Baylor University Office of the Vice Provost for Research
Dr. Benjamin Brown IV Fund for Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Scholarship
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Principal Investigator: Karon LeCompte and Brooke Blevins
Department: Curriculum and Instruction
College/School: School of Education
Project Title: iEngage Summer Civics Institute

Abstract:

This project seeks support to conduct research in a summer civics institute we are hosting at Baylor University during Summer 2015. Co-Principal investigators in this project have a history of research in civics education with central Texas school districts and the Baylor law school. iEngage is a summer institute for students and teachers with a focus on civic engagement and service learning. iEngage is an example Baylor's Pro Futuris vision for informed engagement. This summer institute represents a school and university partnership that leverages the unique resources of each entity in addressing the lack of civic education in our community. There are possibilities for simultaneous renewal of both schools and the education of teachers through this summer institute. Specifically, this grant will provide us with the opportunity to conduct extensive research on this unique approach to civics education. Specifically, in alignment with the interdisciplinary goals of the Dr. Benjamin F. Brown Fund, our institute focuses on the interplay of practices within civil society and political authority. There is opportunity for iEngage institute students to look at the economic impact of community issues and investigate topics such as poverty and hunger as global community issues. This year's institute registration has topped 135 applications. We are targeting underserved populations in our community. We are seeking additional funds to host 40 additional students, as well as support for three graduate research assistants. Our ultimate goal is then to utilize this strong research foundation to increase our capacity for successful external funding opportunities.