

Dillard University has partnered with the Louisiana Recovery School District to develop an innovative new teacher training program that they believe will revolutionize teacher education in New Orleans and, perhaps, serve as a model for programs across the country.

“This is the most creative partnership we have ever entered,” said Dillard University President Marvalene Hughes. “It offers enormous and unlimited opportunities to the student population at Dillard.”

On August 17, Dillard University Provost David Taylor revealed new details of the program. Dillard sophomores, juniors and seniors of any major with a GPA above 3.00 will be invited to participate in the program, which involves student teaching and paid internships. After graduating, interested students will partake in an intensive six-week training program that will certify them to teach in the Recovery School District.

“It’s another way of trying to entice, particularly, students of color to think about education as a career option by giving them early exposure,” Taylor said.

Dr. Joyce Roche, chair of the Dillard University board of trustees, and Dr. Paul Vallas, superintendent of the Recovery School District, first announced the initiative in April.

“We’re thrilled to be partnering with Dillard in this unprecedented program,” Vallas said. “It will not only allow us to bolster our already strong alternative pathways for teachers, but will also bring greater diversity to our efforts, which is always important in a district such as ours.”