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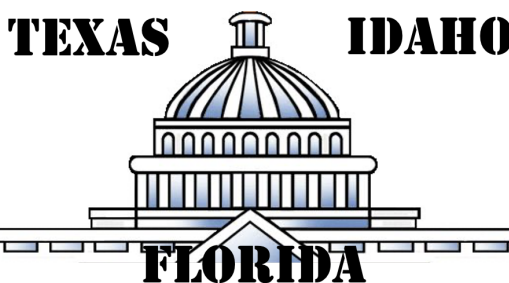
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# BranchED Bulletin

May 14, 2021

## Lawmakers in Several States Launch Assault on Discussions about Race in Education Spaces

Idaho lawmakers recently moved through their legislature a bill ([HB-377](#)) to prohibit public schools, including public universities, from teaching that "any sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin is inherently superior or inferior." Proponents of that bill contend that critical race theory exacerbate divisions on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, religion, and other such characteristics. Another bill ([HB-233](#)) in Florida would require public colleges and universities to survey students, faculty and staff about their beliefs. This "survey" is part of a measure that allows higher education officials from limiting speech considered "uncomfortable, disagreeable or offensive." Most recently, the Texas House of Representatives passed a bill ([HB-3979](#)) intended to quash the teaching of critical race theory. One of the bill's sponsors, Rep. Steve Toth (R-The Woodlands) said that his bill was about teaching racial harmony by telling the truth that everyone is created equal in God's eyes as well as the founding documents.





## UTRGV's Step Up Program Gives Student Teachers an Experience Edge

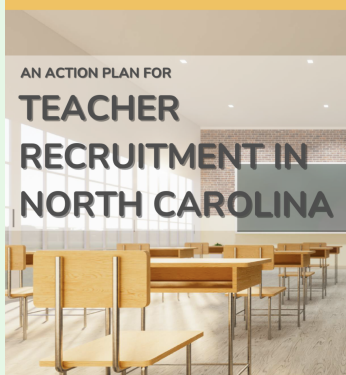
How can educator preparation programs (EPPs) field experiences be structured to give their teacher candidates a competitive edge? The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) Dean of the College of Education and P-16 Integration **Alma Rodriguez** explained how when she recently served as a panelist for Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity's "Reconceptualizing the Future of Field Experiences" webinar. Although the state of Texas only requires a semester of student teaching, UTRGV's **Step Up Program** gives candidates a full year of field experience through its partnerships with Brownsville ISD, Harlingen CISD, Los Fresnos CISD and McAllen ISD. According to Dr. Rodriguez and elementary school Principal **Rosemary Leal**, this full-year experience establishes graduating educators with the skillset of a second-year teacher rather than a first year teacher. The full-year experience with the school districts also helps to create a valuable "community of learners." To learn more about the program, [CLICK THE VIDEO ABOVE](#).



## Government's American Families Plan Includes Significant Funding for Higher Education

The ambitious \$1.8 trillion American Families Plan (AFP) contains funding for education from additional paid preschool to post-secondary, as well as funding specific to minority serving institutions (MSIs). The plan will invest \$85 billion in Pell Grants for students who are seeking a certificate or a two- to four-year degree, \$62 billion on evidence based strategies to strengthen completion and retention rates at community colleges, and \$46 billion in MSIs. Another \$9 billion will train, equip and diversify American teachers, according to the AFP Fact Sheet. [\[LEARN MORE\]](#) You also may read the full text of President Joe Biden's April 28, 2021, address to the nation: [\[BIDEN ADDRESS\]](#)

## NC STRIDE



### BEST NC Produces an Action Plan for Teacher Recruitment in North Carolina

Business for Educational Success and Transformation North Carolina (BEST NC) has created and released a comprehensive plan, [NC Stride: An Action Plan for Teacher Recruitment in North Carolina](#), for next steps to ensure that North Carolina attracts high-quality teaching candidates for its state's hardest-to-staff subject areas and schools. BranchED's President/CEO **Cassandra Herring, Ph.D.**, and **Senior VP Patricia "Patty" Alvarez McHatton, Ph.D.**, participated on the NC Stride working group. BEST NC

provides step-by-step recommendations for teacher recruitment on the organization's microsite for NC Stride. Be sure to download your copy. [[LEARN MORE](#)]

### Clark Atlanta University Launches Incubator to Develop Future Leaders for Historically Black Colleges and Universities

The HBCU Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) announced by Clark Atlanta University and other higher education stakeholders will serve as an incubator for recruiting and developing future presidents at for more than 100 HBCUs. Touted as a first-of-its-kind program, the ELI will offer a curriculum designed to immerse candidates into such critical areas as operations, budgeting, alumni relations, fundraising and development, board governance and human resources. [[Learn More](#)]



## The Right Kind of Professional Development Can Make a Difference in Educator Preparation Teams

**M. del Carmen Salazar****E. Williams****S. Rabkin**

## **The Nuts & Bolts Webinar Series Continues ... Take a New Look at Assessment**

How do you envision the future of assessment? BranchED's "Reconceptualizing the Future of Assessment" webinar will give you insight. It is part of the Nuts & Bolts webinar series, which are designed to synergistically engage educators toward the reconceptualization of teacher prep, field experiences, assessment, and partnership. Guiding participants through the process will be expert panelists, including [Dr. Maria del Carmen Salazar](#); Professor of Curriculum and Instruction and Teacher Education in the Morgridge College of Education at the University of Denver; [Dr. Ereka Williams](#), Associate Dean of Education, Quality Assurance and Community Engagement at Winston Salem State University; and [Dr. Sasha Rabkin](#), Partnership Director at EOS. In each webinar, panelists will critically discuss the urgency of the opportunity and shared responsibility to transform teacher education by responding to the following questions:

1. COVID has allowed us to clearly see the inequities that have perennially existed in education. What changes to teacher preparation are essential to improve equity and access in education?
2. What future do you envision for teacher education?
3. What actions can the participants of this webinar take to build this new future?

What: **Reconceptualizing the Future of Assessment**

Time: **Noon – 1:00 p.m.**

Date: **Wednesday, June 16, 2021**

Format: **Virtual - Zoom**

[\*\*REGISTER NOW!\*\*](#)



## NOT YOUR AVERAGE INSTITUTE - Make Plans to Attend BranchED's 2021 Open Educational Resource Summer Institute

BranchED's 2021 Open Educational Resource (OER) Summer Institute is just around the corner. The purpose of this initiative is to provide teacher educators at MSI educator preparation programs (EPPs) access to high-quality, openly licensed teaching resources. Participants of the OER Summer Institute will be guided through the development of OER instructional materials for use in Fall foundational or subject-area teacher preparation courses. Successful completion includes an honorarium. [\[LEARN MORE\]](#)

The event launches with a 2-day workshop from noon – 2 p.m. CT on June 8-9, followed by a four-week content development program with weekly check-in meetings ending Friday, July 9, 2021. [\[APPLY NOW\]](#)

**The deadline to apply is 11:59 pm CT Friday, May 21, 2021.** Please direct inquiries about the OER Summer Institute to [Aubree Evans](#), director of professional learning.

*We invite you to apply, and please share this opportunity with your  
EPP and content-area colleagues!*



### Twitter Chat Celebrated Teacher Data Literacy Week

Ever wonder how teacher data literacy can empower teachers to support students with disabilities and other

groups of students? Enlightening responses to that question and others were offered by experts in the field when the [Data Quality Campaign](#) and BranchED hosted a Twitter Chat for Teacher Data Literacy Week using the primary hashtag #TDLMatters. Get informed about teacher data literacy by reviewing the [Twitter Chat at #TDLMatters](#).

Follow BranchED's social media network and join in the MSI conversations.  
Hashtags: [#EducatorDiversity](#) [#Diversity](#) [#MSIs](#) [#DEI](#) [#TeachersOfColor](#) [#HigherEd](#)

