ABSTRACT: College Readiness via Rhetorical Literacies:

Expanding and Validating the Success of the Expository Reading and Writing Course

The Fresno County Office of Education (FCOE) is applying for a Validation grant for Absolute Priority 1, Implementing Internationally Benchmarked College- and Career-Ready Standards and Assessment. The proposed project, College Readiness via Rhetorical Literacies, will expand the evidence-based Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) to encompass both grades 11 and 12 and will scale ERWC implementation in California (CA) and Washington (WA). Project activities and objectives are 1) Establish leadership teams to guide ERWC scaling; 2) Revise ERWC curriculum to address all English language arts (ELA)/literacy standards for grades 11-12; 3) Refine course pedagogy, including strategies for English learners and students with disabilities; 4) Lead professional learning, including coaching, for teachers, site leaders, administrators, coaches, and facilitators; 5) Teach the course in study classrooms; 6) Evaluate project effectiveness using a multi-site cluster-randomized trial design and by examining success of ERWC replication. Expected outcomes are higher scores on the Smarter Balanced ELA/literacy summative assessments for students having participated in ERWC classrooms at grades 11-12; higher rates of passing credit-bearing English courses for students in their first semester of college; and demonstrated capacity to scale ERWC with fidelity in a new state. The project will serve 9,600 students in the evaluation; an additional 50,000 students at schools where the ERWC is already implemented will benefit from improved curriculum and teacher professional learning. Partners include the California State University, California Community Colleges, California Department of Education, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, The Foundation @ FCOE, and WestEd.