

TLSI Program Variation for Lastinger Center partner schools
University of Florida
School of Teaching and Learning and the Lastinger Center for Learning

Overview

The University of Florida School of Teaching and Learning, in partnership with the Lastinger Center for Learning, has developed a unique job-embedded masters program designed to prepare reflective professionals to use and refine research-based knowledge through on-going, collaborative inquiry in order to serve diverse students, strengthen student learning, and promote school improvement. This program, *Teacher Leadership for School Improvement (TLSI)*, engages teachers in school improvement as they learn new strategies, implement the strategies in their classrooms with guided assistance, collect evidence of student learning, and then reflect on and adapt practices. The program is developed with an online platform in order to make it accessible to teachers around the state and country. However, in select partner districts in Florida, the program is used as one initiative within a school reform model in partnership with the Lastinger Center for Learning. In these partner districts, Professors-in-Residence use blended delivery to combine the best of online learning with the best of face-to-face instruction and coaching support in order to maximize teacher learning and impact on school improvement and student achievement. In addition, the Lastinger Center works with districts and foundations (such as the W.K. Kellogg Foundation) to provide full-tuition scholarships for teachers who agree to make a 5-year commitment to their schools, the majority of which serve predominately low income students. In this way, the program becomes a premier tool for principals to recruit and retain teachers in partner schools, which are typically hard-to-staff.

Unique Features

1. The program is based on the latest research on staff development, emphasizing job-embedded professional development for classroom teachers enabling enrollees in the degree program to simultaneously learn cutting edge teaching and learning theory and connect their learning immediately to their classroom practice through a variety of program requirements.
2. The program is highly individualized to target the immediate needs of classroom practitioners and entire schools.
3. Each course in the program is pragmatically designed but grounded in research and theory. Thus, teachers in each course must complete activities and create artifacts that directly impact their teaching and that align with current knowledge in the field.
4. A variety of teaching strategies are modeled for students and cutting-edge pedagogical strategies for online learning are used to foster collaboration, interaction and a sense of belonging to a learning community.
5. The program is inquiry-based, meaning that throughout the program participants learn to systematically and intentionally study their own teaching practices in order to become master teachers.

More information can be found at <http://education.ufl.edu/school/Programs/TLSI/index.html> or contact TLSI Program Coordinator, Dr. Alyson Adams, adamsa@coe.ufl.edu, 352-273-4107.

