



Proposal 2017-01 *Overview for Governing Board*

1. Developed by the **College of Education Research Work Group**, this proposal is for an innovation that would provide candidates (education majors) with **virtual reality simulations of working with P-12 students** very early in their preparation program.
 - a. The technology would be provided via a license with **Mursion Technology**.
2. The College of Education Work Group engaged with the University of Mississippi, Auburn University, and the University of Maine at Orono to learn from their experiences using this technology in preparing professional educators.
 - a. While this innovation is **still in its infancy in educator preparation, there is a research base that showing that computer-based simulations are a well-established feature of training programs in a wide range of professional fields**, including aviation, medicine, military, and health and safety. Studies show that simulations simultaneously engage trainees' emotional and cognitive processes.
 - b. Notably, the Mursion virtual reality platform is used for professional training and development in education, healthcare, hospitality, and corporate learning.
 - c. The UW license with Mursion would stipulate that the vendor will develop customized simulations to meet UW College of Education needs.
3. In the UW College of Education, virtual reality simulations would provide a way to allow candidates to engage P-12 students in lessons, manage classroom behaviors, and differentiate instruction to a classroom of students with differing learning styles and behaviors.
 - a. This would be a fundamental change in the College of Education's programs by providing candidates with field experiences earlier than ever before in their programs.
 - b. This innovation **would not replace existing fieldwork or student teaching placements** in UW College of Education programs. It would be additional experience for candidates.
4. This innovation would address a need articulated during the TEI Town Hall Meetings and in surveys of the Stakeholder Feedback Group in early 2017 in which Wyoming school leaders and mentor teachers stated strongly that **candidates need to have more fieldwork experience prior to student teaching** than they currently receive at UW and other educator preparation providers.
5. The Executive Director recommends:
 - a. the Daniels Fund grant be used to fund 100 percent of the 2017-2018 costs of \$68,280.00;
 - b. the Daniels Fund grant be used to fund 25 percent of the 2018-2019 costs of \$70,400.00, and the Executive Director work seek additional external innovation grant support for the remaining 75 percent; and
 - c. the Daniels Fund grant be used to fund 25 percent of the 2019-2020 costs of \$67,900.00, and the Executive Director work seek additional external innovation grant support for the remaining 75 percent.
6. **The TEI Coordinating Council recommends this proposal for approval on the conditions that the Council work closely with the Work Group**
 - a. **to develop the details of its evaluation plan and associated metrics; and**
 - b. **to establish alignment to a particular conceptual framework, e.g., Danielson, Marzano.**
7. On a side note, other Research Work Groups have expressed interest in leveraging this technology with other aspects of innovation they are currently exploring.