

Glassboro Public Schools



MEMO

To: Dr. Mark Silverstein, Superintendent of Schools

From: Dr. Robert Preston, Chief Academic Officer

Date: 10/10/2022

Re: Rowan College of South Jersey NSF Grant

Recommend Board approve participation in the National Science Foundation (NSF) grant that RCSJ is pursuing. By signing on to be a participating district in the grant, our students, specifically those underrepresented in the African American and Latino populations, would benefit directly. Per the letter, several specific benefits would be the following "creation of a STEM summer camp for middle and high school students, provide professional development on teaching-learning and academic/student support strategies, provide a Summer Bridge program for recent high school graduates, coordinate advising with guidance counselors for dual-enrolled students, and host Transfer Day opportunities. This would be no cost to the district. Attached is the MOU (attachment).



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

RCSJ.edu

Dear Dr. Mark Silverstein:

As a fellow educator, I am pleased to extend an opportunity to benefit from grant funding offered by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

This proposal is made in recognition of a joint mission to uplift and provide a future for our youth, especially those who have historically been disenfranchised and marginalized. Indeed, this was an integral reason behind Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) incorporating a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Action Plan into the College's overarching strategic direction and vision for the future.

With this strategic thought in mind, RCSJ has partnered with the Paul T. Bucci Group to acquire a Racial Equity in STEM Grant from the NSF as yet another way to cultivate a more welcoming and inclusive environment for our students. Currently, NSF seeks to increase the representation of African American and Latino populations in fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics where they are largely underrepresented.

RCSJ, as a promising applicant for this groundbreaking grant, would upon award offer this benefit to qualifying students attending on either of its campuses, as well as to secondary education students in the Gloucester and Cumberland county region. As an example of the benefit, and specific to your school district, RCSJ plans to provide diverse services that include, but are not limited to the following: creation of a STEM summer camp for middle and high school students, provide professional development on teaching-learning and academic/student support strategies, provide a Summer Bridge program for recent high school graduates, coordinate advising with guidance counselors for dual-enrolled students, and host Transfer Day opportunities. Overall, the relationship proposed would go a long way to nurture and develop qualifying students from within secondary educational systems to advance to post-secondary institutions and onward to fulfilling professional career opportunities and life sustaining incomes.

Please review the attached memorandum of understanding (MOU) to see how RCSJ envisions a relationship with your district and our four-year university partners that is structured to benefit your students. If you see its potential benefit, please sign the MOU. We will provide development updates as we proceed to apply for and look to secure this life changing NSF funding opportunity. We hope to have signatures collected by **October 14, 2022**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Keating".



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

Rowan College of South Jersey

and

District High Schools

and

Partner Universities

Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) is partnering with district high schools and universities to establish a collaboration in support of the proposed *Racial Equity along STEM Pathways* project. If awarded, this project would be funded by the National Science Foundation. The project targets African American and Hispanic students at the high school, community college, and university levels. The purpose is to create a STEM pathway that extends from high school to community college to university, as well as to support the development of STEM identity and STEM student success of African American and Hispanic students along the pathway.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to identify the partner roles of high schools, RCSJ, and universities and to affirm their commitment to work cooperatively for the successful execution of the *Racial Equity along STEM Pathways* project. Responsibilities of each partner are outlined in the following sections:

I. Partner high schools will:

- a.** Measure the number and percentage of African American and Hispanic students who complete the following courses with a grade of C or better: Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Statistics;
- b.** Facilitate career exploration with African American and Hispanic students and promote STEM opportunities;
- c.** Promote STEM dual-enrollment/dual-credit course opportunities and facilitate registration, particularly among African American and Hispanic students;
- d.** Advise students interested in STEM to complete college-level math for the STEM Pathway while in high school, through dual-enrollment;
- e.** Invite RCSJ STEM Ambassadors (*i.e.*, African American and Hispanic RCSJ students majoring in STEM) to visit K-12 classrooms to demonstrate scientific experiments, build excitement about STEM, and model STEM as a viable pathway for Students of Color;
- f.** Promote RCSJ's *Explore STEM* summer camp and other STEM activities sponsored by RCSJ for African American and Hispanic middle school or high school students;

- g. Promote RCSJ's STEM Summer Bridge programs to African American and Hispanic students as they approach high school graduation, as an opportunity for academic and personal development; and
- h. Promote and track participation of high school faculty in RCSJ-sponsored professional development on teaching-learning strategies and academic and student support strategies for African American and Hispanic student success.

II. RCSJ will:

- a. Expand STEM dual-enrollment opportunities;
- b. Coordinate advising with guidance counselors for dual-enrolled students;
- c. Launch a new RCSJ STEM Ambassadors program, visiting K-12 classrooms to demonstrate scientific experiments, build excitement about STEM, and model STEM as a viable pathway for Students of Color;
- d. Coordinate a new *Explore STEM* summer camp and other STEM activities for African American and Hispanic middle school or high school students;
- e. Provide STEM Summer Bridge programming for African American and Hispanic students who recently graduated from high school;
- f. Provide professional development on teaching-learning strategies and academic and student support strategies for African American and Hispanic student success;
- g. Organize university visits and STEM lab tours for RCSJ STEM courses;
- h. Coordinate RCSJ faculty-led research for students, in collaboration with university faculty;
- i. Host transfer activities, such as Transfer Day, through the University Center;
- j. Introduce STEM transfer students to new university advisors and, with the student, facilitate the "hand-off" from the RCSJ advisor to the university advisor; and
- k. Provide work-based learning opportunities, with experiences integrated in RCSJ courses and delivered through internships.

III. Partner universities will:

- a. Provide campus visits for faculty and students in RCSJ STEM courses by: inviting them to sit-in on STEM lectures, leading tours of STEM labs, and facilitating interactive STEM activities for students during the visit;
- b. Provide university faculty-led STEM research in collaboration with RCSJ STEM faculty and students;
- c. Participate in transfer events, such as Transfer Day, to share information about the university and recruit RCSJ STEM students—particularly those who are African American or Hispanic—for university admission to STEM programs;
- d. Provide intrusive advising, academic support, and wraparound student support to African American and Hispanic students along the university portion of their STEM Pathways;
- e. Facilitate STEM career development, work-based learning opportunities (e.g., internships), and job search assistance for African American and Hispanic students; and
- f. Track STEM bachelor's degree enrollment of African American and Hispanic RCSJ transfer students, and report that data to RCSJ.

This MoU will take effect upon a *Racial Equity in STEM Education* grant awarded to RCSJ by the National Science Foundation. In the event the grant amount is less than requested, RCSJ

reserves the right to negotiate a reduction in services and amend the subaward to comply with the reduced grant award amount.

The MoU will terminate at the end of the grant period of performance. Alternatively, any MoU partner may terminate its participation without cause, upon receipt of a 30-day written notice which shall be delivered by hand or certified mail to the respective signatory listed below.

In the event of cancellation, subaward funding for costs incurred will cease as of the date of cancellation.

Signatures

The undersigned parties agree to the contents of this MoU.



9.29.2022

Date

Frederick Keating, Ed.D.
President
Rowan College of South Jersey

Date

Dr. Mark Silverstein
Superintendent
Glassboro School District