# Transcript

Speaker 1

The Missouri State Journal, a weekly program keeping you in touch with Missouri State University.

Donnelson: Class is in session for the first semester of the future educators program. A cooperative arrangement between Missouri State University and Springfield public schools. It's a grow your own program where Springfield graduates commit to Missouri State University and then commit to teaching in SPS once they graduate. I'm Nicki Donnelson today on the Missouri State Journal. I have Dr. Chloe Bolyard, assistant professor in the College of Education at Missouri State University. She's here to pique your interest in this program.

Bolyard: Grow your own programs are popping up around the country to draw more folks into the teaching profession and so. The partnership was established almost a year ago. Go and we are hoping to recruit Springfield Public Schools high school students to come to Missouri State University and pursue a degree in education and then hopefully they will commit to teach with Springfield public Schools after they graduate from college at MSU.

Donnelson: While there have been other recruitment efforts to fill key staffing needs in the field, for example, incentives for teachers committed to teaching in title one schools, the future educators program is unique in its focus of also diversifying the workforce. Bolyard tells us more.

Bolyard: One of the challenges that we are facing in the US nationwide is our student population is diversifying far faster than our teaching workforce, and so this partnership between SPS and MSU hopes to increase the diversity of our teachers so that students have teachers who look like them. One of the ways that we are trying to recruit diverse candidates to this program is by sharing the program through different community organizations that would serve diverse community members. We also conduct classroom visits in area high schools, and here on Missouri State Campus. SPS defines this diversity group as underrepresented and under resourced, and really, that is very broad. And if folks wanted to read more about who is included in that category, they could learn more sps.org/grow.

Donnelson: One of the tools to assist with recruitment in this program is the financial incentive, Bolyard explains.

Bolyard: We have two pathways. The high school to educator pathway. That is for students who are currently seniors in high school who would begin at Missouri State in the fall of 2023 if they were to. Apply and be selected to participate in our second cohort. And for the high school to educator pathway, those high school students would receive $2000 per academic year through an access scholarship from MSU. And additionally they would receive a $3000 per year incentive fund from Springfield public schools. For our college to educator pathway, students so that would be our juniors and seniors who are education majors at MSU who are in this program. They would receive $2000 per academic year again through an access scholarship from MSU, and they would receive a $5000 per year incentive fund from Springfield Public Schools.

Donnelson

In addition to the financial incentive, MSU offers several resources to help students in their journeys to their own classrooms. Bolyard elaborates.

Bolyard

Additional supports that we provide in this program. For people who are participating in the program is mentoring and academic support, so once they are here at Missouri State University, we provide resources for passing their teacher certification exams, resume prep, interview Prep. Support we also prepare them with a mentor in Springfield Public schools and they would meet with that mentor who's a current classroom teacher once a month and develop a relationship with them. We also provide them with four professional learning opportunities for each year that they are in the program. Those are called Saturday summits. They come to campus. For three hours on a Saturday and focus on culturally responsive teaching, financial literacy, test preparation, community engagement and again, interview and resume.

Donnelson

They are now accepting applications through February of 2023 for students beginning in the fall semester of 2023. Visitesp.org/grow to learn more and find the application that was Dr. Chloe Bolyard. I'm Nicki Donnelson for the Missouri State Journal.

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For more information, contact the Office of Strategic Communication at 417-836-6397. The Missouri State Journal is available online at kcmu.org.