DREAM KEEPERS

URBAN TEACHER RESIDENCY PROGRAM

For more than a century, the Wayne State University College of Education has prepared educators who are passionate about inspiring children and addressing issues on the educational landscape. Located in the heart of Detroit, we offer unique research and teaching opportunities, with emphasis on those affecting urban education.

Driven by a desire to partner with school districts and educational organizations to address the teaching shortage, increase diversity in teaching, prepare teachers to provide culturally relevant instruction and promote equity and access, the college launched Dream Keepers — an urban teacher residency program that offers dedicated, long-term substitute teachers with an alternate pathway to certification.
DREAM KEEPERS
URBAN TEACHER RESIDENCY PROGRAM

PROGRAM MODEL
Residents in teaching vacancies:
• Move into those same teaching positions upon completion of the program
• Earn a MAT with their certification
• Can remain on district payroll
• May receive health benefits
• Take WSU courses in a cohort
• Obtain support from WSU clinical instructional coaches and district mentor teachers and administrators

PROGRAM BENEFITS

**Districts**
- Raise student achievement
- Reduce teacher turnover
- Enhance teacher leadership capacity
- Influence teacher preparation programs to develop the well-prepared urban teachers that children deserve
- Yearlong “interviews” with resident teachers
- Provide professional development for mentor teachers and principals, in collaboration with WSU coaches
- Increase recruitment of career changers and community members

**Teacher Candidates**
- Undergo rigorous preparation for successful teaching in urban schools
- Learn from hands-on clinical practice with experts
- Build a professional support network before first year of teaching
- Become part of a school team invested in their success
- Move into a permanent position
- Remain on payroll during residency; may receive district health benefits

**Mentor Teachers**
- Receive recognition for expertise
- Increase leadership skills within the district
- Develop coaching skills through training with WSU coaching team
- Support new teacher induction to increase teaching staff stability

**Teacher Preparation Institutions**
- Better understanding of K-12 schools’ assets, needs, and unique contexts
- Meet national accreditation standards for partnerships with K-12
- Bring expertise to school improvement efforts
- Stabilize enrollment
- Increase opportunities for applied research
- Build deeper community relationships

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