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Accelerated Alternative Licensure STEM Program

Background

The College of Education at the University of New Mexico offers an innovative residency teacher preparation initiative funded by the NM Department of Public Education to address the teacher shortage in the field of science and mathematics at the middle and high school level.

The Accelerated Alternative Licensure Program (AALP) recruits highly motivated STEM professionals and veterans into the middle and secondary education to become licensed teachers in the field of STEM education. This program has an intensive field component, supported by course work, and intense mentoring and supervision from faculty in the College of Education and Master Teachers from the Albuquerque Public School who serve as school/university partners with this initiative.

The program provides student scholarships for tuition, books, and fees; intensive field- experiences; master teacher supervision and mentoring; immediate participation as co-teachers; excellent content and curriculum preparation; mentoring and coaching during and after program completion; national/ regional networking opportunities; and job placement in Albuquerque School District upon completion of licensure program.

Students admitted into the AALP program meet all requirements for admission into the University and the College of Education Secondary Education Program.

Elements of the Program

- Students are part of a clinical field-based cohort
- Mentoring is unique and intense by teacher mentor and university supervisors
- Each student is placed immediately with a Master Teacher of Mathematics or Science for a full year of residency to complete student teaching experiences in the classroom
- Classroom assignments are implemented immediately by students and support provided by the Cooperating Master Teacher with instant feedback
- All courses required for licensure are taken during the academic year plus summer
- Cooperating Master Teachers meet monthly with university faculty to discuss issues, learn new ideas, plan, share issues and successes mentoring student candidates
- Opportunity for all students to come together at the end of the year with cooperating teachers to share experiences and learning

Accomplishments

- Twelve students have completed the Accelerated Alternative Licensure Program with PED funding for two years.
- Students have passed the required assessments for state licensure.
- Twelve new mathematics or science teachers are now teaching in local school districts - addressing the goal to help decrease the shortage of math and science teachers.