Title: Lone Star STEM Project

Type of Grant: Mid-phase

Absolute Priorities: 1, 3

Total Students: 4,000+

Grades: 9-12

Definition of High-Need Students:

- Limited English proficient

- Students with disabilities

- Students who have failed a state test

- Economically disadvantaged

- Black, Hispanic, or Native American

- Female

- First-generation college

- Rural

Project Description: The Project will demonstrate an exemplary approach to enhancing STEM education by scaling, across Texas, evidence-based College and Career Readiness Models (CCRMs) that incorporate dual enrollment, with a specific focus on computer science (CS). Key activities include: a competitive grant process for schools to implement CCRMs, with a special focus on rural schools; providing training to help teachers obtain CS skills and certification; sharing best practices via peer learning communities; and developing tools to help scale Lone Star STEM best practices within and beyond Texas.

Project Objectives/Outcomes: The Project's objectives aim to: 1) Increase access for high-need students to innovative STEM coursework, including CS, cybersecurity, and other in-demand STEM fields; 2) Increase the number of participation in STEM dual enrollment courses; 3) Improve achievement and educational outcomes for high-need students; 4) Build the capacity of schools, especially rural schools, to offer high-quality and innovative STEM coursework; and 5) Codify, disseminate, and spread Lone Star STEM best practices to other states. Outcomes include 1) Increasing the number of schools offering coursework in STEM, CS, and cybersecurity; 2) Increasing representation of high-need students enrolled in such coursework and earning credits and credentials therein; 3) Increasing student scores on STEM-related assessments; 4) Creating tools to codify and scale Lone Star STEM best practices.

Partner Organizations: Jobs for the Future, University of Texas Center for STEM Education, Texas Education Agency, American Institutes for Research