

News Brief

ICL Responds to Call for More Highly Qualified Teachers

On average, Florida needs 20,000 new teachers each year to meet demand. ICL offers two alternative pathways for teachers to be certified in the state of Florida. We recruit second career professionals and have discovered one special group of recruits.

Meet Some of Our New Teachers

Many participants in **ACP** and **TeacherReady™** are women who have worked in business and industry and have graduate degrees in business and/or undergraduate degrees in professional and technical areas. These women leave the workforce to take on another full-time job – to become caregivers for their children and families. Often they volunteer in their children's schools and get hooked on education and teaching. Using **ICL's** two state approved alternative pathways, they enter teaching as second career professionals. The new teachers provide Florida schools with a rich pool of highly qualified teachers.

More about ACP

ACP is the alternative program of three regional school districts: Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa. UWF faculty developed and



delivered the first ACP program to a group of 13 non-certified teachers in September of 2000. Santa Rosa became a part of the program in 2002 and Okaloosa in 2003. Five years after the inauguration of ACP, over 300 teachers in the three regional school districts have become certified through the ACP program. More than 40% of these 300 teachers have completed a master's degree in education at UWF. In April of 2007, 67 teachers employed in the three districts will complete requirements for professional teacher certification. This effort continues to be a partnership between the three regional school districts and UWF.

More about TeacherReady™

TeacherReady™, an online alternative path to professional teacher certification, is a state of Florida approved Educator Preparation Institute (EPI). There are seven instructional units in **TeacherReady™** with field experiences embedded throughout. Field experiences include observations, interviews, attendance at meetings, tutoring and a culminating experience (teaching for 5 consecutive days in the same classroom).



UWF has been a recipient of the state SUCCEED grant for two years. This grant provided scholarships to **TeacherReady™** students beginning with the first cohort in October 2005 and continuing through the summer 2007 cohort. Currently, there are 97 students at various points of completion within the program. Eighteen students have completed **TeacherReady™** and are seeking professional teacher certification. Of these 18 completers, 7 are currently employed as Florida teachers.

Don't forget to register for Harry Wong! Visit icl.uwf.edu or call 850.473.7845.