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For Immediate Release

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NIU Outreach Part of $5M U.S. Department of Education Grant

Children in four Rockford public schools will become prime beneficiaries of a partnership between NIU, District 205 and Rock Valley College through a $5 million federal grant to enhance teacher quality and student performance.

The five-year U.S. Department of Education grant to the Rockford Education Alliance – or Project REAL – concentrates on Jefferson High School, the Rockford Environmental Science Academy, Nelson Elementary School and, with a focus on special education populations, Rolling Green Elementary School.

Partners in Project REAL will provide mentoring and induction activities for new teachers, deliver on-site professional development connected to individual school improvement plans, offer online learning opportunities for Rockford teachers, integrate technology into teaching and place RVC and NIU students from a wide variety of majors in classrooms for clinical experiences and student teaching.

They also will work with school personnel to solve educational problems, cultivate best practices and develop a more rigorous curriculum for both the K-12 classroom and for NIU students preparing to be future teachers, and cultivate new leaders for Rockford schools.

NIU Outreach will support the project’s communications network and develop web-based professional development materials for teachers.

About NIU Outreach

NIU Outreach is a center for programs that anticipate and help meet the northern Illinois region’s needs. By engaging our communities, NIU Outreach leverages university and regional resources to create solutions. For more information, please call toll-free (866) 885-1239, e-mail NIOUtreach@niu.edu or visit www.outreach.niu.edu.

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