Future Bilingual Teacher Fellows: From Para to Teacher

Washington Association for Bilingual Education
Tacoma, March 2018
• Brief overview
• Various Roles
• Your questions/discussion
Woodring Highline Bilingual Teacher Fellow Program

Highline’s Strategic Goal:

“Every student in the class of 2026 will graduate bilingual and biliterate”

Our kids need highly qualified bilingual teachers!
Components of System-wide Language Learning

We need strong bilingual teachers for all of these components:
Had explored..

- Bringing teachers from Spain
  - 3 year limit
  - Cultural differences from students
  - Pedagogical differences

- Bringing teachers from Mexico
  - Director went to Mexico City to meet with education officials
Alternative Route Design

“Grow Your Own” refers to a type of program or project a district implements to cultivate their own teachers in the district’s high need areas.

Approaches to Prioritize:
• Priority Populations
• Regional work
• Collaborative Recruitment and Selection
• Strong partnerships
• Innovative Design
  o **Design:** Alternative Routes for individuals engaged by the district as Resident Intern in a mentored internship
  o **Design:** Alternative route for individuals teaching with conditional certificates
Prepare Community Teachers

“one who possesses contextualized knowledge of the culture, community and identity of the children and families he or she serves and draws upon this knowledge to create the core teaching practices necessary for effectiveness in diverse settings”

(Murrell, 2001, p. 52).
Our findings suggest that what makes a ‘good’ student teaching school appears to vary depending on the type of school a teacher candidate will eventually teach in. Specifically, teachers appear to be more effective when the student demographics of their school are similar to the student demographics of the school in which they did their student teaching (p. 352).
What we hoped to gain

• Demographics of paraeducators more closely aligned with student population
• Live and work in the community
• More linguistically diverse
• Seen as a trusted advocate
• Veteran school employees
• Understand school culture
What does the Woodring Highline Bilingual Teaching Fellow Program Offer?

• Maintain employment as a paraeducator
• $8000/year in a scholarship loan* for two years to cover most tuition costs
• Course work leading to a Bachelor of Arts in Education at Western, offered in Highline, online, or in the Seattle metro area
• Teaching certificate with an elementary education endorsement, ELL or bilingual, reading

*loan is forgiven after two years working as a certificated teachers in a public school in Washington
Fellows in class

A path to success for every student
How are Bilingual Teaching Fellows and Bilingual Paraeducators different?

• Similar roles and responsibilities

• Bilingual Teaching Fellow takes on greater responsibility in instruction
Paraeducator Responsibility or Teacher Ed Requirements?
The People

– The Fellows!
– Mentor Teacher
– Shared Co-Director
  • University Teacher Preparation Program
  • District Administrator
– University Faculty Field Mentor
– District Liaison/Mentor
– Instructors from District Specialists
– Support from Deans, Superintendents, State Professional Educator Standards’ Board, etc.
Cohort #1

16 new bilingual teachers for classrooms fall of 2018
Your time!