

In the fall of 2016, the Worcester Future Teachers went through a revitalization due to an EPIC (Educator Candidates in Education Preparation) Diversity Grant received by Worcester State University, Quinsigamond Community College funds, and a robust partnership with Worcester Public Schools. Prior to the EPIC funding, the Worcester Future Teachers participants met regularly, afterschool, for club meetings to discuss the teaching profession and had the opportunity to attend a week-long college campus exploration each summer. Since the fall of 2016, the Worcester Future Teachers has been transformed into the Worcester's Teacher Education Attainment Collaborative Highway (WeTEACH) initiative that includes college counselling, college level courses, internships, all the while providing students with individualized support to ensure success. In an effort to increase the number of qualified teachers from underrepresented groups and create a diverse teaching staff, Worcester State University, Quinsigamond Community College, and Worcester Public Schools has made it possible for students interested in the field of education to begin their postsecondary experience while still in high school in the following ways:

- Students are recruited through the Worcester Future Teachers school-based groups, Chapter 74 and CTE Early Childhood Education Programs, guidance counselor and teacher recommendations, whole class email, parent letters, word-of-mouth ,and annual "Call to Teaching" events hosted by Worcester State University that features presentation from the presidents of WSU and QCC, as well as WPS' Maureen Binienda. In February 2018, a student speaker from Cohort 1 was able to talk to interested students about his experience with WeTEACH, thus offering a contemporary's perspective on the initiative .
- Students are given the Accuplacer test in their home-schools to eliminate the need for students to find transportation to QCC. All pre-registration is provided at the time of testing, processed by the WPS staff person, and moved on to QCC and/or WSU.
- Students are able to earn fifteen college credits, at no cost and take the courses at QCC or WSU.
- Course sequence has been modified to begin with a First-Year Seminar (not Accuplacer dependent) to allow students to progress towards a passing Accuplacer score with the help of their senior English course as well as First-Year Seminar writing component . This initiative does not include the Math Accuplacer, as the courses are general core requirements or education based.
- Students are matched with a paid internship during the summer, in the afternoons, while taking courses.
- Students are provided a contact at WPS to call/text/email for any comments, questions, or concerns and are assisted accordingly.

The partnership, collaboration and dedication to this initiative continues as WPS, QCC, and WSU begins the enrollment process of Cohort 3.