



The 2015-2016 ¡DIRECTORES! FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

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OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) has awarded a five year grant to Texas A&M University-Commerce, entitled *¡Profes!:* Preparing Teachers & Administrators to Better Serve English Learners in Bilingual, ESL & STEM Classrooms. The purpose of this grant is to increase the number of bilingual and ESL teachers and administrators in the region. As a result of this grant, the *¡Profes!* Fellows program was founded during the fall of 2012. The *¡Profes!* grant office invites you to submit your application for the 2015-2016 Fellows program. Grant funds will be used to provide financial assistance to school administrators and aspiring teachers wanting to lead K-12 schools while promoting student success in bilingual, ESL, and STEM classrooms. Students seeking a **master's or doctoral degree** in Educational Administration offered by the Department of Educational Leadership may apply for the *¡Directores!* fellowship.

FELLOWSHIP INFORMATION

This competitive, non-needs based \$3000-\$4000/year fellowship seeks masters or doctoral students in Educational Administration who want to improve bilingual/ESL programs as principals or school administrators. Two or more years of K-12 teaching experience required and bilingual (Spanish-English) preferred. Admission to the M.Ed. or Ed.D. program in Educational Administration required.

The following will be given special consideration when making the fellowship selections:

- Applicants who are **bilingual and biliterate** (Spanish-English) preferred
- Educators with **experience teaching English Learners** (ELs)
- Educators with evidence of a **strong math or science** background
- Educators employed in schools or districts with a **high LEP population**
- Teachers and staff from the grant **partner districts** (Commerce, Greenville, Mount Pleasant, Richardson, Sherman, Sulphur Springs & Phoenix Charter School)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for the *¡Directores!* fellowship:

- Applicants must be admitted to an M.Ed. or Ed.D. program in Educational Administration to be considered for the *¡Directores!* fellowship. These are the general admissions requirement.
 - Requires professional letters of recommendation
 - Two or more years of K-12 teaching experience
 - For a Master's degree: official GRE scores and a conferred bachelor's degree with an overall GPA of 3.00 or higher, and proof of a current/valid teacher certification
 - Doctoral degree: a conferred master's degree with an overall GPA of 3.00 or higher, and proof of a current/valid teacher or principal certification
- Commitment to improving programs for English Learners at the school or district level.

GRANT TERMS

Initial Awards

The award will be divided into the fall and spring semesters, and will be added to student accounts after scholarship selection is made. Funds may be used for tuition and fees, or to lower student loan amounts. Payment dates are tentative and subject to change, but will be distributed consistent with the purpose and requirements of the program.

Reapplication

Students may re-apply annually for a fellowship provided they maintain a 3.0 GPA and continue to seek an M.Ed. or Ed.D in Educational Administration. Masters and doctoral students must enroll in a minimum of 12 hours/year with the exception of doctoral students who have reached candidacy who must enroll in 6 hours/year. Students who do not enroll in the minimum number of hours required may have their fellowship funds reduced. In addition, fellowship recipients must **communicate regularly** with one or two undergraduate students, if assigned to them as mentees, before and for up to 3 years after the undergraduates' graduation.

After Graduation

Upon completing their programs, fellowship recipients will be required to:

- Serve English Learners as a teacher or school administrator in a school or district with a high LEP student population or otherwise demonstrate their commitment to improving bilingual/ESL programs through their work for at least three years.
- Provide employment and contact information to the project director annually.
- Cooperate with requests from the project evaluator for information required as part of the three year federally-mandated follow-up monitoring.

Students who fail to comply with any of the above requirements for fellowship recipients may be required to reimburse the grant funds in accordance with the payment procedures established in the *¡Directores!* Fellowship Agreement/ Contract; this is a form all recipients sign to receive the award.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Applicants must submit the following **by May 1, 2015**:

- _____ Completed application form (by email, snail mail or at *¡Profes!* office located in EDS 132). Must be signed by the applicant (hand-written signature required). See page 3.
- _____ 400–600 word typed essay in response to the questions. See page 4.
- _____ Official college transcript(s) if previously attended another university. If already enrolled at TAMU-Commerce, an unofficial transcript may be submitted.
- _____ Three professional letters of recommendation (**at least one from a college instructor**).

Please submit all documents to the following:

**Texas A&M University-Commerce, ATT: *¡Profes!* Grant Office, EDS 132,
Department of Curriculum & Instruction,
PO Box 3011, Commerce, Texas 75429**

They can also be hand-delivered to the *¡Profes!* Grant Office in EDS (Education South) 132.

If you prefer to fax: 903-886-5581

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

For more information, contact: ProfesGrant@tamuc.edu, (903) 468-8775 OR
Grant Coordinator, Gilbert Hernández, Gilbert.Hernandez@tamuc.edu, (903) 468-8773 OR
Grant Principal Investigator, Dr. Chris Green, Chris.Green@tamuc.edu, (903) 886-5533



The **2015-2016** *iDIRECTORES!* FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

1. Name: _____ Student ID #: _____
2. Address: _____
3. Home phone: _____ Cell or work phone: _____
MyLeo email (will be used as primary email): _____
Other email (will be used as secondary email): _____
4. Current status (Check the one that applies):
____ Admitted to the M.Ed. in Educational Administration program at Texas A&M-Commerce
____ Admitted to the Ed.D. in Educational Administration program at Texas A&M-Commerce
____ Have applied to one of the above programs. List: _____
5. Check the certification(s) you currently hold (Please check all that apply):
____ EC-4, EC-6, 4-8 or 9-12 Bilingual ____ EC-4, EC-6, 4-8 or 9-12 ESL
____ 4-8 or 8-12 Math ____ 4-8 or 9-12 Science
____ Principalship ____ Superintendent
____ Other, Please provide if not listed above: _____
6. Are you currently employed by any of the following school districts or charters?
____ Sherman ISD ____ Commerce ISD ____ Phoenix Charter School
____ Richardson ISD ____ Greenville ISD ____ Mount Pleasant ISD
____ Sulphur Springs ISD
____ Other, Please provide if not listed above: _____
7. Do you speak a language other than English fluently? Yes ____ No ____
If yes, what language? _____
8. Do you read and write a language well other than English? Yes ____ No ____
If yes, what language? _____

I certify that all of the information included in this application is true and complete.

Applicant Signature (Original Signature Required)

Date

See the next page for the essay questions. Submit typed responses to the questions on a separate sheet of paper together with your recommendations, transcript and this application form.



Directions:

1. Write your name and the date at the top of your paper.
2. Copy the essay questions for New Applicants or for Re-applicants, depending on which category you fit into, onto your paper.
3. Answer the questions with 100-150 word responses for each question. This will result in a total of 400 to 600 words.

Essay Questions for New Applicants:

If this is your **first time** applying for a *¡Directores!* fellowship, please answer the following questions:

1. What are your experiences teaching English Learners (ELs)? Describe any experiences you have had with teaching in general and also teaching EL students.
2. What are your teaching career plans? Describe how and why (if applicable) you decided to seek EC-6 Bilingual Generalist teaching certification.
3. What is it about bilingual education that attracts you and what vision do you have of the kind of teacher you hope to become?
4. What will you contribute to the schools and programs you teach in?

Essay Questions for Re-Applicants:

If you have received a *¡Directores!* fellowship **in the past**, please answer the following questions:

1. What has receiving a *¡Directores!* fellowship meant to you? Have you felt as though it was an honor as well as a welcome source of financial aid?
2. What have you learned about bilingual education and becoming a bilingual teacher as a result of being a *¡Directores!* Fellow and from your EDAD (educational administration) courses?
3. How have the *¡Directores!* support programs such as *¡Mejoramos!* and *¡Guíamos!* helped you? Has participation in any of them been too much of a burden for you in any way?
4. What role will serving the community play in your future life as a teacher/administrator?