

URBAN TEACHER FELLOWSHIP

South Bay Center for Counseling & Community Development

Summary

The Urban Teacher Fellowship (UTF), piloted by the South Bay Center for Counseling (SBCC) and LA Harbor College, is designed to build leadership opportunities, support education, and lead to employment for youth and young adults at risk of gang involvement. It addresses both the need for stable employees in afterschool programs as well as the shortage of qualified, highly-skilled teachers in high need, urban school districts.

Goal

UTF will work to build regional initiatives throughout California with the collaboration of afterschool employers, community-based and workforce agencies, community colleges, and California State Universities. These initiatives will create pathways to college, afterschool program jobs, and teaching careers for youth at risk of gang involvement, providing a positive set of choices that offer real alternatives to gang life while working to address long-term shortages of qualified teachers for high-need urban school districts.

Model

UTF has a 4-step program that provides employer-driven training for the afterschool and teaching workforce:

- **COMMUNITY OUTREACH, RECRUITMENT, AND ASSESSMENT:** UTF works with extensive regional partnerships to recruit at-risk youth ready to transform their lives by working with children and youth.
- **BRIDGE TO CAREER:** UTF's community college peer learning communities build academic and job skills, and provides participants with in-class coaching, case management, and support services.
- **TRAINING AND PLACEMENT IN AFTERSCHOOL WORKFORCE:** Participants receive training and job placement assistance for employment in afterschool programs, providing financial support and career-relevant experience for careers in teaching.
- **TEACHER TRAINING AND PLACEMENT:** Community colleges and CSUs design an integrated AA/BA/credential program leading to accelerated certification and placement as an elementary or single-subject teacher in a high need, urban school district.



Opportunity

Funded in its pilot phase by the David & Lucile Packard Foundation, the Employment Development Department, and local public agencies, the UTF model is now poised to begin statewide operation thanks in large part to the significant investment of 2010 CalGRIP funding. This investment represents a landmark opportunity for a new and effective approach to help youth and young adults find meaningful lifelong alternatives to gang involvement, while developing the promise of new generations of youth in their communities through their work as afterschool youth workers and teachers.