



**For Immediate Release**

September 8, 2021

**Contact:** Chris Lechuga  
clechuga@rabengroup.com  
915-346-6864

## **INNOVATIVE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM HELPS NEW EL PASO TEACHERS SUCCEED & DRIVE STUDENT RESULTS**

*CREEED and El Paso Community Foundation aim to equip teachers at Canutillo, Fabens and Tornillo ISDs with support and resources during crucial first years of teaching*

(EL PASO, Texas) - Today, the [Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development](#) (CREEED) and the [El Paso Community Foundation](#) (EPCF) announced that over 80 new teachers will be participating in the region's innovative Miner Teacher Mentorship Program. Now in its second year, this program between the El Paso Community Foundation, CREEED, UTEP, and three local school districts - Tornillo, Canutillo, and Fabens Independent School Districts - provides new educators with the dedicated training and support that many newer teachers are not traditionally exposed to by matching them with experienced coaches.

"Our goal for this program is to help new teachers master the instructional techniques they need to drive student outcomes and lead in the classroom," said **Amy O'Rourke, CREEED's Choose to Excel Director**. "Teachers come to El Paso from various training programs, some which are more robust than others; and this program enhances that training so all teachers are classroom-ready during those first three years of teaching."

Research shows that [up to 50 percent](#) of new teachers end up leaving the profession after five years of teaching, and the COVID-19 pandemic has made more teachers reconsider returning to the profession altogether. Inadequate support is among the most cited reasons why teachers leave. "We feel that this mentorship program tackles this issue head on by providing new teachers with the dedicated support, guidance, and insight they need as they adjust to teaching, plus the encouragement to continue to make a difference as an outstanding educator for years to come," says **Stephanie Otero of the El Paso Community Foundation**.

"In the past, new teachers were assigned mentors that have a more tenured career, but who also have a significant amount of work and a shorter bandwidth to spend significant time mentoring these new teachers," said **Veronica Vijil, Superintendent of Fabens Independent School**

**District.** “Through philanthropic funding and support from the El Paso Community Foundation and CREEED, we are able to free up time for experienced teachers to dig deep into classroom observations, coaching, and giving new teachers feedback so these new educators can grow professionally.”

Through this partnership, UTEP is embedding instructional coaches within each school district who work directly with new teachers while simultaneously training the mentor teachers, instructional coaches, and school leadership in an effort to build capacity to sustain the new teacher support system going forward. The teacher mentorship program is one of several initiatives spearheaded by the Teacher Pipeline Taskforce, a collaboration between the College of Education at UTEP, CREEED, and EPCF to produce strong teachers in the El Paso region.

“In order to increase the number of young El Pasoans’ receiving a higher education degree by 2030, our region needs highly-trained and innovative educators that will offer a quality education to students from the very first day they begin teaching,” said **Pedro Galaviz, Superintendent of Canutillo Independent School District.** “The Teacher Mentorship Program creates a space where UTEP, ISDs, and future teachers can work towards a shared vision of teacher excellence.”

Sixty teachers across Tornillo, Canutillo and Fabens participated in the program’s inaugural year in 2020. To learn more about CREEED’s teacher development efforts and other initiatives, please visit: [www.creeed.org](http://www.creeed.org).

###

### **About CREEED:**

The Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development (CREEED) is a not-for-profit organization focused on increasing the number of high-performing seats in El Paso’s public education system. This is accomplished by investing in initiatives that are creating measurable outcomes to close the achievement gap for El Paso students. CREEED supports organizations, initiatives, and policies that prepare students to succeed in college and in our future workforce. CREEED’s efforts are focused on increasing the quality of education that students receive in El Paso. Our efforts fall into three categories: Increasing Student Attainment; Increasing Teacher Talent & Leadership Development; and Increasing Parent and Community Engagement. For more information visit [www.creeed.org](http://www.creeed.org).

### **About the El Paso Community Foundation:**

Founded in 1977 as a permanent endowment for El Paso and the surrounding borderland region, the El Paso Community Foundation has given back more than \$200 million to a wide variety of organizations and projects in education, health, human services, arts, environment and animals. It is more than a grant maker, and it acts as a leader and convener to support numerous projects and initiatives across our region. In 2011, the Foundation significantly increased its commitment to education, both in funding and leadership, which lead to many innovative and rewarding endeavors like establishing the Classroom Fund, founding a pre-school for children with special needs, and working with the University of Texas at El Paso to create the area’s first paid teacher

internship program. The Foundation also recently partnered with the City of El Paso to build a new \$60 million children's museum and science center in downtown El Paso. For more information, visit [epcf.org](http://epcf.org).