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Sent time: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 9:18:27 AM
To: Cooper, Tanya
Cc: Deirdre Finn (dfinn@excelined.org) <dfinn@excelined.org>; Joanna Hassell (Joanna@afloridapromise.org) <Joanna@afloridapromise.org>; Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org) <MaryLaura@excelined.org>; Fonda Anderson (Fonda@excelined.org) <fonda@excelined.org>; Robinson, Gerard
Subject: digital learning projects
Attachments: Hume Foundation Digital Learning Proposals.docx Carnegie Foundation Digital Learning Proposals.docx

Tanya,

Commissioner told me that you would be the point person for him on Chiefs for Change digital learning grant projects for the state.

We know of a few donors (see attached) who would be interested in seeing digital learning pilot projects that will help turn around struggling schools.

Deirdre Finn is our lead on digital learning efforts at the Foundation.

Could you both meet soon and see if there is a way Florida can put together a proposal that can draw down some private funds to the state/school districts?

I know Bill Montford is interested on behalf of FADSS. Specifically, Supt. Townsend of Putnam county may be one of the first districts ready to act.

Thank you for working on this.

Patricia

Hume Foundation

Focus: Digital learning expansion, both in policy and in demonstration pilot projects

The Hume Foundation is interested in funding projects that will expand digital learning across the country. They are supporters of the Digital Learning Now recommended 10 Elements of High Quality Digital Learning.

They are interested in seeing innovative proposals from Chiefs to expand digital learning policy, awareness or pilot projects in your state.

Below are some ideas that may help generate thoughts on a proposal for your state:

Blended Learning Pilot project – public school or charter school

- Fund the site visits and professional development for a charter school operator or public school principal interested in implementing a blended learning environment in the 2012-2013 school year.
- Possible funding for conversion to new digital curriculum.

State Summits/Task Force

- Funding for state summit/regional summits on digital learning. State summit with high level national speakers on digital learning policy for lawmakers to shape legislation for 2012 session. Regional meetings to create public awareness/public support or support from school district leadership.
- Think tank reports that will highlight where your state is strong/deficient in digital learning policy in order to spur action to reform policy.
- Task force (similar to Idaho Supt. Luna's) to make recommendations to change digital learning policy in your state.

Note: Hume Foundation is already funding think tank reports on digital learning in the following states, so consideration should be made for how these reports can dovetail into the Chiefs' overall proposal for expansion of digital learning:

- Rio Grande Foundation, NM
- Maine Heritage Policy Center
- Oklahoma Council on Public Affairs
- Thomas Jefferson Institute, Virginia
- Pelican Institute for Public Policy, Louisiana

Grant amounts: Not to exceed \$200,000 per grant

Not considered:

- Technology infrastructure costs
- Any costs covered by state funds (such as salaries)
- Any costs covered in Race to the Top or other federal funding

Funding Cycle: September 15 deadline for grant request, with Jan-Feb payout. March 15 deadline for grant request; with July-Aug payout.

Outreach to Chiefs: Funder requests to work with each Chief/staff one-on-one to prepare concept through actual grant proposal/budget. Funds must flow through the Foundation for Excellence in Education as a project-restricted grant.

Carnegie Corporation

Focus: Demonstration projects that implement blended learning in schools, especially as turn-around models for failing schools at the middle and high school levels.

Concepts considered:

- Design work for a demonstration project(s) as described above, including work on the state policies that must be changed to make the demonstration successful and eventually brought to scale
- Capacity-building (people/training, not equipment, as long as not covered by state or federal funds)

Grant Amounts: To be determined, based on scope of the concept

Not considered: Infrastructure costs, such as technology. Any costs that can be covered by state or federal grants.

Funding cycle: Carnegie meets each quarter to review proposals, make decisions. Payment for successful grants usually occurs within 30 days of approval.

Outreach with Chiefs: To be determined, likely directly with Chiefs/staff. Carnegie can make grants directly to states.