

Dean's Report for UFC

College of Education

November 5th, 2024

Submitted by: Pete Kelly, Ph.D.

- We are in year two of our NOYCE grant – we were awarded 1.2 million \$ for the National Science Foundation to increase the number of teachers teaching in STEM Fields. This is helping to address a critical teacher shortage in the K-12 schools in our region. There are currently 11 students in the first two years of the program.
- We are in the planning year of our new program called Call Me Mister – the purpose of CMM is to increase the number of diverse and underrepresented teachers working in our partner schools. We are deeply grateful to the state of VA for the 1.326 million dollars to develop this program. Justin Wilkes will serve as the Director of the CMM program, we will be hiring an assistant director, and we are in the process of developing a CMM Living and Learning Community. The recruiting process has begun.
- To help address the teacher shortage, we engage in extensive professional development for the many under prepared teachers working in schools today. Through our Office of Continuing Professional Studies, faculty and staff in the College of Education are conducting new teacher bootcamps, and serving as Job Coaches in our partner schools. Through our work with CPS, we are helping to improve teacher retention.
- We are in our 10th year of our VDOE grant funded Pathways to Success program. The purpose of Pathways is to build capacity for teacher mentorship within our partner schools. Research clearly demonstrates that effective mentorship for teachers in their first 2-3 years on the job helps improve teacher retention. In response to requests from our K-12 partners, we are also providing mentorship development training for early career building leaders (assistant principals and principals).