

GRANT NEWS

HIGHLIGHTED GRANTS

Breakthrough Schools

Web Site: <http://www.principals.org/snassp/sec.asp?CID=1683&DID=58796>

The MetLife Foundation and the National Association of Secondary School Principals are seeking high-achieving middle level and high schools whose best practices and outstanding results can inform other schools in their school improvement efforts. Selected schools must have 40% or more students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Winning schools will receive \$5,000. The deadline is May 15.

Bowerman Track Renovation Program

Web Site: http://www.nikebiz.com/responsibility/community_programs/bowerman_track_program/

The Bowerman Track Renovation Program provides assistance to schools and communities by matching cash grants. This program allows for the construction or renovation of a running track. Grant recipients must provide track access to neighboring communities. The deadline is May 31, 2009.

K-12 Podcasting Grants

Deadline: May 15, 2009

Web Site: http://www.toolfactory.com/olympus_contest/olympus_podcasting.htm

K-12 and special education schools in the US are eligible to apply for the Tool Factory Podcasting Grant. To apply, teachers must develop a lesson plan that demonstrates how they would use podcasting in their curriculum. Grant submissions will be judged by their effective integration of podcasting in the curriculum, effective use of all resources provided by the grant, and the high degree of student involvement, creativity, and fun. Awardees will receive a school site license of Tool Factory Podcasting to install on every computer in their school, 2 Olympus digital voice recorders, 2 microphones with noise cancellation, a Clip Art Station, Worksheet Station, Web Page Station, and the Tool Factory's Simple Guide to Podcasting.

STUDENT / TEACHER AWARDS

Brower Youth Awards

Deadline: May 15, 2009

Web Site: <http://broweryouthawards.org/article.php?list=type&type=54>

Earth Island Institute established the Brower Youth Awards to recognize six young people in North America annually for their outstanding activism and achievements in the fields of environmental and environmental justice advocacy. Winners will receive \$3,000 cash, a trip to California for the award ceremony and wilderness camping trip, and ongoing access to resources and opportunities to further their work at Earth Island Institute.

Young Scientists Challenge 2009

Deadline: May 20, 2009

Web Site: <http://www.youngscientistchallenge.com/>

The Discovery Education/3M Young Scientist Challenge is a national science competition for students in grades 5-8. The Challenge is designed to encourage the exploration of science among America's youth and to promote the importance of science communication. In order to enter, students must submit a video entry online that demonstrates the student's understanding of the scientific concepts explained and his or her comfort level discussing science in general. In the fall, 10 finalists will receive an all-expense-paid trip to New York City for the competition finals.

Teams that Make a Difference

Deadline: May 15, 2009

Web Site: <http://www.nmsa.org/AboutNMSA/Awards/TeamsthatMakeaDifference/tabid/407/Default.aspx?PageContentID=82>

Teams that Make a Difference is an awards program that identifies people who work to improve the education and well-being of young adolescents. Sponsored by Pearson and National Middle School Association, the program recognizes teams of teachers, administrators, parents, community members, or any combination of these individuals who have created a program, activity, or strategy that focuses on student achievement or connects students with their communities. The grand prize winning teams will be honored and will present their winning programs at National Middle School Association's 36th Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, November 5-7, 2009. Grand prize winners will receive \$5,000 and membership in NMSA. Runner up teams will receive \$1,000 and membership in NMSA, and four honorable mention awards will include a \$100 coupon for NMSA publications.



Grant Writing Tips



Collaboration is a common occurrence in grantsmanship today. Even when funders do not require it, many applicants find that in order to carry out a project successfully, they need the expertise and resources that others can provide. In fact, some funders require specific types of collaborative partners for a grant-funded project.

Collaborating has some pretty apparent benefits, but it also brings a unique set of challenges for grant writers. Here are a few suggestions to help make working with collaborative partners and writing a collaborative proposal a smoother experience.

- (1) Identify and involve all possible collaborating partners as early as possible in the proposal process. This will create buy-in and make defining the project easier.
- (2) Make sure the top official from your collaborating partners is aware that a staff person has been attending proposal development meetings representing his or her organization. Learning about a collaboration when you're asked to sign a commitment letter is not the right time to discover this information.
- (3) Carefully read the funder's requirements for these letters of commitment. Some funders ask that specific information or a specific phrase (related to costs or in-kind contributions, for example) be included in letters from collaborative partners. Also, double-check to see who the letter of commitment should be addressed to and make sure the letter includes the correct name of the grant program.
- (4) Early on in the process, make sure your partners are able to meet regularly for discussions.
- (5) If all partners cannot meet on a regular basis, have someone take careful meeting notes and distribute them to all partners soon after the meeting.
- (6) Make sure you involve all collaborative partners in budget conversations. If in-kind contributions are required, notify all partners of this fact early in the project development process, so they can consider the kinds of contributions they'll make. Keep in mind that not every partner might be able to contribute, or partners might contribute at different levels.

Courtesy of Deb Ward

Available Resources

For more available grants in all educational categories, check out the following websites:

www.grantwrangler.com/

www.grantsalert.com

www.fundsnet services.com

www.educationworld.com/a_admin/archives/grants.shtml

<http://megs.mde.state.mi.us/megsweb/grantsavailable.aspx>

www.technologygrantnews.com/grant-index-by-type/educational-technology-grants.html

www.teacherscount.org/teacher/grants.shtml

www.grants.gov

www.publiceducation.org/newsblastgrants.asp