



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF LEGISLATION AND CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

Reference Grant Award Number: #P044A210083
KANSAS

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY has been selected to receive funding under the TALENT SEARCH PROGRAM (84.044A). This grant will be in the amount of \$284,588.00 for the first budget period (09/01/2021 through 08/31/2022). It is anticipated that the grant will be for a total of 5 year(s). Please see the attached abstract for a brief description of the activities that will be funded under this grant.

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Purpose of the Program TALENT SEARCH

The Talent Search program identifies and assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to and complete their postsecondary education. The program publicizes the availability of financial aid and assist participant with the postsecondary application process. Talent Search also encourages persons who have not completed education programs at the secondary or postsecondary level to enter or reenter and complete postsecondary education. The goal of Talent Search is to increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in and complete their postsecondary education.

Abstract

The proposed TRIO Talent Search (TS) project works with 513 eligible participants (two-thirds being potential first-generation students meeting federal low-income criteria) and is hosted by Emporia State University (ESU), a four-year public postsecondary institution in Emporia, KS. The project operates from three offices, one located at ESU and offices embedded in the schools in Leavenworth and Atchison, KS. The Emporia and Atchison offices serve participants from one high (9th – 12th grades) and one middle school (6th – 8th grades). The Leavenworth office services participants from one high (9th – 12th grades), one middle (7th-8th grades), and one intermediate (6th grade) school. The proposal request is for funding for the five-year period, from 2021-2026.

All participant services have a direct connection to one or more standardized objective(s) to ensure the focus of the project positively affects student outcomes and achievements. Services and enrichment activities encourage learning and motivation so participants successfully matriculate through middle school into high school, graduate from high school, and enroll in and complete a postsecondary education program. The project offers grade-level workshops to participants on the topics of building college and academic credentials, developing financial literacy and decision-making skills, determining postsecondary plans and educational fit, fostering non-cognitive skill development, and preparing for success in a diverse, global society. Participants also receive advice in secondary school course selection, assistance in preparing for college entrance exams and completing college admission and financial aid applications, career exploration, and opportunities for college visits. Academic tutoring in group and one-on-one formats are offered at each site to assist participants in completing a rigorous secondary school program of study and improving standardized test scores. The project is evaluated on a continual basis to determine how to best meet the needs of participants and to measure the effectiveness of services.

Additionally, this project proposal is addressing Competitive Preference Priority 1: Fostering Knowledge and promoting the Development of Skills that Prepare Students to be Informed, Thoughtful, and Productive Individuals and Citizens; Competitive Preference Priority 2: Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math (STEM) Education, with a particular focus on Compute Science; and Competitive Preference Priority 3: Applications that Demonstrate a Rationale.