¡MAESTROS!
2013-2014 GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP 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 graduate students seeking a master’s or doctoral degree in Curriculum & Instruction specializing/focusing in bilingual or ESL (English as a Second Language) education.

The following will be given special consideration when making the fellowship selections:
- Applicants who are bilingual and biliterate (Spanish-English)
- Teachers with experience teaching English Learners (ELs) in pullout, self-contained or departmentalized settings
- Teachers who have taught math or science in departmentalized settings or who have other evidence of a strong math or science background
- Teachers and staff from the grant partner districts (Commerce, Greenville, Mount Pleasant, Richardson, Sherman & Phoenix Charter School)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
Applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for the ¡Maestros! fellowship:
- Bilingual, ESL, math and/or science teacher certification or enrolled in the TAMUC alternative certification program seeking bilingual or ESL certification
- Admitted to the M.Ed. or the Ed.D in Curriculum and Instruction program through the university’s Graduate School and the C&I Department
- Master’s degree plan on file which includes a bilingual education or ESL specialization or Doctoral degree plan on file with a bilingual education or ESL area of focus
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Commitment to serve English Learners at the classroom, school or district level

GRANT TERMS
Initial Awards
¡Profes! will award approximately fifteen $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 after fellowship selection is made. The funds will be used for the payment of tuition and fees or to lower student loan amounts owed and will be distributed consistent with the purpose and requirements of the program. The award payment dates are tentative and are subject to change.
Reapplication
Students may re-apply annually for a fellowship provided they maintain a 3.0 GPA, continue to seek an M.Ed. or Ed.D. with a bilingual or ESL specialization/area of focus, and enroll in a minimum of 18 hours/year. Doctoral students who have reached candidacy and are working on their dissertations may enroll in 9 hours/year and will be awarded half fellowships. In addition, fellowship recipients must communicate regularly with one or two undergraduate students assigned to them as mentees for up to three years after the undergraduates’ graduation.

After Graduation
Upon completing their M.Ed.s or Ed.Ds fellowship recipients will be required to:

- Continue or seek employment as bilingual or ESL teacher or otherwise serve English Learners as a bilingual or ESL educator 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 ¡Maestros! 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. Chris Green (Chris.Green@tamuc.edu) or Fred Fuentes (Fred.Fuentes@tamuc.edu)
¡MAESTROS!
2013-2014 GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP 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 M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction program at Texas A&M-Commerce
   _____ Admitted to the Ed.D. in Curriculum & Instruction program at Texas A&M-Commerce
   _____ Have applied to the M.Ed. or Ed.D. program in Curriculum & Instruction

5. Which of the following specializations/areas of focus do you intend to pursue for your master’s or doctorate degree?
   _____ Bilingual Education  _____ ESL Education  _____ Math  _____ Science
   _____ Other. Please provide if not listed above: __________________________

6. Check the teacher 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 8-12 Science
   _____ Other. Please list: ________________________________________________

7. 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: __________________________
8. Do you speak a language other than English fluently?  Yes ___  No ___
If yes, what language? ________________________________

9. 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.

1. 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.

2. What kinds of teaching experiences have you had? Describe any experiences you have had with teaching 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?

3. What are your career plans? Where do you see yourself as an educator five years from now, ten? How will your master’s degree or doctorate 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:
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Texas A&M University- Commerce
PO Box 3011, Commerce, Texas, 75429-3011.
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Incomplete applications will not be considered.

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

__________________________________________________________
Applicant Signature                                     Date