

Tomorrow's Hope for Renewal, Innovation, and Vision in Education (THRIVE)

Project Title: Tomorrow's Hope for Renewal, Innovation, and Vision in Education (THRIVE)

Project Director: Dr. Karen Weston

Lead Institution: Columbia College

Duration of Project: One Year

Grade Level Focus: K-6

Credit Hours to be Provided: Up to 6 graduate credit hours

Project Summary:

The *Tomorrow's Hope for Renewal, Innovation, and Vision in Education (THRIVE)* Project will establish a collaborative partnership among Columbia College faculty and the Eldon R-I School District in Miller County. An additional valuable partner is the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. **The primary goal of the partnership is to create a dynamic Professional Learning Community (PLC) for elementary school educators (pre-service and in-service grades K-6) devoted to the use of environmental science as a conceptual anchor for integrative and innovative practices in science and mathematics education.** Within the THRIVE PLC, K-6 teachers and administrators (n = 31) will participate in a minimum of 121 hours of professional development (PD) in environmental sciences with mathematics integration. Other participants include pre-service elementary teachers from Columbia College (n = 5/year) and science student “teaching cadets” from Eldon R-I High School (n=10/year).

The evidence-based pedagogy component of the PD will focus on *concept-based* curriculum design and instruction (Universal Design), teaching through inquiry, differentiation, and teaching with technology. The following assessment areas will be emphasized:

- The design and use of effective monitoring probes and common assessments (Seamless Assessment and Assessment FOR Learning),
- The design and use of teacher inquiry (Action Research) for instructional evaluation and improvement,
- The alignment of data collection practices with district-level student data needs, and
- The alignment of curriculum to the MO Grade Level Expectations (GLEs), the Common Core Standards, and the North American Association for Environmental Education *Guidelines for Excellence*.