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Grants Benefit Rural Schools

Two grants will enable ECU's College of Education to continue its mission of providing teacher-training opportunities for the region's low-income school districts.

The REVITALISE program received \$400,000 to continue a technology initiative designed to address the issues of retention and renewal of teachers in rural communities.

REVITALISE (Rural Educators using Visualization to Inspire Teacher Advancement and Learning to Improve Science and Mathematics Education) is a joint effort between ECU and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois to help teachers integrate cutting-edge technologies into the curriculum and expand the scope of science and mathematics education in small-town middle and high schools.

A \$210,827 grant from NC QUEST

(Quality Educators through Staff Development and Training) will offer professional development opportunities to math and science teachers who work in the low-income school districts. Through the "Rural Initiative in Math and Science" program, ECU will offer training to 30 middle and high school instructors in Bertie, Lenoir and Hertford counties. Ongoing professional development options will include tuition for university courses, six hours of content and pedagogy meetings, materials and on-site coaching.

Marilyn Sheerer, dean of ECU's College of Education, said she was pleased to continue to provide professional development opportunities for the region's school districts.

"We hope to create competent teachers in math and science who will make a difference in the learning of their students in the eastern part of the state," she said.