

# Volusia Center for Excellence in Education

*Stetson University, Bethune-Cookman University, Volusia County Schools & New Teacher Center*



# Introduction of Partners

**Bethune-Cookman University**

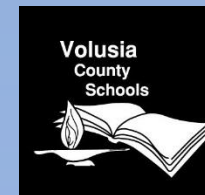
**New Teacher Center**

**Stetson University**

**Volusia County Schools**



**STETSON  
UNIVERSITY**



# Abstract

- Volusia Center for Excellence in Education (VCEE) is a collaborative teacher preparation program developed by four partners: 1) Stetson University (SU), a private, liberal arts university in central Florida; 2) Bethune-Cookman University (BCU), a historically black college in Daytona Beach; 3) Volusia County Schools (VCS), the state's 13th largest school district and a high need Local Education Agency; and 4) New Teacher Center (NTC), a national nonprofit organization working with VCS. VCEE will meet a strong need for deeper core subject knowledge in Volusia County's pre-service K-5 teachers. Both SU and BCU will transition all of their programs for preparation of elementary school teachers to the new self-sustaining VCEE model aligned to Volusia County Schools' FL DOE-approved instructional framework – Volusia System for Empowering Teachers (VSET).

# Project Need

- There is a strong need in Volusia County for this innovative VCEE project that aligns all teacher candidate performance evaluations, clinical training, and instructional framework training and evaluation with the FLDOE approved evaluation system for Volusia County Schools.
- FLDOE FTCE exam results for both the General Knowledge assessment and the Elementary Education K-6 Subject Area exams show the significant need for additional content development for our elementary education majors.
- Both institutions have seen a troubling recent increase in the number of students failing these exams on their first attempt.



# VCEE Goals

- **Accelerate the effectiveness of beginning elementary educators by deepening their content knowledge in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies.**
- **Increase the first-attempt pass rate for FLDOE FTCE exams for VCEE project completers by deepening candidate content knowledge through in-depth coursework and program requirements.**
- **Improve and enhance pre-service teachers' culminating field experience.**
- **Train University Faculty Supervisors, Cooperating Teachers, and Peer Assistance Review Teachers in the New Teacher Center's research-based approach for instructional effectiveness.**
- **Strengthen partnerships between Stetson University, Bethune-Cookman University and Volusia County Schools by using VCS evaluation system for pre-service teachers.**



# Core Content Modules

- **Collaboration between Core Content Faculty Expert, K-12 Curriculum Expert, Teacher Education Faculty Consultant, and Instructional Designers**
- **Content experts will be leading the creation of 12 modules in the 4 subject areas**
- **The highest level of content knowledge preparation for Bethune-Cookman University and Stetson University Education majors**
- **Once modules are completed they will be available for replication on the VCEE website**

# Demonstration Teaching Classrooms

Identification and development of 8 Demonstration Teaching Classrooms.

- Specifically targeted and trained VCS elementary teachers with specialization in mathematics, science, social studies, and English language arts have their classrooms equipped with audio/video hardware and software (Bluetooth & dedicated Lenova Nova laptops) to allow for real time demonstration teaching along with the capacity to record and analyze best practices in teaching core content at the elementary level.



# Impact on Student Learning

- The VCEE partnership develops unique experiences that not only improve the pre-service teachers' advanced content knowledge and skills embedded in research-based best practices, but provide higher evaluation ratings on the beginning teacher metrics correlated to increased student achievement.
- The intent is to evaluate the effectiveness of these methodologies and strategies using an experimental design.
- Methodologies and evaluation tools were closely monitored for inter-rater reliability and inter-rater agreement.
- The Teacher Induction Tools from the New Teacher Center and Volusia's Instructional Management System serve as data repositories for progress monitoring reports.




# Student Achievement Model

- This project will calculate the pre-service teacher's impact on student learning during the time when VCEE pre-service teachers are in the classrooms, supporting the teachers and working with students.
- VCS use a student management system to monitor student progress on district formative and summative assessments throughout the year, checking student mastery of the Florida Standards.
- Other strategies for determining the impact on student learning were formally determined by informal surveys of students, parents, cooperating teachers, university supervisors, PARs, and administrators.

# Improved Clinical Practice and Educator Preparation


- The project will improve the clinical part of educator preparation by placing “practice at the center of teacher preparation”.
- New Teacher Center training and certification will extend the instructional mentoring and coaching support Volusia has been implementing for new teachers to now include pre-service teachers.
- VCS has been utilizing the NTC model for developing the skills of Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) coaches to serve as agents of change with their new teachers.
- This has been accomplished through ongoing and rigorous professional development of PAR coaches to provide timely, developmentally appropriate coaching and feedback to new teachers with the ultimate aim of improving their practice and the learning of their students.



# **New Teachers**

## **Ready and Excellent on Day One**

- **New Teacher Center Training for Volusia County Schools cooperating teachers and university faculty**
- **Demonstration classrooms in VCS**
- **Danielson Framework training to university faculty by VCS professionals**
- **VCS PARS support clinical field experience**
- **Pre-service teachers participating in VCS pre-planning**
- **Aligning Stetson University and Bethune-Cookman University evaluation methods with VCS**



# **New Teacher Training and Certification For PARs in Leadership Positions**

- **Program Sustainability and Capacity in training**
- **Provide training and support to University Faculty, Interns and their Supervising Teachers**
- **Enhance the PAR training by adding year 2 mentoring academies**
- **New devices for all PARS for evaluation and online mentoring tools**
- **Training opportunities for supervising teachers, providing substitute teachers when needed**

# Sustainability and Replication

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
<b>Collaboration, Planning, Consultation for Stetson University, Bethune-Cookman University, Volusia County Schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NTC provides up to 10 days of support around collaboration, alignment with district/ university initiatives</li> <li>▪ NTC provides 4 days of Cooperating Teacher shadowing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NTC provides up to 6 days of support around collaboration, alignment with district/ university initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NTC provides 2 days of support</li> </ul>
<b>Professional Development: Cooperating Teachers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NTC provides 4 days of PD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NTC co-facilitates 4 days of PD with Volusia certified trainers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volusia licenses curriculum from NTC and facilitates with Volusia certified trainers</li> </ul>
<b>Professional Learning: University Supervisor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Optional attendance at Cooperating Teacher PD</li> <li>▪ NTC facilitates 4 ½ day learning sessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Optional attendance at Cooperating Teacher PD</li> <li>▪ NTC co-facilitates 4 ½ day learning sessions for new university supervisors/ faculty with Stetson and Bethune-Cookman leads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Optional attendance at Cooperating Teacher PD</li> <li>▪ Stetson and Bethune-Cookman licenses curriculum from NTC and facilitates with Stetson certified trainers</li> </ul>

# Performance and Accountability

<b>Project Performance and Accountability</b>			
<b>Scope of Work (see Project Design – Narrative)</b>	<b>Tasks (see Project Design – Narrative)</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Deepen K-5 pre-service teachers' knowledge in core content	Content faculty, in consultation with VCS content specialists, develop 12 content modules (6 at SU, 6 at BCU) in science, social studies, mathematics, and English language arts	Syllabi, written course materials, written lab materials, formative and summative assessments	January 2015
	Teach all 12 new content modules with academic labs (6 at SU, 6 at BCU)	Pre-service teacher post-assessment results	June 2015
	Establish required passing scores for each content module and academic lab	Revised SU and BCU catalogs	June 2015
	Identify and equip 8 demonstration classrooms with focus on mathematics, science, social studies, and English language arts (1 primary, 1 intermediate each)	Written district agreements	January 2015
Improve pre-service teachers' culminating field experiences	Modify academic calendar for student interns to require attendance at Volusia County pre-planning activities	Revised SU and BCU catalogs	June 2015
	Recruit minimum of 40 highly effective teachers to go through enhanced CTE (to be conducted during summer)	Teacher evaluation ratings, district agreements	June 2015



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# Q & A

