

## BEGINNING BACKWARD: MOVING K-12 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FORWARD

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***Abstract\_** Not often does an opportunity to create a course that combines one's passion along with learning theory, assessment, and research-based teaching practices occur. One such course was created to fill the gap within its program for a Midwestern Teacher Preparation Provider (MWTPP); a course that also met the national accreditation requirements, state mandates, and K-12 classroom needs (i.e. a course that makes a difference in K-12 student achievement; one teacher in one classroom at a time). Data provide strong evidence that the course is making a difference and those pre-service candidates' awareness levels are increasing.*

***Keywords:** Student achievement, Assessment, Learning theories, Backward Design, Teaching practices.*