

## **Conference on Rural English learner Education and Research (CREER)**

The CREER (meaning “to believe” in Spanish) conference brings together a group of scholars, educators (teachers and educational leaders), and community agencies from across the U.S. who work with English learners (ELs) in rural school settings. The group will share their knowledge, expertise, and practices with the explicit goal of developing high-quality educators who can improve the academic learning and well-being of rural EL students and families. This application addresses the Spencer Foundation focus area of Developing High-Quality Educators and Leaders. Currently, in the U.S. there is no national network established to support the development of high-quality educators of ELs in rural settings. Research on rural EL education is beginning to draw attention nationally (Coady et al., 2019; National Rural Education Association [NREA], 2016; Provasnik et al., 2007); however, there remains a dearth of research and tremendous variation both in terms of EL populations and of what constitutes rural educational settings (National Center for Education Statistics [NCES], 2006; Reynolds, 2017). This conference is the first of its kind to bring together three areas of education: EL education, rural education, and quality professional development for educators and leaders.