

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Multiple Pathways to Teaching Office
Twin Cities Campus
College of Education and Human Development
www.cehd.umn.edu/graduate/mpt

U of MN Grow Your Own Teachers Program
Dual Language and Immersion Licensure Program

86 Pleasant Street SE
210 Wulling Hall
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Dear Members of House and Senate Education and Higher Education Committees,

I am writing to share our strong support and endorsement of the Increase Teachers of Color Act (ITCA). The University of Minnesota Grow Your Own Teachers (MNGOT) program is a two-year, graduate-level teacher preparation program. It is centered around educational equity, school-based experiences, and a goal of increasing teachers of color through a “grow your own” recruitment strategy. Teacher candidates enrolled in the program are non-licensed district staff members in the Minneapolis and Saint Paul metropolitan area districts. In fall of 2021 we are expanding the program to Minnesota Reading Corps tutors in greater Minnesota.

For multiple years, our teacher candidates have benefited from the funding from the Minnesota legislature, including the Grow Your Own grant program and more recently the Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color Grant. The GYO grant program is administered by the Minnesota Department of Education and provides financial support for our teacher candidates via the districts where they are employed. The CUGMEC grant is administered by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board and has provided direct scholarship funding to our teacher candidates of color. The support is clearly appreciated:

Kyarra Edmond is a future teacher of color who works for the Minneapolis Public Schools as a Behavior Dean at South High School. She was born and raised in South Minneapolis. She is pursuing a K-6 elementary license and M.Ed. Kyarra wrote, “As a future academic scholar, I aspire to help marginalized students from various backgrounds reach their highest potential despite the adversity they may be challenged by. My passion is aiding in the process of closing the educational achievement gap and addressing disparities that children of color, and/or low-income students face educationally, targeting those who reside in poverty-stricken areas around the Twin Cities. I have dedicated my life, time, and resources to empowering students of color and those who reside in low-income areas in an effort to positively impact their lives. By awarding me this scholarship you have lightened my financial burden, thus allowing me to focus on the most important aspect of school: learning.”

Antonio Caudillo is a Spanish Community Liaison in the Bloomington Public Schools and is a future teacher of color. He has been in his position for 2 years and is pursuing a K-12 ESL license and M.Ed. Antonio wrote, “In my case, some of the struggles that Latino students go through with regards to English language acquisition, making do with limited resources, and navigating an educational system that their families might not be familiar with are struggles and obstacles I myself had to face when my family and I immigrated to this country in the fall of 2003.” He is grateful for the scholarship support,

There is a significantly greater need than there is funding for both the GYO and CUGMEC funds in the state. The increase in funding for these programs, in addition to the other important elements in the Increase Teachers of Color Act are initiatives that we strongly support. Since 2015, we have prepared over 75 teachers of color and our cohorts average over 50% teachers of color. The need is so urgent in our state and more funding is vital to provide the crucial scholarships and funding to support our future teachers of color. Thank you for your consideration and support!

Sincerely,



Laura Mogelson (mogelson@umn.edu), Director, Multiple Pathways to Teaching, CEHD, UMN-TC