

Response:

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 in partnership by Worcester State University, Quinsigamond Community College, and Worcester Public Schools. This grant was aimed at addressing the need to create a diverse pool of educators to fill the needs of Worcester Public Schools. Prior to the EPIC funding, the Worcester Future Teachers participants met regularly, afterschool, for club meetings to discuss the teaching profession, attended bi-annual field trips to the university for guest speakers, and had the opportunity to attend a week-long college campus exploration each summer. There are currently 13 students participating in the Worcester Future Teachers club and activities at South High Community School and Worcester Technical High School has 11 students. While the club meetings, field trips, and week-long long campus explorations represent an integral part of the program, the EPIC funding transformed the Worcester Future Teachers into an initiative that includes college counselling, college level courses, internships, as well as providing students with individualized support to ensure success. At the end of the 2017/2018 school year the EPIC funding ended and Worcester State University assumed responsibility for continuing the work.

- Students are recruited for the Worcester Future Teachers school-based groups through Chapter 74 and CTE Early Childhood Education Programs, guidance counselors and teacher recommendations. WSU hosts an annual "Call to Teaching" event that features presentations by the University President and Superintendent Binienda. This event is advertised through student email, parent letters, connect ed calls, and word-of-mouth. In February 2018, a student speaker from Cohort 1 was able to talk to interested students about his experience with the program, thus offering a contemporary's perspective on the initiative.
- Students are recruited in the Junior and Senior year for college courses. After school club activities, field trips, and summer campus experience are attended by students in grades 9-12.
- With Worcester State University's continued support, we are able to sustain the free college courses to high school students, thus allowing students a first college experience that is both monitored and supported.
- 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.
- Students are matched with a paid internship during the final weeks of high school and into the summer, through a partnership with the Worcester Community Action Council and area workforce agencies.
- Students are provided a contact at WPS to call/text/email for any comments, questions, or concerns and are assisted accordingly. This contact does several face-to-face meetings with students each semester.

The following chart represents the students who have taken, or are taking part, in the Worcester Future Teachers college courses:

Cohort Semester	Cohort 1		Cohort 2		Cohort 3	
	Spring 2017	Fall *2017	Spring 2018	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Fall 2019
Non-Hispanic/Black	1	6	5	3		
Non-Hispanic/White	2	4	2	4	9	
Non-Hispanic/Asian	3	3	1			
Hispanic/No Race Indicated	7	9	3			
Hispanic/Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	1	1			
Hispanic/Black	3	2	1			
Hispanic/White	4	2	2	7	7	
Hispanic/American/Alaska Native		1	1			
Total Students	21	28	16	14	16	

*100 Males students placed into the course this semester only

Of these students, it has been reported by WSU that 30% of Cohort 1 and 27% of Cohort 2 continued their post-secondary work at Worcester State University, Quinsigamond Community College, Westfield State, Framingham State, and Clark University. One student attended a university in Rhode Island and returned to Worcester State after one semester.

Recently the DHE, Worcester State University, and Quinsigamond Community College received a grant from the NSF and Noyce Scholarship Fund to provide stipends for students choosing STEM fields in education. For the current cohort, the partners are focusing primarily on science as the area of greatest need. Students would attend Quinsigamond the first two years, transfer to Worcester State in the junior year, and receive \$10,000 the junior year and \$10,000 the senior year in stipends. This initiative, MassTeach, will be advertised to juniors and seniors beginning next week and should have a positive effect on the Worcester Future Teachers. We believe that science teachers will have a powerful effect on students considering STEM education as a career path, because the teachers are, after all, living the pathway.