

TMC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 5, 2008

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TMC Receives Research Grant

Laredo- TMC in partnership with the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston's Pediatric Center, has received a research project grant to develop an effective professional development model delivered through a lab setting for Migrant Seasonal Head Start teachers to improve school readiness for English Language Learners. The project will work collaboratively with the TMC Early Childhood Education "Center of Excellence" and the Migrant Seasonal Head Start programs in the states served by TMC in an effort to provide teachers a comprehensive professional development model.

This research grant will be used to improve service delivery models for the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start population. The research will address professional development for teachers of language minority students and determine the most effective way to train teachers that address the unique needs of this population of children. The research will address issues related to teacher training, professional development and student outcomes of language minority students.

The grant will focus on providing Migrant Seasonal Head Start teachers a lab environment with the knowledge and applied skills necessary to address the unique needs of English Language Learners in the class setting. The project will be dedicated to the development and piloting of professional development materials specifically aimed at enhancing teacher knowledge and instructional strategies for English Language Learners using a controlled environment.

Background

The National Literacy Panel on Language Minority and Youth (2006) found that professional development aimed at enhancing student outcomes for English Language Learners is most effective when it provided opportunities for hands on experience, in-class demonstrations for teachers with their own students or students who were similar to their students, and provided coaching.