



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

To: Higher Education Committee
From: John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*
Subject: Update on Higher Education Faculty Development Agreements
Date: February 2, 2015
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SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

This item provides an update on the Year 2 achievements of the Higher Education Faculty Development Program Memoranda of Understanding with SUNY, CUNY and the respective single-source agreement with the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (clcu). Related projects and sustainable resources created with Race to the Top funds through the Faculty Development Program projects will be highlighted.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For information.

Proposed Handling

This item will come before the Higher Education Committee for discussion at its February 2015 meeting.

Background Information

In April 2012, the Office of Higher Education announced the creation of a set of agreements with SUNY, CUNY, and clcu. Funded with \$10 million in Race to the Top funds, the Higher Education Faculty Development Program is intended to strengthen teacher and leader preparation programs by providing professional development for teacher and school building leader education program deans, department chairs, faculty members (full- and part-time), program directors/coordinators, mentors/supervisors, and their respective colleagues in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences.

Over the past two and a half years, each sector has implemented a variety of professional development activities and events focused on aligning higher education with the current P-12 reforms. The scope of work for each faculty development project includes preparation for all new certification examinations [Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST), Educating All Students test (EAS), Revised Content Specialty Tests (CST), and edTPA], and includes aspects of the reform agenda such as Common Core, teacher and principal evaluations, data-driven instruction, and clinically rich teacher and leader preparation. New partnerships between P-12 schools and institutions of higher education have been forged on campuses across the state, as faculty and staff work to successfully prepare our future teachers and leaders.

In October 2013, the U.S. Department of Education approved NYSED's request for a no-cost extension through June 2015 for the current scope of work for each sector. An additional \$1.5 million was allocated to all three sectors to support the development of a new scope of work by each sector with topics derived from recommendations from the field.

Enhancing this current scope of work, while leveraging the momentum of the faculty development projects and the intersection of this work with our shared state goals and initiatives concerning P-20 collaboration, each sector was awarded an additional \$500,000 in the fall of 2014 to implement activities to support and strengthen one or more of these areas of focus. Examples of this work include:

- SUNY has empanelled a TeachNY Advisory Council bringing together key individuals within SUNY institutions, as well as stakeholders in the P-12 sector, broader school communities, and beyond, to address policies that can directly support priorities focused on achieving sustained improvement in the education of teachers, school building and district leaders, and needed parallel school renewal. Three Leadership Task Forces (LTFs) of Council Members supported by Master Teachers and SUNY System Administration staff have focused on priority areas and provided recommendations to the full Advisory Council on:
 - Recruitment, Selection, and Cultural Competence;
 - Curricular Design, Pre-Service Education, Simultaneous Renewal, and Related Partnerships; and
 - Induction, Continuing Professional Development, and Teacher Leaders
- CUNY is working to strengthen undergraduate and graduate pathways to develop programs that build on diversity and linguistic diversity. For example, faculty members at Brooklyn College are currently working to establish early childhood/bilingual and childhood/bilingual 4+1 programs (undergraduate degree to master's degree in five years). The College of Staten Island has also established a new Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) master's program and is using MOU funds to help identify and recruit a strong, diverse group of special

education candidates who will take additional master's level courses to become dually certified in special education/TESOL.

- clcu is highly focused on building and improving P-12/Higher Ed relationships. One of their regions is creating a professional development program (on-site and online) for cooperating teachers to provide a knowledge base for edTPA, EAS, ALST and effective mentoring techniques necessary for their work with student teachers. This is expected to lead to increased awareness among P-12 partners of edTPA and new NYSED teacher certification requirements and Regents Reform initiatives as it relates to new teacher and leader preparation, and increase the number of teachers knowledgeable about edTPA.

Office of Higher Education Update

The Office of Higher Education (OHE) continues to provide ongoing support to New York State institutions of higher education with their implementation of the Regents Reform Agenda and their preparation for the new and revised certification examinations in the following ways:

- Designation of OHE staff to serve as direct liaison(s) to the field;
- Coordination and participation in campus-based, regional or statewide events;
- Development and distribution of web-based resources, sharing best practices;
- Collaboration and participation in the implementation of each sector's design and implementation plans, execution of the plans, and follow-up evaluations;
- Sponsorship of webinars, conferences, and meetings where certification examinations were discussed;
- Quarterly reporting and monthly monitoring calls; and
- Frequent ongoing engagement with programs to address concerns or resolve issues in a collaborative manner.

Sustainable Deliverables from the Faculty Development Agreements

In its first year of implementation, the Higher Education Faculty Development Program resulted in numerous innovative approaches across sectors that will positively impact the alignment between teacher and leader preparation programs and the needs of P-12 schools and districts now and in the future.

These innovations continued throughout the second year of implementation, with a variety of web-based resources designed to strengthen teacher and leader preparation programs including webinars, videos, and professional development modules or toolkits for faculty members. Examples of sustainable resources created through the Faculty Development projects include:

- TeachNY, an initiative to sustain the work of ensuring better prepared educators by putting in place policies for decades to come concerning the best preparation possible for teachers and school leaders in New York State.

- Designated project websites containing resources including videos and webinars:

SUNY: <http://commons.suny.edu/>

CUNY: <http://www.cuny.edu/academics/programs/teachered/RTtT.html>

clcu: <http://www.isnetworked.org>

- The Centers for Innovation in Education at SUNY Cortland and SUNY New Paltz provide access to the latest technologies and most successful educator preparation practices. These Centers provide valuable resources for students and faculty, as well as for teachers, master teachers and school district leaders throughout their host regions. Two more Regional Centers for Innovation in Education are planned as part of SUNY's Faculty Development MOU work plan.
- CUNY has used MOU funds to support ten campus-level projects across seven campuses designed to enhance Arts and Sciences faculty's knowledge of Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) and ensure that students are receiving foundational CCLS skills in early coursework. Community colleges are also being brought into the work resulting in innovative cross-campus collaboration.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Department continue to partner with each sector through the conclusion of Race to the Top to support the full implementation of the Regents Reform Agenda. The Higher Education Faculty Development Program has fostered an unprecedented level of communication, cooperation, and collaboration within and across sectors and has created an increased sense of urgency regarding P-20 collaboration. We are encouraged by implementation activities to date and by the dedication and commitment of each sector to accomplish its unique goals and deliverables.