¡PROFES!

2013-2014 UNDERGRADUATE 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 and other assistance to undergraduate students seeking a Bachelor’s of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies degree resulting in E-6 Bilingual Generalist teaching certification.

Qualified full-time or part-time Texas A&M University-Commerce students are eligible to apply for the grant. Uncertified bilingual (Spanish-English) teachers, paraprofessionals and community liaisons employed in local school districts and charter schools are especially encouraged to apply. Transfer students from community colleges may also apply with selection contingent on admission to the university’s teacher education program.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
Applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for the ¡Profes! scholarship:

- Pass the THEA with the following scores: READING – 250, MATH – 230, WRITING 230
- Minimum of sixty hours earned (junior status)
- Overall GPA – 2.5
- Be admitted to the Texas A&M University-Commerce teacher education program
- Commitment to teach English Learners
- Take the university’s Spanish Placement Test, administered by the Student Assessment Office, and place into junior or senior (300 or 400) level Spanish courses

GRANT TERMS

Initial Awards
¡Profes! will award approximately twenty undergraduate $2,000 to $3,000 scholarships 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 scholarship 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 subject to change.

Reapplication
Students may re-apply annually for a scholarship provided they maintain a 2.5 GPA, continue to seek bilingual certification, and are enrolled in the minimum number of hours as follows:

- Full time juniors and seniors - 12 hours/semester (fall and spring).
- Part-time students (uncertified teachers, aides and community liaisons employed full-time in public or charter schools) - 18 hours/year.
In addition, scholarship recipients must:

- Perform 15 hours per semester of volunteer service working with adult or child English Learners at their choice of local schools, centers, or *plazas comunitarias* (*Servimos/We Serve* student support component)
- Participate in 15 hours per semester in either the *Estudiamos/We Study* math study lounge sessions OR the *Enriquecemos/We Enrich* Spanish enrichment program.
- **Communicate regularly** with the graduate student assigned to them as a mentor both before and for up to three years after graduation.

*More information about these four student support components will be provided at the fall orientation held for scholarship recipients.*

**After Graduation**

Upon completing their bachelor’s degrees and obtaining EC-6 Bilingual Generalist certification, students will be required to:

- Seek a bilingual teaching position and teach English Learners in a bilingual classroom 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 scholarship recipients may be required to reimburse the grant funds in accordance with the payment procedures established in the *¡Profes!* Scholarship Agreement/Contract, which all recipients must sign to receive the awards.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applicants must submit the following by **August 2, 2013:**

- Completed 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.
- Two letters of reference *(at least one from a college or university instructor)*.
- 250 – 500 word typed essay describing your experiences with teaching focusing on English Learners (ELs) and your teaching career plans.
- A copy of the letter from the university’s Spanish Department providing your score on the Spanish Placement Test and which Spanish course they have placed you in.

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)*
¡PROFES!
2013-2014 UNDERGRADUATE 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):

   _____ Undergraduate student currently enrolled in Texas A&M University-Commerce
   _____ Transfer undergraduate student (from another college or university)
   _____ Uncertified teacher at a charter school
   _____ Paraprofessional  _____ Community liaison

5. Have you been accepted into the TAMUC Teacher Education Program?

   _____ Yes  _____ No

6. Check the teacher certification program you will be seeking:

   _____ EC – 6 Bilingual Generalist
   _____ 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.

10. What are your experiences with teaching focusing on English Learners (ELs)? Describe any experiences you have had with teaching in general and also teaching EL students.

11. What are your teaching career plans? Describe how and why you decided to seek bilingual, math and or science teaching certification. What is it about those fields that attracts you and what vision do you have of the kind of teacher you hope to become? What will you contribute to the schools and programs you teach in?

A complete application will include this application, a transcript (official if from outside the university, unofficial if from inside, two letters of reference, your essay and a copy of your letter from the Spanish Department. 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.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

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

__________________________________________  ____________
Applicant Signature                  Date