



**Fiscal Year:** 2022 Q1-Q2 (July 2021 – December 2021)

**Date:** January 2022

## Overview:

The U.S. Department of Education awarded a \$978,332 grant to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system to support students in completing a Teacher Education program. The grant aims to diversify the teacher workforce pipeline in Minnesota through eliminating textbook costs and lowering the cost of a teaching degree. The free textbooks will cut costs for all students but will especially help students who are economically disadvantaged and may otherwise have trouble affording college and finishing their degree.

Six colleges and universities agreed to support this effort by providing faculty and subject matter experts in the redevelopment of teacher education curriculum.

1. Southwest Minnesota State University,
2. St. Cloud State University,
3. Minnesota State University Mankato,
4. Normandale Community
5. College, Century College, and
6. St. Cloud Technical and Community College.

The project is in effect from September 2021 through August 2024 and is managed through Educational Innovations. Courses identified for the grant include:

- Introduction to Education
- Foundation of Instruction
- Educational Technology
- Introduction to Literacy
- Special Education
- Human Relations and Multi-Cultural Education (if resources are available)

## Current Status of the Work:

The following milestones have been identified and are tracked to monitor the progress of this project.

### Create a project foundation

To ensure leadership can track progress and project members have adequate information to tasks, resources, events, and resources, a sound foundation was created. **Status:** Complete.

Examples of these resources include:

- Teams and supporting SharePoint site



- Communications plan
- Management plan
- Project responsibility matrix (RACI)

## Create contracts to support the work

- Memorandum of understanding were created and signed by all six colleges and universities. **Status:** Completed
- Inter-agency agreement being drafted for authors, OER specialist, and reviewers. **Status:** In Process
- Contracts being negotiated for editing and illustration services. **Status:** In Process

## Identify and fill positions necessary to support faculty

Hire and assign resources to lead and guide authors in the development of zero-cost, equitable, and culturally relevant teacher education resources. The following positions were identified and filled by Educational Innovations

- Project Director
- Project Manager
- Instructional Designer
- Equity Coach
- OER Specialist

## Create teams to support the development of curriculum

The following teams were identified and filled or are being filled to support the project objectives

- Teacher Education Action Group (TEAG).
  - This team consists of administrators, staff, and faculty who make decisions and recommendations to ensure the project continues to progress.
  - **Status:** Members identified and invited to an upcoming orientation on February 18, 2022
- Authors
  - This team consists of faculty members who will develop curriculum for the six courses
  - **Status:** Authors identified and invited to an upcoming orientation on February 04, 2022

## Research the existing landscape of teacher education resources

Three librarians conducted research to assess the current resources available in teacher education. Their specific focus was on resources related to the six courses identified in the grant.

- **Status:** Completed



## Development of course resources and learning circles

Learning Circles has been a proven approach in the development of OER. A D2L course is being developed specifically for the OTP project.

- **Status:** In Process

## Upcoming Work:

The following work was planned for the next quarter (January – March 2022):

- Contracts finalized with authors
- Author Orientation – February 4, 2022
- TEAG Orientation – February 18, 2022
- Authors will create course teams during and after the February 04, 2022, author orientation meeting. Each team will focus on developing curriculum and resources directly related to their chosen course
- Learning Circles to begin in February 2022
- Authors to begin in the development of curriculum and resources
- Onboard and engage the Instructional Designer and the Equity Coach.
- Quarterly update report due to the U.S. Department of Education

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