
The Rural Student Teaching Experience (RSTE) program provides unique learning experiences for up to two teacher candidates from the 10 ND EPSCoR ND-ACES RII Track-1 participating campuses – three Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs), one Master’s College/University (MCU), four Tribal Colleges/Universities (TCUs) located in ND or the two Research Universities (RUs). The goal of the RSTE program is to provide an exceptional learning experience for teacher candidates in a rural school and community while they complete the requirements of their undergraduate programs.

Eligibility:

Eligible applicants must be U.S. citizens or resident aliens who are middle school or high school teacher candidates at one of the 10 participating ND EPSCoR ND-ACES RII Track-1 participating campuses located in ND – Cankdeska Cikana Community College (CCCC), Dickinson State University (DSU), Mayville State University (MaSU), Minot State University (MiSU), North Dakota State University (NDSU), Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College (NHSC), Sitting Bull College (SBC), Turtle Mountain Community College (TMCC), University of North Dakota (UND), or Valley City State University (VCSU).

Program Description:

Beginning Fall 2021, the ND EPSCoR RSTE program will provide support for two teacher candidates while they complete their one-semester student teaching internship in a rural North Dakota school. Teacher candidates will be able to complete all institution-specific requirements for the student teaching internship. Participating teacher candidates will also receive mentorship from faculty during their time the program. Each awardee will receive funding to offset the costs associated with living in a rural school district as part of RSTE of up to \$10,000.

We are excited about the potential of this program and we expect a healthy applicant pool for this inaugural program. Applications will be evaluated by a committee. Application selection will be guided by the following criteria:

- Candidates are in the process of completing an undergraduate program leading to teacher licensure;
- Candidates qualified to student teach at the middle school or high school level during the semester after which they apply to RSTE;
- Candidates are prepared and willing to student teach in mathematics or science; and
- Candidates express an interest in teaching in rural schools.

Priority:

Priority will be given to applications from RSTE teacher candidates who:

- Belongs to an underrepresented or underserved group; or
- Are completing teacher education programs at one of three ND EPSCoR ND-ACES RII Track-1 participating Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (DSU, MaSU, or VCSU); the Master’s College/University (MiSU); or the Tribal Colleges/Universities (CCCC, NHSC, SBC, or TMCC).

Application Requirements:

- Teacher candidates who wish to be considered for the RSTE program should prepare a letter of interest. The letter should describe their qualifications, interest in working in a rural school and community, and connections to their future career plans. Application materials should be submitted electronically to ndepscor@ndus.edu and ryan.summers@und.edu by noon on January 21, 2021 for full consideration.

Award Announcement and Additional Information:

Award announcements will be made on or about February 26, 2021. Funds are expected to be available for fall semester 2021. Awards are contingent upon continued funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the State of North Dakota. For more information view the [flyer](#) and [video](#) that overview the program. Please direct questions about the RSTE to Ryan Summers, ND-ACES RSTE coordinator, at ryan.summers@und.edu.