



5/9/2013

May, 2013

Dear Professional Colleague,

We would like to share an exciting partnership opportunity for teachers in our Teacher Quality Partnership districts. We will have a cadre of high quality lead teacher mentors who will comprise a pool of district mentors to work with our resident teachers in our alternative certification program. We will have 5-10 lead teacher mentor candidates in each of our partnership districts for potential mentoring of our candidates.

As you may be aware, Governors State has had an alternative certification program for the last twelve years. In 2006, we received national recognition as one of the six finalists for the Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Preparation, the first alternative certification program in the nation so honored. In 2010, we were awarded a \$7.1 million Teacher Quality Partnership grant, one of twenty across the country designed to develop residency programs, based on the medical model.

With this extended preparation, the design is intended for resident teachers' placements with outstanding mentors. The grant has provided the opportunity for us to develop a rigorous selection process for the university and district to jointly select experienced teachers so that each of our partner districts will have a cadre of mentors.

Our residents are "highly qualified" so this provides an outstanding opportunity for co-teaching to meet the needs of students in your classrooms. Lead teacher mentors will take part in the Lead Teacher Mentor Learning Community at the University.

Lead Teacher mentors will be University instructors as they work one on one with the residents in a one hour seminar each semester, aligned with the work outlined in the Mentor Learning Community. This will require at least one hour per week outside class time to work with the resident. This is a tremendous opportunity for teacher leadership. For the upcoming year, the mentor stipend will be \$1500 (a combination of the pay for being the instructor of the course and stipend funds from the grant).

Attached are our application materials. These must be completed and returned by Friday, May 24, 2013.

~~placement this year will be required to complete the GSU~~
Foundational Mentor Training if they have not already completed it. It will be held the beginning of August. It is two-day training. Makeup sessions will be held in September. The dates will be determined soon.

Mentors will meet their residents on the final day of their summer session at the celebration on Monday, July 29.

We hope you will enjoy this wonderful opportunity for teacher leadership.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vickie Person, Coordinator, GSU Alternative Certification Program

Dr. Karen Peterson, Co-Director of the Teacher Quality Partnership Grant and
Director of GSU Mentoring Initiatives