

Contact: Anthony Girardi

**REPORT ON TITLE II GRANT PROGRAM**

**Action Requested:** Receive the report.

**Executive Summary:** The Board Office works with the Iowa Department of Education to jointly administer in Iowa the grant programs authorized by Title IIA and Title IIB of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Each year, this joint program distributes Title IIA and Title IIB federal funds to colleges and universities to provide professional development in math and science to K-12 teachers. The grants are awarded on the basis of a competitive review process carried out in close consultation with an advisory committee representative of the various sectors of Iowa K-12 and postsecondary education.

In February, 2006, the Title II Advisory Committee approved grants of FY 2005 funds to four new single- and multi-year projects. These awards totaled \$541,759. The grantee projects are outlined on page 2 of this docket memo. In addition, the current year's grant funds support ongoing multi-year projects approved in last year's competition.

**Background:** The Board Office is the state agency for higher education designated by the U.S. Department of Education to administer the Title IIA grant program in Iowa. The Board Office and the Iowa Department of Education have jointly conducted a math and science education grants program for more than a decade. Since the passage of NCLB, the respective agencies have conducted a single annual competition which combines the funds from the separate Title IIA (Improving Teacher Quality State Grants) and Title IIB (Mathematics and Science Partnerships) federal programs. The two state agencies divide responsibilities for ongoing grants accounting and administration by project. Grants are made for single- or multi-year projects of up to three years in duration.

Grant projects are designed to provide professional development to K-12 teachers and enhance student achievement in mathematics and science. Grants are made to interinstitutional partnerships which include the following:

- a postsecondary institution's college or department of education;
- a postsecondary institution's college or department of mathematics, science, or engineering;
- a high-need school district, as defined in federal statute;
- representatives from the area education agencies (AEAs) served by the project;
- any other eligible contributing partners.

The Title II Advisory Committee reviews grant proposals and determines award amounts. The committee consists of representatives from the Regent universities, Iowa's independent colleges and universities, community colleges, K-12 school districts, area education agencies, and math and science education specialists from the Iowa Department of Education

**Title IIA/IIB Grant Recipients - FY 2005 Funds Competition**

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Project: Physics Resources and Instruction for Secondary Science Teachers – A Professional Development Program for Out-of-Field High School Physics Teachers

Institution: University of Northern Iowa

Project Director: Lawrence Escalada, Associate Professor of Physics and Science Education

Proposed Project Period: 2 years

Total Funding Awarded: \$283,866

This project is a two-year professional development program for teachers of high school physics whose training is primarily in a different field of science. The project addresses a shortage of qualified high school physics teachers by allowing participating teachers to complete the course requirements for Iowa's grade 7-12 physics teaching endorsement.

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Project: IMPACT (IMPacting Achievement with Collaborations and Technology)

Institution: University of Northern Iowa

Project Director: Doreen Hayek, IT Projects Administrator

Proposed Project Period: 3 years

Total Awarded Funding: \$444,604

The IMPACT project is a continuing effort initially funded in a previous grant competition. The project integrates science education programs with educational technology materials into the K-12 science curriculum. The project supports learning communities made up of teachers, university faculty, and educational technology staff.

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Project: Science Professional Development Program: A Collaborative Approach

Institution: Drake University

Project Director: Jack Gerlovich, Professor of Education

Proposed Project Period: 3 years

Total Requested Funding: \$450,000

This project will offer summer professional development opportunities for teachers, providing experiences in scientific inquiry and training in the development and use of inquiry-based instructional lessons in their classrooms.

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Project: Research Avenues for Iowa Science Educators (RAISE)

Institution: University of Northern Iowa

Project Director: Jeffrey Weld, Associate Professor of Biology

Project Period to be Funded: 1 year

Total Requested Funding: \$105,243

The RAISE project will pair participating K-12 science teachers with faculty scientists at the University of Northern Iowa to provide mentorship and experience in the conduct of scientific research. The project provides professional development to enhance teachers' science knowledge, understanding of the nature of science, and pedagogy in the teaching of scientific inquiry.

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