



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

WSU-Teacher Apprenticeship Program (TAP)

Project Summary: Responding to the need to produce more Early Childhood/Elementary/Special Education teachers in underserved areas in Kansas, Wichita State University (WSU) seeks to work with school districts in western Kansas to develop the Teacher Apprenticeship Program (TAP) - an innovative program to prepare Early Childhood and Elementary Special Education classroom teachers for rural Kansas. Characterized by an inverted approach to curriculum and strong emphasis on field experiences, this approach to educate and prepare these teachers implements a two layered model including a Professional Education certificate (PEC) that must be successfully completed prior to admission into the bachelor's degree program. Approximately 20 teachers in 12-18 early childhood/elementary schools in school districts in western Kansas will receive the training on site as part of a three-year pilot program. At the conclusion of the program, the WSU College of Education (COE) will be able to deliver it throughout rural and remote areas of Kansas. Therefore, funding from the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) will enable the WSU COE to work with partners to develop and implement the pilot TAP program, develop online and onsite courses, develop distance mentor training opportunities, deliver on-site aspects of the training, and establish relationships and partnerships to ensure the project's sustainability.

11/22/2019

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