Project STELLAR (Supporting Teachers and Educators of English Language Learners Across Rural Settings)
For announcement purposes in Levy County

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The UF ESOL/Bilingual Education program area is pleased to announce the collaboration and partnership between the University of Florida School of Teaching and Learning and Levy County schools under a US Department of Education National Professional Development (NPD) grant, Project STELLAR.

Project STELLAR is a five-year grant-funded program that will support professional development for Levy County teachers and educators who work with, are interested in, or who will work with English language learners in the district. The main purpose of the grant is to provide high quality job-embedded professional development for rural teachers from Early-Childhood through grade 12. Teachers and educators who are selected to participate will work across two main areas: within “town-based” professional learning communities (Williston, Bronson, Chiefland) and with ongoing, weekly ESOL support specialists in early childhood, elementary, and secondary levels.

Project STELLAR will invite up to 24 teachers to participate in Phase I of this Project. After an 18 month job-embedded PD program, up to 25% of those participants will be eligible to enroll in paid graduate coursework at UF, leading to a Master’s or Educational Specialist degree (or a doctorate degree, where possible).

After 18 months, the Phase I participants will identify and work with three (3) additional teachers in their school and/or grade level cluster (Phase II participants) to build knowledge, skills, and experiences of those teachers related to instructional practices for ELLs.

Project STELLAR is also establishing a parent-home-community component and will provide parent and family support one evening per week in each of the three town communities in collaboration with the Rural Women’s Health Project (RWHP.org). RWHP will be providing social, emotional, and academic support for ESOL families.

We are extremely excited about this important grant and the significant contribution it will make to support Levy County teachers and students. For questions, please contact Maria Coady (mcoady@coe.ufl.edu)