

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

April 11, 2017

Ellevate! & PIONERAS

U.S. Department of Education Grants
Office of English Language Acquisition

Board Goals:

- I. **Teaching & Learning**...In pursuit of excellence the district will
 - d. Stay abreast of and incorporate best practices into teaching, learning and leadership
- II. **Parent & Community Involvement**...In pursuit of excellence, the district will:
 - a. Foster a positive and welcoming environment that encourages parent and community partnerships to achieve success for all our students

Purpose of Report:

The Board will be presented with an overview of the 4.3 million dollar grants which will fund two collaborative projects between Texas Woman's University and Denton ISD: Project PIONERAS and ELLevate! These are 5-year grants from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition, that will benefit several schools in the district. These projects will focus on strengthening classroom instruction of high school ELLs and elementary dual language students.

Objectives:

- Provide board members with an overview of the projects (PIONERAS and ELLevate!) and describe how these grants will support teachers of students learning English.
- Highlight the PIONERAS & ELLevate! purpose, goals, professional development, graduate level scholarships, family engagement initiatives, and the benefits for the district.

Operational Impact:

The two projects are funded by the 4.3 million dollar grants received from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition.

Results:

The partnership between TWU and the district has generated teacher excitement, motivated participation in the professional learning cohorts, and opened the opportunity for participants to earn a masters or doctorate degree. There are 29 teachers in the TWU cohorts that will begin their graduate courses this summer.