

**GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Office of the Secretary**

February 27, 2017

Deans and Directors of Private and Public Higher Education Institutions of Puerto Rico with Teacher Preparation Programs, School Directors, Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Teachers

(Signed)

Julia B. Keleher, Ed. D.  
Secretary

**MEETING WITH HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (IES) INTERESTED IN COLLABORATING WITH NEEDS AREAS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AS PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY**

In our February 10<sup>th</sup>. meeting, the Secretary presented her professional development needs areas for the Department of Education personnel and requested the collaboration of Higher Education Institutions (IES) that attended. She was also emphatic that this professional development must be innovative and not traditional.

All IES volunteered to collaborate with the DEPR in their different areas according to their programs (table included). We request that, according to the subject or subject matters that you are interested in collaborating with, you designate a representative. The purpose of this is to work as teams in preparing a work plan to look after and reinforce all different areas. This is why, we summon you for the next meeting:

|                       |                         |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ...                   |                         |                         |
| Date : March 17, 2017 | Subjects: Leadership    | Department of Education |
|                       | Vocational Schools      | 9 am to 12 M            |
|                       | Bilingualism            |                         |
|                       | Professional Counseling |                         |
|                       | Special Education       |                         |
| ...                   |                         |                         |

## COLLABORATION WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

February 1, 2017

The DE has 4 goals:

1. Improve student academic progress
2. Graduated students directed towards work
3. Promote leadership and management
4. Reduce the size of the educational system of PR

The DE wants:

⇒ to assure that teacher preparation programs and directors are aligned with the needs of the public education system. This includes:

- Special education as well as current
- Teaching strategies as
  - K3
  - Diversified instruction
  - Use of technology
  - Project based teaching

⇒ to assure that teacher preparation program graduates have master of the most effective methods.

⇒ to facilitate recruitment and retention of teacher preparation program graduates.

⇒ to establish alliances that would allow teachers from other states to complete their practice in PR.

The DE needs to improve the capability for leadership in its schools

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The DE and (IES) will develop specific projects that support the development of programs related with

- Bilingualism
- STEM
- Leadership
- Counselling, Social Workers, and Student Services
- Special Education Teaching
- Room behavior management

At District level, this project will include the production of reports that indicate

- The needs/areas for more recruitment within the area closest to campus
- Programs for professional development aligned with school needs
- Programs for student support

Each school will develop a plan for

- Professional development that includes subjects that IES can look into
- Strategic practice and recruitment plan

This initiative must:

- Produce new teacher preparation programs
- Expand participation and involvement of IES in schools
- Improve recruitment processes
- Expand student services programs
- Bring up new training programs for directors