



Highlighted Project *Missouri*

Local Educator Equity Plans in Missouri

The Central Comprehensive Center (C3) at the University of Oklahoma Outreach continues to provide support to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Office of Educator Quality with onsite facilitation, peer to peer networking, and evaluation of its equity labs. The first cohort of equity labs began in January 2016. Since then, two additional annual cohorts have expanded to rural, suburban, and urban districts and schools across Missouri. A total of 21 equity labs have been conducted prior to the start of the third cohort, which began in September of 2018, with the expectation of delivering 40 more labs during the 2018-19 school year. All 567 districts statewide will have the opportunity to participate in these equity labs by Summer 2019.

Equity labs provide an interactive forum for school district leadership teams to learn about Missouri's educator equity plan, *Ensuring Equitable Access to Excellent Educators*. The labs encourage teams to explore statewide, district, and building-level data to identify root causes of local inequities of effective educator placement. Teams also build tailor-made strategies to address equity challenges and support the implementation of Missouri's educator equity plan.

A DESE area supervisor, who recently attended an equity lab, commented that the topic of equity includes more than just race but also, “. . . socio-economic status, gender, language, and so many other things.”

C3 and DESE continue to support this work by partnering with past and present key organizations that include the Center for Great Teachers and Leaders, Missouri Regional Professional Development Centers, Equitable Access Support Network, Community Training and Assistance Center, Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center, and the Regional Educational Laboratory Central.

“They [C3] have connected us with other research labs that have done more around the content itself, [and that] has been great,” said one DESE staff member.

Expected long-term outcomes include improved access to effective educators for ALL Missouri students. Click [here](#) for more information about this project or visit the Central Comprehensive Center website at www.c3ta.org to learn more about us.

