¡DIRECTORES!
2013-2014 GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

OVERVIEW
The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) has awarded a five year grant to Texas A&M University-Commerce, entitled ¡Profes!: Preparing Teachers & Administrators to Better Serve English Learners in Bilingual, ESL & STEM Classrooms. Grant funds will be used to provide financial assistance to school administrators and aspiring teachers wanting to lead K-12 schools while promoting student success in bilingual, ESL, and STEM classrooms. Students seeking a master’s or doctoral degree in Educational Administration or the graduate certificate entitled Administering School Programs that Serve English Language Learners offered by the Department of Educational Leadership may apply for the ¡Directores! fellowship.

The following will be given special consideration when making the fellowship selections:
- Applicants who are bilingual and biliterate (Spanish-English)
- Educators with experience teaching English Learners (ELs)
- Educators with evidence of a strong math or science background
- Educators employed in schools or districts with a high LEP population
- Teachers and staff from the grant partner districts (Commerce, Greenville, Mt Pleasant, Richardson, Sherman & Phoenix Charter School)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
Applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for the ¡Directores! fellowship:
- Admitted to the Administering School Programs that Serve English Language Learners graduate certificate program OR
  - Requires admission to the Graduate School as a non-degree student
  - An official bachelor’s degree transcript.
- Admitted to an M.Ed. or Ed.D. program in Educational Administration
  - Requires admission to the Graduate School as a degree seeking student
  - Minimum GPA of 2.75, 2-4 letters of recommendation, recent GRE scores, and official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work.
- Two or more years of K-12 teaching experience
- Commitment to improving programs for English Learners at the school or district level.

GRANT TERMS
Initial Awards
¡Profes! will award approximately ten $3,000 to $4,000 fellowships to qualified students during the second year of the grant. The awards will be divided into fall and spring semesters. The award payments will be disbursed and delivered into student accounts and used for the payment
of tuition and fees or to lower student loan amounts owed. The award payment dates are tentative and are subject to change.

Reapplication
Students may re-apply annually for a fellowship provided they maintain a 2.75 GPA and continue to seek an M.Ed. or Ed.D, in Educational Administration or the above named graduate certificate. Masters and doctoral students must enroll in a minimum of 18 hours/year with the exception of doctoral students who have reached candidacy who must enroll in 9 hours/year. Those seeking the graduate certificate must enroll in 12 hours/year. In addition, fellowship recipients must communicate regularly with one or two undergraduate students assigned to them as mentees for up to 3 years after the undergraduates’ graduation.

After Graduation
Upon completing their programs, fellowship recipients will be required to:

- Serve English Learners as a teacher or school administrator in a school or district with a high LEP student population or otherwise demonstrate their commitment to improving bilingual/ESL programs through their work for at least three years.
- Provide employment and contact information to the project director annually.
- Cooperate with requests from the project evaluator for information required as part of the three year federally-mandated follow-up monitoring.

Students who fail to comply with any of the above requirements for fellowship recipients may be required to reimburse the grant funds in accordance with the payment procedures established in the ¡Directores! Fellowship Agreement/Contract, which all recipients sign to receive the awards.

APPLICATION PROCESS
Applicants must submit the following by August 2, 2013:

- Completed and signed application form. (Available via email from our office)
- Official college transcript(s) if transferring from another university. If already enrolled at TAMU-Commerce, an unofficial transcript may be submitted.
- Three letters of reference (at least one being from a professor).
- 500–750 word typed essay describing your experiences with language learning and with teaching English Learners (ELs) and your career plans.

Send all documents by August 2, 2013 to:
Fernando Fuentes Lemos, Department of Curriculum & Instruction
Texas A&M University-Commerce
PO Box 3011, Commerce, Texas, 75429-3011.

They can also be hand-delivered to the ¡Profes! grant office in EDS (Education South) 132.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

For more information, contact:
Dr. María Hinojosa (Maria.Hinojosa@tamuc.edu)
or Fred Fuentes (Fred.Fuentes@tamuc.edu)
¡DIRECTORES!
2013-2014 GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Personal Information

1. Name: _________________________________ Student ID #: __________________

2. Address: ________________________________________________________________

3. Home phone: _______________ Cell or work phone: ______________________
   MyLeo Email (will be used as primary email): ________________________________
   Other Email (will be used as secondary email): ______________________________

4. Current status (Please check all that apply):
   _____ Admitted to the Administering School Programs that Serve English Language Learners
   graduate certificate program at Texas A&M University-Commerce
   _____ Admitted to the M.Ed. in Educational Administration program at Texas A&M-Commerce
   _____ Admitted to the Ed.D. in Educational Administration program at Texas A&M-Commerce
   _____ Have applied to one of the above three programs. List: __________________________

5. Check the certification(s) you currently hold (Please check all that apply):
   _____ EC – 6 or EC-4 Bilingual Generalist   _____ EC – 6 or EC-4 ESL Generalist
   _____ 4-8 or 8-12 Math   _____ 4-8 or 9-12 Science
   _____ Principalship   _____ Superintendent
   _____ Other, Please provide if not listed above: _________________________________

6. Are you currently employed by any of the following school districts or charters?
   _____ Sherman ISD   _____ Commerce ISD   _____ Phoenix Charter School
   _____ Richardson ISD   _____ Greenville ISD   _____ Mount Pleasant ISD
   _____ Other, Please provide if not listed above: _________________________________
7. Do you speak a language other than English fluently? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, what language? ________________________________

8. Do you read and write a language well other than English? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, what language? ________________________________

On a separate sheet, please type your responses to all of the following essay questions.

9. What is your own language learning history? If you are bilingual and biliterate, explain how, where and from whom you learned your first (home) and second languages. Describe your oral fluency level and your ability to read and write in both languages.

10. What kinds of professional experiences as an educator have you had? Describe any experiences you have had with educating English Learners and any math and/or science teaching you have done. Why are you committed to bilingual/ESL education, and what can you contribute to the field? Do you also value STEM education and what are your strengths and interests in that area?

11. What are your career plans? Where do you see yourself as an educator five years from now, ten? How will your master’s degree, doctorate or graduate certificate help you achieve your career goals?

A complete application will include the online application form, an official transcript, three letters of reference, and your essay. Deadline: August 2, 2013:

Send all documents by August 2, 2013 to:
Fernando Fuentes Lemos, Department of Curriculum & Instruction
Texas A&M University- Commerce
PO Box 3011, Commerce, Texas, 75429-3011.

They can also be hand-delivered to the ¡Profes! grant office in EDS (Education South) 132.

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I certify that all of the information included in this application is true and complete.

Applicant Signature ___________________________ Date _____________