

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOR DUAL CREDIT PARTNERSHIPS IN SOUTHEAST OHIO REGION'S VIRTUAL STEMM PLATFORM

OVERVIEW

As part of the southeast Ohio region's Category B STEM Initiatives grant, a Request for Proposals is being issued to identify, connect, and expand access to the region's first-rate dual credit offerings in STEMM with the intent of building out a regional STEMM collaboration platform. Dual credit has shown promising potential in research to expose students to the rapid pace and demands of college courses while reaching students who may not believe a college education is a reality in their future.

PROJECT SCOPE

The STEMM Steering Committee is dedicated to building a sustainable and collaborative Virtual STEMM dual enrollment network across the region. The grant's STEMM Steering Committee is seeking proposals from higher education and K-12 (school districts, Educational Service Centers and/or career centers) partnerships willing to expand the delivery of rigorous dual credit courses in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medical fields.

Sufficient funding is in place to support three pilot dual credit partnerships in the fall of 2011. The Category B STEM Initiatives grant funding has \$250,000 allocated to support dual credit partnerships willing to serve on a team to share ideas, strategies, and best practices in dual credit while creating and growing a STEMM Platform for the region.

ELIGIBILITY

Applications must demonstrate a partnership of at least one or more Ohio public or private higher education institutions (IHE) and one or more K-12 school districts (may include Educational Service Centers and career centers). The IHE partners agree to follow the Ohio Board of Regents' established standards for the quality of coursework and faculty qualifications for awarding dual credit to the K-12 student.

Principal partners must include:

- (1) One or more IHE that award post-secondary credit to eligible K-12 students; and
- (2) One or more K-12 school districts, ESCs or career centers **servicing students in one or more of the following counties:** Adams, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mahoning, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton or Washington.

COMMITMENT

Partnerships must be dedicated to presenting a robust dual credit model to increase student enrollment in established STEMM courses and must commit to collaboratively building the region's Platform over the next three academic years. Funded partnerships agree to shared assessment tools for their dual credit courses and the development of the Platform through a memorandum of understanding among partners.

Funded partnerships commit to participate in a multi-day workshop in summer 2011 to contribute to the development of the STEMM platform. This session would: a) establish the platform for the dual credit integrated system; b) engage dual credit teachers in a community of practice; c) engage dual credit stakeholders (LEAs, IHEs, businesses) in a stewardship and advocacy role; and, d) engage a select number of high school and college students in the design and delivery of the dual enrollment platform.

PROJECT SUBMISSION

Grant proposals are to be sent via email to stemRFP@oache.org. The application deadline for this competitive grant process is **Monday, April 4, 2011 by Noon**. A regional Advisory Committee will review eligible applications and make recommendations to the region's STEMM Steering Committee for final approval and funding decisions. Announcements of grant awards will be made directly to recipients in mid-April. Grant funding will be released in May 2011.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

Proposal margins must not be less than ¾ inch with a font size no smaller than 11 Times New Roman. The Narrative must be no more than 5 pages, including the budget and budget narrative. At the end of the proposal, applicants must list the Project Director(s) with contact information (organization, title, email, phone number and address) and identify the fiscal agent for the grant including a primary contact with the authority to accept and expend grant monies (institution, title, email, phone number and address).

CRITERIA

Various modes of dual enrollment exist in our state: face-to-face at the high school or on a higher education campus, digital courses, distance learning/videoconferencing and interactive synchronous video courses. The Advisory Committee is looking for well-established models for dual enrollment in STEMM coursework that can be shared on the developing Virtual STEMM dual credit network. The funded proposals will provide the foundation for the development and implementation of the dual credit network across a collaborative STEMM Platform in Appalachian Ohio. With a commitment to participate in the Platform's development and expansion in mind, grant proposals should address the following criteria:

- ***number and demographic profile*** of the IHEs, school entities and students to be served through the STEMM dual enrollment partnership for 2011-12 academic year;
- ***evidence of project capacity*** for more students to be enrolled beyond current enrollment numbers in already established STEMM courses with an emphasis on ***enrolling under-represented students or students not previously enrolled***;
- explanation of ***why the specific dual enrollment STEMM coursework was selected*** (may cite national credentials or specific learning pathways) and how it will contribute to the newly established Virtual STEMM dual enrollment network;
- ***a compelling need for the course*** (regional academic data, economic need, lack of offering in the K-12 school, etc...);
- ***modes of delivery for the STEMM courses offered*** – elaborate on the technological tools and infrastructures in place for these offerings (e.g. videoconferencing, Blackboard, Adobe Connect, etc);
- ***partners*** – identify partners, their roles and responsibilities;
- ***willingness to partner*** – brief history of partnership engaged in dual enrollment model, including any partnerships with business, as well as readiness to partner with the other funded sites to exchange information, expand models, and work with other educators, businesses, and economic development leaders to develop and implement a regional Virtual STEMM dual enrollment network;
- ***plan of scalability*** – anticipating how additional students may be served overtime;
- ***anticipated project cost*** to become operational by fall 2011 broken down by project objective and a cost per student served.

FUNDING & BUDGET

The funder anticipates sharing an award of \$250,000 among three (3) STEMM dual credit models. Each proposal must include a budget and brief narrative indicating how the awarded funds will be utilized. The budget should also indicate the IHE partner's budgeted contribution. No more than 5% of requested funds may be allocated for fiscal agent administrative costs.

PROPOSAL REVIEW

The Advisory Committee will review all applications received by **Monday, April 4 at Noon**. The Committee reserves the right to ask clarifying questions or request additional information in discussion of the details of a proposal. All proposals will receive notification in a timely manner of the outcome of their submission.

Timeline:

Proposals due (electronically) by April 4, 2011 at Noon to stemRFP@oache.org

Review of proposals: April 5 – 15, 2011

Grant awards: April 20, 2011

Funding to fiscal agent: May 2011