

## The ESOL Career Ladder for Student Success (ESOL CLASS)

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*The ESOL Career Ladder for Student Success (ESOL CLASS)* project will begin in September of 2016 and will last for 5 years, ending in 2021. It will involve 60 UNF Interns that are pre-service teacher candidates from 45 schools in Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) utilizing 77 paraprofessionals. The paraprofessionals will only work with the ELL students in multiple schools.



This project addresses the chronic and growing demand for motivated and well-trained teachers who are equipped to support the ever-growing number of English Language Learners (ELLs) in Duval County Public Schools. DCPS has experienced a huge influx of ELL students while its ESOL-certified teaching force has remained very low.

This project is modeled after the Jacksonville Teacher Residency (JTR) program which prepares state licensed STEM teachers.

### **Highlights:**

- Our model will provide a career ladder for bilingual paraprofessionals who wish to complete their degrees and to meet the requirements for becoming Florida certified ESOL teachers within the district.
- A means to improve ELL student educational outcomes and to improve teacher retention.
- Over the five-year grant period, graduates from ESOL CLASS cohorts will bring to DCPS classrooms fluency in two or more languages, cultures that more closely mirror those of the students themselves.
- More importantly, the model promises to provide many of the district's most disadvantaged students—the students who are most likely to suffer academic failure, to drop out of school, and to face few rewarding job prospects—with highly skilled, passionate, and culturally competent teacher-mentors.

### **Benefits:**

- By end of year five, approximately 160 Candidates will have achieved Florida ESOL certification
- Approximately 160 Candidates employed and contracted to teach in DCPS for 2+ years
- Approximately 75 candidates accepted into the program from a variety of educational backgrounds
- Build a stronger core of Florida certified ESOL teachers within DCPS
- Students will see teachers who look like them and speak like them