



Education partnership wins \$5 million grant for teacher prep

The College of Education, in partnership with St. Cloud District 742, has been awarded a grant of nearly \$5 million from the U.S. Department of Education. One of four in the nation, the grant will support a five-year project aimed at enhancing teacher preparation for the benefit of P-12 education.

The Teacher Quality Enhancement Partnership Grant is meant to redefine the roles of pre-service and in-service teachers by using a co-teaching approach during student field experiences. Co-teaching combines the knowledge and strengths of the experienced teacher and the teacher candidate by encouraging them to partner in the classroom.

Co-teaching not only prepares new teachers to be more collaborative in their approach, it also lowers the student-to-teacher ratio in classrooms and, as a result, better meets the needs of students at all educational levels.

The project will give P-12 educators in District 742 professional development opportunities and facilitate formal and informal mentoring of new teachers by university faculty and experienced P-12 teachers.

Project leaders will also create an interactive website through which new teachers and other educators can communicate, share resources, develop relationships, and participate in joint lesson planning.