant funds.

Kansas State University

Kansas State University will expand its existing Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning to adults with bachelor's degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and add an on-line master's degree option to this endorsement. The project also involves partnering with community colleges to provide additional STEM courses for elementary teachers who desire to become middle level science or mathematics teachers and high school teachers who desire additional endorsements in physics, chemistry, or earth science. The project will produce 30 newly licensed STEM teachers, 15 elementary teachers gaining endorsement in middle-school science or mathematics, and 15 high school teachers gaining endorsement in physics, chemistry, or earth science. Total cost for the first year of this project is \$164,332 of which \$108,874 will be provided by State grant funds.

Pittsburg State University

Pittsburg State University will expand existing programs to award an additional 60 licenses/endorsements within the next three years and retain an additional 60 teachers. The project involves partnering with 16 rural school districts to increase and retain teachers in hard-to-fill disciplines and in underserved areas. PSU will expand two teacher education programs, significantly modify the Early Career Teacher's Academy, and enhance retention of teachers in

rural schools through a combination of technology and a focus on rural education. Total cost for the first year of this project is \$200,866 of which \$133,616 will be provided by State grant funds.

Wichita State University

Wichita State University will partner with Wichita Public schools, other area public schools, and community colleges to increase the number of licensed teachers in the hard-to-fill areas of secondary math and science subjects, as well as increase the number of current teachers endorsed to support students who speak English as a Second Language. This initiative is planned to provide 60-90 new Kansas teachers over the next three years. The project will enhance existing WSU programs by: 1) by expanding the alternative certification program by creating a new residency pathway for those who hold a college degree and who want to become teachers; 2) by expanding partnerships with area community colleges to help students make the transition into a bachelor's degree program for teaching; and 3) by redeveloping coursework for current teachers who wish to become highly qualified as teachers for students who speak English as a second language. Total cost for the first year of this project is \$280,657 of which \$162,940 will be provided by State grant funds.