



Branch Alliance
for Educator Diversity

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity (BranchED) National Teacher Preparation Transformation Center's Six Cohort 2 Partner Remarks

Alabama A&M University

Alabama A&M University Dean of Education, Humanities and Behavioral Sciences Lena Walton, Ph.D., "We believe in access and opportunity for all who aspire to enter post-secondary education ... We train diverse teachers to meet the needs of diverse populations in the PK-12 schools ... Their program focuses on equity and diversity matters, including preparing candidates how to navigate and address concerns of equity and diversity within PK-12 schools ... As part of our equity and diversity push in our college, we applied for and received state funding for a 'Males of Alabama Education Program,' which is currently preparing a cadre of male teachers to teach in Alabama schools ... Notably, the superintendent from our partner school district is a recent graduate from our programs here in the EPP."

Mount Saint Mary's University

"We are grateful to be working on a project that is passion driven. So much of what we do for the state is compliance driven, Mount Saint Mary's University's Department of Education Chair and Professor Carol Johnston, Ph.D., said. "There's a difference between when you are doing the important work of making sure that you are meeting standards and compliance, and when you're working purely because you really feel that passion of what the outcome will be and how that will affect the K-12 students in your community."

Texas A&M International University

Texas A&M International University's College of Education Dean James O'Meara, Ed.D., said, "We will measure the success of our transformation against the following four outcomes: the quality of integrated student support provided to our candidates; the volume of expanded and enriched learning time beyond the traditional curriculum; the frequency of family and community engagement; and the impact of collaborative leadership and practices."

University of La Verne

“Our institution is uniquely positioned to take full advantage of this new partnership with Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity and our community partner, Pomona Unified School District,” University of La Verne’s Dean of LaFetra College of Education Kimberly White-Smith, Ed.D., said, adding, “We hope to be an example of how removing barriers and obstacles that disproportionately impact our educators of color will provide a pipeline of excellence from and back into our communities that we serve.”

University of La Verne Professor and Director of Teacher Education Betina Hsieh, Ph.D., said, “There is still a large demographic diversity gap between the teachers that serve K-12 students and the students themselves. Research has shown that students of all racial and ethnic backgrounds view teachers of color favorably, and students of color perform better when they have teachers of color. We are excited to break down some of those barriers in teacher education by providing multiple pathways to subject-matter competencies, creating opportunities for mentorships with successful teachers of color, finding sustainable funding sources to support our student success, and supporting our faculty to model and engage in culturally affirming, responsive and sustaining practices in teacher education.”

Pomona Unified School District (University of La Verne Partner)

Pomona Unified School District Deputy Superintendent Darren Knowles, “As an alumnus from the University of La Verne, we’ve done great work together in the past and we have always worked to build a better future for our kids here in Pomona Unified School District.”

Virginia State University

“At VSU, we pride ourselves in being an opportunity University that provides access to students from all backgrounds to attain high academic achievement and employment success rates. We are dedicated to implementing sustainable, quality programming at a scale that will produce better-prepared teachers to positively impact outcomes for Black, Latino, and low-income students,” Virginia State University College of Education Dean, Willis Walter, Ph.D. said. “This organization provides a supportive framework that is designed to strengthen the quality of data management systems and increase teacher educators’ knowledge in practice-based approaches and inclusive pedagogy. This supports VSU’s goal to provide transformative opportunities to all of our students.”

West Texas A&M University

“The support of BranchEd ... will advance the mission of WTAMU and its educator preparation program in meaningful ways,” West Texas A&M University College of Education and Social Sciences Dean Eddie Henderson, Ed.D., J.D., said, adding, “Commensurately, participation in the Teacher Preparation Transformation Center community will provide WTAMU a unique opportunity to benefit from the shared expertise, experiences, and resources of a broader constituency of experts in the fields of transformation, equity, and educator preparation.

Through our participation in the community of thought partners, the high quality and equitable educator preparation program at WTAMU will be elevated to a national forum.”

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