National Louis University
Chicago, Illinois
3 school districts (2 h.s., 10 elementary schools)
1 ELL Parent Center
State PD training center
Highly diverse town with Mixed incomes and > 50% foreign born families

Presented by Kristin Lems, Grant Co-director ~ klems@nl.edu
Getting in to the STEM Lab

A year long research course which awards AP level credit even to freshmen has been offered for 4 years, with only 1 ELL student enrolled (total!)

Sheltered Geometry Class

- Students with lower proficiency level English skills were not offered a math class at their level, conflating their English level with their math level

- Only course available was sheltered algebra

- Teacher advocated for two years to have the school create a higher level sheltered geometry

Now, a sheltered version of that class will be created
Veteran ESL faculty need PD for newly-understood P-12 language demands

Teacher “noticing” improved as they moved through the grant cohorts

Teachers have become advocates for ELLs in their buildings  *A critical mass of ESL-endorsed teachers is needed to change conditions

STEM areas in which ELLs are underserved are often systemic: Lack of access to best facilities

Advisors make assumptions about scheduling for honors, AP, or gifted coursework  Lack of access to pre-college STEM coursework  Access to resources and programs, not only academic language demands, an obstacle
Our topics of interest for next grant cycle:

- Helping schools make more effective use of their paraprofessionals, especially those who are ELLs themselves
- Providing more targeted language education for administrators so that they know what quality ESL/BIL instruction looks like
- Continuing to address language of content in STEM and language arts, using standards
- Getting ESL/BIL out of the margins and in to the mainstream – no more “afterthought” programs!