



CPEC

News Release

California Postsecondary Education Commission
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CPEC grants help address the achievement gap in middle schools

SACRAMENTO — October 8, 2009 — The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) has awarded nearly \$6 million in grants to help middle school teachers address the racial/ethnic achievement gap among students. Grants were awarded to six partnerships of universities and K-12 school districts.

The goal of the 2009 Achievement Gap Initiative is to use professional development programs at middle schools that aim to close racial and ethnic achievement gaps. The programs will also address achievement gap factors such as poverty, gender and disability, and the specific needs of English language learners. University faculty from schools of education and subject matter departments will work with their partner school districts to improve the content knowledge and effectiveness of middle school teachers. The grants require a rigorous evaluation to demonstrate how these projects affect student achievement.

“If we want our children to be college and career ready, the higher education community must be engaged in the battle to narrow, and eventually eliminate, the achievement gap,” said CPEC Executive Director Karen Humphrey. “Teachers and faculty with strong content knowledge and effective teaching practices can help every student realize their educational potential.”

Over the past two decades, CPEC has awarded more than 200 ITQ grants totaling over \$110 million. The grants are funded through the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 to provide high-quality professional development to the K-12 system under the collaborative guidance of a regional university.

Commission Chair John Perez said, “California’s students need the same opportunities in school regardless of their ethnicity, economics, gender, or other differences. The ITQ partnerships will provide educators at all levels with the tools they can use to achieve this goal.”

More information on the Improving Teacher Quality program is online at www.cpec.ca.gov/federalprograms/teacherquality.asp. Information on each program is on Page 2.

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2009 Improving Teacher Quality Grants

University of Southern California – School of Education and Engineering, School of Earth Sciences
Paramount Unified School District

Project: Middle School Literacy Achievement in Health, Math, and Science – \$993,735

News Release: http://www.cpec.ca.gov/PressRelease/Press2009_10_08_CAG_USC.pdf

CSU Northridge – School of Secondary Education, College of Science and Mathematics
Los Angeles Unified School District

Project: Student Improvement Through Teacher Empowerment – \$1,000,000

News Release: http://www.cpec.ca.gov/PressRelease/Press2009_10_08_CAG_CSUN.pdf

University of the Pacific – School of Education, Physics Department

Marysville Unified School District

Project: Reading Plus Writing Equals Science Success – \$999,820

News Release: http://www.cpec.ca.gov/PressRelease/Press2009_10_08_CAG_UOP.pdf

UC Los Angeles – School of Education and Information Studies, Division of Social Sciences

Los Angeles Unified School District

Project: Getting to the Core of the Content: Organizing Learning to Close the Gap – \$1,000,952

News Release: http://www.cpec.ca.gov/PressRelease/Press2009_10_08_CAG_UCLA.pdf

CSU Sacramento – College of Education, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Sacramento City Unified School District

Project: Science, Math, Assessment, and Learner Development Institute – \$986,120

News Release: http://www.cpec.ca.gov/PressRelease/Press2009_10_08_CAG_CSUS.pdf

UC Riverside – Graduate School of Education, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

CSU San Bernardino – College of Natural Sciences

San Bernardino City Unified School District

Project: Inland Area TEAMS (Teaching Excellence and Achievement in Mathematics and Science) – \$999,033

News Release: http://www.cpec.ca.gov/PressRelease/Press2009_10_08_CAG_UCR.pdf

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission's primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.