



CPEC | News Release

California Postsecondary Education Commission
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USC–Paramount school district partnership receives \$993,735 to address achievement gap

SACRAMENTO — October 7, 2009 — The University of Southern California, in partnership with Paramount Unified School District, has won funding for a professional development project to help improve elementary school teaching in science and math. The partnership has been awarded a four-year Improving Teacher Quality grant of \$993,735 by the California Postsecondary Education Commission.

The goal of CPEC's 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 other achievement gap factors such as poverty, gender and disability, and the specific needs of English language learners.

University faculty from education and subject matter departments will work with their partner school districts to improve the effectiveness and content knowledge of middle school teachers. The grants require a rigorous evaluation to show how these projects affect student achievement. The other 2009 grantees are the University of the Pacific, UC Los Angeles, UC Riverside, CSU Northridge and CSU Sacramento.

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

More information on this project is at www.cpec.ca.gov/federalprograms/project09-605.asp.

CPEC has also recently awarded \$2 million to UCLA and UC Davis for grant projects to help small teams of K-12 teachers develop their own professional development projects. In the regional Teacher-Based Reform program, T-BAR, the universities serve as master grantees. UCLA and UC Davis will select 24 teams of three to five teachers from high-need schools and administer the T-BAR projects. More information about the T-BAR program is at www.cpec.ca.gov/federalprograms/2009tbar.asp.

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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.