

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

REPORT ON TITLE IIA GRANT PROGRAM

Action Requested: Receive the report on the Title IIA Grant Program.

Executive Summary: The Board Office administers the Iowa grant program authorized by Title IIA (Improving Teacher Quality) of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. Each year, this program awards Title IIA federal funds to Iowa colleges, universities, school districts, and area education agencies to develop and provide professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers with a focus on enhancing student achievement in mathematics and science.

In March 2013, first-year funding was awarded to one new multi-year project¹ in an amount totaling \$149,601. The grant was awarded for the period ending June 15, 2014, on the basis of a competitive review process. In addition, grant funds totaling approximately \$471,076 will be awarded to support continuation and expansion of three existing projects approved in a prior year competition.

Background:

The Board Office has been designated by the U. S. Department of Education as the state agency for higher education to administer the Title IIA grant program in Iowa. Until recently, the Board Office and the Iowa Department of Education had jointly conducted a mathematics and science education grants program; however, after more than a decade, in Fall 2012, the Iowa Department of Education chose to administer the Title IIB grant program independently.

Grant projects are designed to develop and provide professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers with an objective of enhancing student achievement in mathematics and science. Grants are made to interinstitutional partnerships which must include the following:

- ☐ College or department of education of an accredited institution of higher education in Iowa;
- ☐ College or department within the content area of the project (mathematics or science) of an accredited institution of higher education in Iowa;
- ☐ High-need Iowa school district(s), as defined by federal statute;
- ☐ Representatives from the area education agencies served by the project; and
- ☐ Any other eligible contributing partners.

¹ The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) has not been reauthorized. There is a likelihood that Title IIA grant funds will be eliminated. Therefore, funding for the multi-year projects is not a certainty.

TITLE IIA GRANT RECIPIENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 15, 2014

Project: **IMPACT (IMPacting Achievement with Collaboration and Technology)**

Applicant Institution: University of Northern Iowa

Project Director: Doreen Hayek, IT Projects Administrator

Proposed Project Period: Three years

Total Three Year Funding Awarded: \$449,480 (subject to continued federal funding)

First Year Funding Awarded: \$149,601

Partners: University of Northern Iowa, Des Moines Public Schools*, MFL MarMac Community Schools, South Winneshiek Community School District, Keystone Area Education Agency (AEA 1), St. Augustin School (Des Moines), Iowa Academy of Science, and Heartland Area Education Agency (AEA 11).

Number of Educators to be served directly: 45

The focus of the IMPACT program is to integrate two earth science and environmental programs STORM² and GLOBE³, with educational technology into PreK-12 curricula. Professional learning communities will continue to be built between participating Iowa PreK-12 teachers, AEA staff, UNI faculty, UNI educational technology staff, and local GLOBE and STORM professionals. Activities for the learning communities include two-week Summer Institutes for teachers together with yearly, ongoing support, sharing and education for the participants. Teachers receive at least 100 contact hours of professional development.

The project will provide professional development which models instructional strategies that enable teachers to teach in a manner that will positively affect student achievement. All professional development materials are aligned with the Iowa Core and national content and technology standards, and are based on research based methods. The IMPACT activities are aligned with the needs in teacher quality, professional development, and science content found in the participating schools' needs assessments. The professional development activities are aligned with the Iowa Professional Development Model.

*Indicates a high need district.

² Science Center for Teaching, Outreach, and Research on Meteorology Program.

³ Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment.