



Partnership of Western Michigan University · Reading Now Network · GELN

MEDIA RELEASE

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KALAMAZOO, MI—The High Impact Leadership (HIL) Project has confirmed renewed funding to continue its school renewal work for an additional two years. In September 2020, project staff were awarded a \$3.21 million Renewal SEED (Supporting Effective Educator Development) grant from the U.S. Department of Education (USDOEd).

“We are so honored to be one of only four 2017 SEED Projects from across the United States to receive funding for two additional years,” said Dr. Patricia Reeves, HIL Project Co-Director and Co-Principal Investigator. “This funding allow us not only to support high impact leadership practices in an additional 71 West Michigan schools, but also to develop strategies for sustaining the work for years to come.”

Year 4 of the HIL Project began October 2020 and work in Cohort B schools is well under way, with signs of real progress already being seen. Principals and teacher leaders in participating schools are receiving coaching from 34 highly trained Implementation Facilitators supported by a team of WMU researchers and program coordinators. Work focuses on using five [High Impact Leadership Principles](#) throughout five phases of a [School Renewal Cycle](#) in which school teams implement research-supported [Literacy Essentials](#)¹ with fidelity and integrity. This year, the project adds a timely focus on implementing [engaging remote learning strategies](#).

Participating Cohort A and B schools represent both urban and rural communities and are from 83 school districts within 16 intermediate school districts. Success stories emerging from Cohort A have inspired additional grants and donations from various West Michigan partners including the Guido A. and Elizabeth H. Binda Foundation, Scholastic Books, United Way, and others.

“The first three years of the HIL project produced positive effects on principal leadership, school leadership, and student achievement,” said Dr. Jianping Shen, HIL Project’s other Co-Director and Co-Principal Investigator. “We look forward to working with various groups of partners for this new phase to develop more effective practices that result in even better results.”

For more information on the HIL Project, visit www.HILWmu.org; or follow/like us on Twitter ([@hilwmu](https://twitter.com/hilwmu)) or Facebook ([@HILProject](https://www.facebook.com/HILProject)).

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The High Impact Leadership for School Renewal (HIL) Project is a leadership development for literacy program for practicing principals working with a team of teacher leaders to implement the GELN Literacy Essentials in high poverty Reading Now Network (RNN) elementary schools. (See next page for links to supporting graphics.)

¹ *Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy* (2016). Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators General Education Leadership Network Early Literacy Task Force (MAEIA/GELN/ELTF). <https://literacyessentials.org/>

Additional Graphics to support this story can be found below:

Four HIL Principles: http://hilwmu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/HIL_Principles_Sm.jpg

HIL School Renewal Cycle: http://hilwmu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Phases_of_SchoolRenewal_Lq.jpg

Co-Directors and Co-Principal Investigators:

Dr. Patricia Reeves http://hilwmu.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Reeves-Patricia_2018_LNK_8589.jpg

Dr. Jianping Shen <http://hilwmu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/shen-portrait.jpg>

Photos with students and/or staff at participating HIL Project elementary schools demonstrating books and libraries funded by HIL Grants and Partners:

<http://hilwmu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Holland-2.png>

<http://hilwmu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Sister-Lakes.jpg>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1r6mulaqzhHq7aKQBfm2VToTNXF3q8QP-/view?usp=sharing>

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