

Alton Alton



The Alton GYO project is unique in the fact that its implementation grant was funded in 2006 without a prior planning grant. It is also the smallest current program, but candidates have a range of certificate choices: early childhood, elementary, and special education.

The partner organizations are:

Greenville College
Lewis and Clark Community College
Alton Community Unit School
District #11
NAACP – Alton Branch

Greenville College is the lead organization and fiscal agent on the grant.

The Cohort: All ten of the members of the Alton cohort are African-American; 2 are men. Their median age is approximately 40. All had some college experience before entering the program. 9 are employed, 7 in the Alton schools; all are members of the community organization. 5 have dependent children in their households.

The Alton GYO consortium is built on an already existing and innovative partnership in the Alton-Godfrey community. In 2003, Lewis and Clark Community College (LCCC) and Greenville College (GC) created an undergraduate teacher education partnership featuring course articulation, shared advisement and governance and convenience. Students begin their program at LCCC and transfer their first three teacher education courses and field experiences to Greenville College. Students then complete their final coursework at GC on the main campus of LCCC – making the program accessible to working professionals looking for a career in teaching.

The Alton GYO program uses this model and then supplements it with additional support and mentoring from the Alton Community Unit School District #11. Newly retired educators from the district are sharing knowledge from their years of teaching with GYO candidates. Importantly, GYO candidates are also sharing their experiences with other teacher candidates in the LCCC-GC program, bringing a wealth of real experience into the teacher education courses. GYO candidates also receive priority in field experience placements that will minimally disrupt their work and family lives. Promotion and support of the GYO consortium is provided by the NAACP – Alton Branch. A long-time supporter of minority teacher development in the Alton District, the NAACP plays a key role in recruiting candidates.

