**Project Summary: AI-Supported Student Teacher Evaluation (AI-STER)**

**Purpose:**  
This project aims to support teacher preparation programs by developing a digital tool that helps supervisors evaluate student teachers more consistently and efficiently. The tool will generate feedback aligned with the **Student Teacher Evaluation Rubric (STER)** based on classroom observation notes and uploaded lesson plans.

**Why It’s Needed:**  
Currently, evaluations depend on the individual interpretation of observers, which can lead to inconsistent scoring and general or delayed feedback. The AI-STER tool will guide supervisors through the evaluation process, helping them match what they see in the classroom to specific STER competencies and provide more focused and timely feedback.

**Who It Serves:**

* University Supervisors
* Cooperating Teachers
* Student Teachers
* Teacher Preparation Program Administrators

**📝 Key Outcomes from Planning Meeting**

**1. Shared Goals:**  
Project members agreed that the goal is to reduce subjectivity in evaluations and improve the quality of feedback given to student teachers.

**2. Rubric Review:**  
The STER rubric includes 19 competencies for supervisors and 16 for cooperating teachers. Supervisors must provide evidence for scoring each area, ideally within a few days of observation. This is time-intensive and can vary in quality across supervisors.

**3. Identified Challenges:**

* Different supervisors may interpret the same classroom behavior in different ways
* Written justifications are often vague or repetitive
* It’s difficult to ensure that every competency is reviewed fairly
* Areas like trauma-informed teaching or restorative practices are often under-addressed

**4. Proposed Tool Features:**

* Supervisors can type or paste in their classroom notes
* The tool will highlight which competencies those notes may relate to
* It will suggest possible scores and written justifications, which the supervisor can review and edit
* Supervisors can also upload lesson plans to provide more context for the evaluation
* All student data will be handled securely, in compliance with privacy laws

**5. Immediate Focus:**  
The team will first develop a working version of the tool that can be tested by a few supervisors in real observation settings.

**6. Training Support:**  
There is a need to develop training resources for supervisors—particularly around newer evaluation areas like equity-based teaching, trauma-informed practices, and student-centered discipline.

**🔧 Development Plan**

**Step 1: Build the Foundation**

* Clarify how each of the 19 rubric competencies shows up in actual classroom teaching
* Review previous observation notes and sample lesson plans
* Determine how best to match what supervisors write to the correct rubric area

**Step 2: Create the Tool**

* Design a simple interface where supervisors can enter their notes
* Program the tool to suggest rubric matches and written feedback for each note
* Include the ability to upload lesson plans so the tool can better understand the classroom context
* Make sure all feedback can be edited by the supervisor before submission

**Step 3: Try It Out**

* A small group of supervisors will use the tool in real or simulated classroom observations
* Feedback from supervisors will be used to improve the tool’s suggestions and usability
* The team will refine how the tool handles difficult-to-score areas

**Step 4: Grow the Project**

* Develop training materials for broader supervisor use
* Explore expanding the tool for use in other districts or institutions
* Seek support for long-term development, including grant opportunities

**📌 Next Steps for the Team**

| **Task** | **Assigned To** |
| --- | --- |
| Provide past supervisor observation notes | Teacher Preparation Program |
| Share lesson plans to help build context for the tool | Supervisors |
| Begin building the first version of the tool | Technical Team |
| Gather and organize training materials for August | Field Experience Lead |
| Schedule regular project check-ins | Project Team |