



CPEC

News Release

California Postsecondary Education Commission
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$1 million state grants will help teachers improve student achievement

Teams of teachers to work with university experts, creating professional development projects specifically for the needs of their local schools

SACRAMENTO — August 3, 2010 — The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) has awarded over \$2 million for innovative grant projects to help teams of K-12 teachers develop their own projects to enhance teaching and learning at their schools. The University of California, Riverside, and California State University, Chico, will each receive master grants of \$1,010,000 to manage the three-year Teacher-Based Reform (T-BAR) Program. These Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) grants enable university faculty to work with 24 teams of three to five teachers from high-need schools to improve their teaching skills and content knowledge, improving student performance.

The universities will select teacher teams to administer T-BAR projects. UC Riverside will work in Riverside, Orange, Imperial, and San Diego counties. CSU Chico will cover inland areas from San Bernardino County to Sacramento County and northward, and will team with CSU Fresno, CSU San Bernardino, and CSU Bakersfield. UC Los Angeles and UC Davis were awarded T-BAR grants in 2009, and will now have two additional partners for teacher teams, providing statewide coverage.

“It is vital that higher education institutions are partners in improving teacher quality, both in the teacher preparation phase and throughout teachers’ careers,” said CPEC Executive Director Karen Humphrey. “The T-BAR grants allow teachers, working with university experts, to assess their own needs and design good professional development they can eventually share with their whole school.”

The grants are funded through the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The T-BAR grants are a new approach from the standard ITQ projects, which are not targeted to small teacher teams. T-BAR funds teams of teachers to help create professional development adapted to their schools, planting the seeds for eventual whole-school reform. Similar projects funded in the 1990s worked well, but

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did not include the rigorous evaluation that is now required to show how the teacher professional development affects student achievement.

Commission Chair John Perez, a retired teacher, said, “During my years at CPEC, I have been impressed with the quality of the ITQ program. I wish that this kind of professional development had been available when I was teaching. ITQ is a holistic approach — it supports developing and retaining effective teachers, and T-BAR is a very positive effort to engage teachers in their own professional development.”

More information is at www.cpec.ca.gov/federalprograms/teacherquality.asp.

T-BAR contact information

These individuals are project directors in charge of administering the T-BAR grant projects. Please contact them to schedule media interviews.

Information on CPEC’s Improving Teacher Quality program and T-BAR grant projects is available at www.cpec.ca.gov/federalprograms/teacherquality.asp.

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission was established in 1974 as the state’s higher education coordinating agency. CPEC conducts research and advises the Governor, legislators, and other agencies on higher education issues. CPEC maintains the state’s most comprehensive higher education database.