

Congratulations!

The University of South Florida has been awarded the second **Job-embedded Principal Preparation Program** Race to the Top grant. The Department of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies (DELPS) at the University of South Florida (USF), in partnership with Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Polk County School Districts, will develop a joint 25-month, collaborative, job-embedded principal preparation program that prepares 100 individuals to acquire dual Level I/Level II certification. The primary goal for the DELPS accelerated program, called **The University of South Florida-Gulf Coast Partnership for a Job-Embedded Principal Preparation Program**, is to prepare high performing leaders for high-need schools who will increase administrator, teacher, and staff effectiveness while raising academic achievement for all students.

The Department congratulates USF, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Polk Counties for their innovative thinking in redesigning their Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Program to create a job-embedded model to develop effective leaders that will appropriately use assessment data to align curriculum with Florida Principal Leadership Standards (FPLS), effective instructional practices, and student learning needs. Additionally, this program will implement the new Teacher Development and Evaluation system mandates under SB 736 that leads to increases in teacher capacity, student learning, and implications for the management of human capital.

The USF/GCP collaborative job-embedded principal preparation accelerated program requires both a one-year full time administrative internship and nine-month assistant principal residency in Gulf Coast districts' high-needs schools. The program is designed to prepare highly qualified individuals for leadership careers in high-needs public schools using school-based administrators as mentors.

The USF/GCP program intends to recruit and select 100 outstanding interns and residents. Forty (40) interns who have a minimum of five years teaching or related instructional leadership experience, who have demonstrated successes in improving student achievement, and who have a commitment to lead in high-needs schools will be drawn from participating Gulf Coast school districts. In addition to these intern recruits, sixty (60) additional assistant principal residents (i.e., 20 per year) will be jointly selected annually from current pools of Level I certified assistant principals in the participating GCP districts.

The program curriculum utilizes problem-based learning strategies. Resident interns will be assessed on the Florida Principal Leadership Standards (FPLS) and create an internship and electronic portfolio detailing student improvement results and experiences related to the FPLS. Other project requirements include system and school-based case studies as artifacts of learning and action research projects presented at Inquiry Institutes. Mentor principals, intern/resident supervisors, and district leaders will provide continuous feedback and induction support throughout the program.

As a result of the implementation of the USF/GCP, a network of new leaders and experienced mentors will be established that can implement a new program of preparation across four partnering counties.