

## **Collaborative Partner: Fresno County Superintendents of Schools**

## **Project #10: Dual Enrollment -FCSS support for High School Teachers to complete Masters in English and Mathematics**

## **Pathway(s): Upskilling Masters for Dual Enrollment**

### **Project Summary**

Fresno County Superintendents of Schools (FCSS) with the Collaborative partners will be executing their proposal (attached) to support an increase in dual enrollment (DuE) community college courses in high schools. The positive benefits are well researched of attaining a Bachelor's degree at the university level. Given that our Fresno County student demographics include many students of poverty, firstgeneration college-goers, and English learners, the attainment of a Bachelor's degree is quite a challenge. Enabling students to enroll and complete DuE, while still in high school, provides the support and confidence to motivate students to complete the Associate's degree, move on to a University and ultimately a highly skilled career. The higher education level contributes to raising the economic level of the entire Fresno community.

One of the top challenges to increase DuE courses in high schools is the need for more instructors qualified to teach college math and English. This project is to develop a partnership to provide streamlined programs for high school faculty to earn their master's degree in these two high need disciplines. This would enable them to meet the minimum qualifications set forth by the State Chancellor's office required to teach college-level courses and provide DuE courses during 5 the regular high school instructional day. FCSS proposes a collaboration of Fresno Pacific University, National University, Central Valley Higher Education Consortium (CVHEC) and the four focus districts of the K16 Collaborative.

The outcomes would include: a) Enabling high school students (especially disproportionately impacted students) the opportunity to successfully complete transferable college English and math courses in high school, thus accelerating their timeline to college completion and overall success in college. b) Enabling high school English and math teachers to increase their knowledge and skills, for the benefit the students. c) Providing salary advancement opportunities for these teachers and increasing opportunities to teach college courses on community college campuses. d) Providing community colleges with an increased pool of adjunct English and math professors from which to draw. (CVHEC August 2020)

This project will support 40 high school teachers attain their Masters in English and 30 high school teachers attain their Masters in Mathematics, starting in January of 2021 through December of 2022. This will be a demonstration project that can be replicated throughout communities in California.

The Districts' commitment will be to offer DuE courses in English and mathematics at all their comprehensive high schools, starting with the 2022-23 school year and increase sections each semester as the demand from students increases. Districts will also agree to release their teachers in the project, one full day every three weeks to allow for cohort support and course completion.

A program coordinator will be hired by FCSS to manage the project and will be sustained through 2030 to continue to support cohorts of teachers attaining Masters in English, mathematics and other majors that help meet the goals of the K-16 Collaborative, as well as collect and report data. The project goal will be to graduate 125 teachers with Masters in the next 10 years to meet DE needs of the K-16 enhanced system.

## Project Progress Report

Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Office (FCSS) was thrilled to see the past two years of planning come to implementation with identifying specific people in National and Fresno Pacific University (FPU) to get the recruitment and specifics of the professors/materials needed underway. It was also helpful to get the District contacts identified so that the communication of everyone was a full loop with everyone that could support a successful project.

During October, November and December of 2020, Dr. Kathryn Catania and National University (NU) staff held six information meetings via Zoom, to provide information to potential students and get them connected with Jess Smith, the Admissions Officer. There were 20 students that completed applications to start on January 4, 2021. Unfortunately, three students had circumstances come up and had to drop the program, but those 'seats' can be made up by having 23 in the July 2021 cohort.

In November of 2020, with Jessica Gladney and Jess Smith from National University, FCSS was able to obtain the list of books and materials needed for the English Master's Degree Program for all 10 classes. Those books were ordered by FCSS and distributed to the District contacts in December, so that the students/teachers starting on January 4, 2021 had their books for the start of class. Fortunately, at this time there are two classes that will use open resources, so there will not be a need to order books for those classes.

Fresno Pacific also got underway with a full class (23) for the Master's degree Program in Mathematics in January 2021. With the attention and collaboration between Dr. Linda Hoff (FPU), Jessica Gladney (NU), and Angela Bowlin (FCSS Admin. Assistant) FCSS was able to process contracts that paid the Universities and provided instructional materials as stated in the proposal.

The changes to the initial proposal, because of ongoing COVID pandemic restrictions, were delaying the monthly day of additional professional learning and student project work until such time as public health restrictions allow in person gatherings.

In January 2021, FCSS hired Brooke Berrios as the Program Coordinator for the K16 Collaborative as stated in the grant proposal. Her role is to organize, coordinate, and implement the operations and activities of the K16 collaboration Dual Enrollment Program. She began by reaching out to all project stakeholders in Central, Fresno, Clovis, and Sanger Unified School Districts, along with Linda Hoff at FPU, and Jessica Gladney at NU. She met with each district partner to begin developing relationships and collect baseline data around student site placement. She then met with both FPU and NU to discuss the grant metrics and talk about cohort recruitment for the next cohort starting in May for FPU and July for NU. She is working closely with Angela Bowlin (FCSS) and Dr. Corey Greenlaw, Senior Director of Accountability, Compliance & Grants, to assist with evaluating budgetary and financial data to ensure expenditures are in accordance with the grant.

At this time, March 2021, both FPU and NU have full classes recruited for the next cohorts. Brooke is conducting an analysis of the high schools and districts represented by the current students and new cohorts. The goal, as stated in the grant, is to have all high schools in the 4 focus districts with dual enrollment (DuE) qualified teachers in both English and mathematics by the start of school in 2023.

FCSS is also continuing to gather information on the DuE courses taught at each of the 4 focus Districts. Baseline information was gathered for the school year 2019-2020 so growth in the courses can be determined on a year-by-year basis. Clovis Unified has prioritized increasing DuE classes offered in 2020-2021, in part due to the conversations and focus brought about by the K-16 Collaborative work. The community colleges have been stellar working with the high schools to provide more DE courses, providing instructors from the community colleges to meet the immediate need.

As the 18 months of the grant period progresses and knowing that all costs for the students were not covered in the original grant proposals, as there is funding available from not having to order books for some classes and not having meeting costs until such time as students can meet together again, FCSS will be reimbursing students for the 'student paid' tuition and instructional materials costs with evidence of student paid receipts. FCSS will report on those payments in the progress reports.