

# Equitable Access to Excellent Educators

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**MISSOURI PROUD**



Volume 3

## Excellent Teachers in Urban Schools

Teacher preparation is a critical aspect of the Missouri Equity Plan to ensure that all students have equitable access to excellent educators, particularly in urban and rural communities where there is the greatest need. This update (continued from Volume 2) features the Colleges of Education at Missouri State University and University of Central Missouri and their work to prepare teacher candidates for the unique demands of urban public and/or charter school settings.

### Missouri State University - MSU

MSU in Springfield boasts an extensive screening process for urban teacher candidates and provides a year-long student teaching practicum in high-need, high-poverty schools for relevant and real urban experiences. The co-teaching model allows the teacher candidate and master teacher to meet for planning purposes the summer prior to the first day of school and gives the teacher candidate the opportunity to spend a full academic year in the same school setting.



Under the current leadership of the Dean of the College of Education, MSU intentionally practices the diversity it preaches with a well-represented, diverse faculty which has increased by 50 percent in the past several years. A multicultural leadership scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 per semester is available for selected teacher leaders. Feedback from partnering school districts indicates that Missouri State teacher candidates have caring hearts and are passionate about urban teaching and learning, they are well-prepared, and they are “Ready to Teach, Day One!”

### University of Central Missouri - UCM

UCM prides itself on an early-immersion teacher preparation program beginning in the sophomore year to give teacher candidates diverse practical experiences within small cohort groups. The College of Education provides teacher candidates with exposure to special education students in a variety of public school settings, including its own portfolio of charter schools in Kansas City. The College of Education also offers developmental education services for TRIO, a program for first-generation college students who need additional academic support to meet the state requirements on the new content assessments and performance measurements.

Scholarships are granted to select upper classmen who demonstrate an unwavering commitment to finish their degrees, while iPads are furnished for every UCM teacher candidate to remove technology barriers and ensure successful completion of his or her program of study. The College of Education partners with local and regional community colleges through the A+ program, providing the opportunity for future teachers who earn associate degrees to further their education at a four-year university. Based on feedback from 19 partnering school districts, UCM teacher candidates are considered to be well-prepared for the challenges of teaching and learning in traditional urban public and charter school settings.