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Arkansas Schools, Teachers and Students to Benefit from \$15 Million Education Technology Grant

Columbia, Missouri — Several Arkansas school districts are participating in a new enhancing Missouri's Instructional Networked Teaching Strategies (eMINTS) \$12.3 million Investing in Innovation (i3) grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The University of Missouri College of Education's eMINTS center will study the effectiveness of integrating teacher instruction with certain technologies while simultaneously exploring strategies to expand the program throughout the U.S. The researchers also received more than \$3 million in matching gifts to complement one of the largest grants the college has ever received. ***(A complete list of districts and schools in Arkansas is at the end of this press release.)***

“Currently, eMINTS helps teachers create classrooms where they facilitate real-life learning experiences for their students by integrating technology in ways that transform learning,” said Christie Terry, associate director of eMINTS. “For example, a group of 8th graders in one eMINTS classroom investigated a destroyed river wetland in collaboration with the state conservation department. Students used technology to collect and analyze data, connect with experts in the field, and create a series of kiosks that could be installed along the river to inform the public about the wetland ecosystem.”

This new eMINTS expansion project will study the effectiveness of the program on teacher instructional practices and student achievement in math, language arts and science. The project also will allow the eMINTS National Center to explore strategies for increasing the cost-effectiveness of expanding the program to more schools around the U.S., including additional schools in Missouri. The project has earned national recognition from the Institute of Educational Sciences for credible and reliable evidence of effectiveness.

“I’ve seen firsthand the critical content areas that teachers can enhance through the eMINTS program,” said Kathryn Chval, dean of the MU College of Education. “This i3 grant and the research evidence has produced significant, positive outcomes for both teachers and students.”

“We’re thrilled these awards will empower innovative educators working to expand opportunities for students across the country,” says John King, senior advisor delegated duties of deputy secretary of education. “Through i3, educators are dramatically improving outcomes for students, and we are committed to providing teachers and school leaders with the resources they need to continue this important work.”

This new i3 project will build on more than a decade of research demonstrating the positive impact of the eMINTS Program on student achievement and teacher practices. The project will serve 56 schools in high-needs districts in Alabama, Utah and Arkansas. The project will involve nearly 450 teachers and more than 24,000 students over five years. Project partners include the American Institutes for Research (study evaluators), and one mentor district in each state, including lead partner Baldwin County Schools in Alabama.

The Investing in Innovation program requires all grantees to secure private sector support. eMINTS received more than \$3 million dollars in matching funds through cash donations and in-kind contributions from contributors such as KC Audio-Visual, Dropbox, Inc., SMART Technologies, Google Foundation and the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE).

The Investing in Innovation Fund was established as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This is the third i3 award that the University of Missouri has received, including a 2010 i3 grant awarded to eMINTS that concluded in September 2015. That grant studied the effectiveness of the program for 60 rural Missouri middle schools. The research study found positive results in the classroom community, lesson design and technology integration, as well as improved student achievement in mathematics. The College of Education also received an i3 development grant for a project called “Mission Hydro Science” in 2014.

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About the eMINTS National Center:

Founded in 1999, the eMINTS National Center at the MU College of Education offers evidence-based professional development to teachers across the United States and in

Australia. It plays an important role as part of the MU College of Education's mission to support educators and administrators in PreK-12 settings. For additional information about the i3 project or eMINTS, email emints-info@missouri.edu or call (573) 884-7202.

Arkansas School Districts:

Bauxite School District
Berryville School District
Cedarville School District
Decatur School District
Pea Ridge School District
Farmington School District
Mammoth Spring School District
Mountain Home School District
Prarie Grove School District
Parkers Chapel School District
Sheridan School District
Siloam Springs School District
West Fork School District