



## From Rural School and Community Leaders

“Without this program, our district would be forced to rely on long-term substitutes, which negatively impacts student learning and overall educational quality. The pause on federal funding, specifically the Teacher Quality Partnership grant, threatens to dismantle this vital pipeline of future educators. We urge decision-makers to restore funding to ensure that rural students continue to have access to well-prepared, dedicated teachers who understand and support their communities.”

– Dr. Kermit M. Snyder, Superintendent, Rocky Ford School District

“The T-PREP program has been a game-changer for the Lamar School District, allowing us to recruit and retain highly motivated educators who are committed to our students and community. Through its partnership with CU Denver and Lamar Community College, T-PREP has provided a crucial pathway for aspiring teachers to earn necessary credentials while staying local. Losing this funding would severely impact our ability to develop and sustain a strong, high-quality teaching workforce in southeastern Colorado.”

– Dr. Chad Krug, Superintendent, Lamar RE-2

“As rural areas struggle finding teachers to fill vacancies, Trinidad District 1 is no exception. T-PREP has given us an opportunity to provide internships to teacher candidates and then hire them with valuable experience and familiarity with our schools. In the last five years, our district has hired seven T-PREP students for positions that otherwise would not have been filled. T-PREP has also allowed our para-professionals to complete their degree while working and without leaving their work and community.”

– Claudia Trujillo. President, Board of Education. Trinidad School District 1

## From Recent Graduates

“T-PREP support was what carried me. Without the mentors I had, I wouldn’t have graduated. I was with amazing teachers who took time to help me figure out how to teach. They were there for me all the time.”

– 2023 Graduate, Trinidad

“I’m thankful for the T-PREP program ... for the positive and supportive teachers, professors, and the clinical teachers in the classroom. I cannot stress enough how so important that has been to me and my journey to become a teacher.”

– 2023 Graduate, Crowley

“I am grateful for the T-PREP program. It is a great opportunity for non-traditional students like me who are not in the Denver area. I would not be a teacher without this program.”

– 2024 Graduate, Las Animas