Find the Fund$ For STEM: Grant Writing 101

Building Exemplary STEM Programs Through Grants
27 year career middle school science educator

3.5 years with NOAA Office of Education
Washington, D.C.
The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship:

- Partners STEM educators with the federal government (agencies and legislators)
- 11-month fellowship in Washington, DC
- Applications are open annually in late summer, due in fall
The Challenge:

Infinite Needs
Finite Dollars

There are monies available – now more than ever before – but it takes time, imagination, creativity, and resilience to craft successful grants.
My challenge: Continue to provide/expand authentic, robust STEM programming for under-represented groups during severe economic times.

“At Risk”
OR
“At Opportunity”
What is YOUR dream?

Let’s pause so you can sketch out an idea you’ve had, the ‘best practice’ program you’d like to bring to life, some dream you’ve held that could make learning soar for your students!
Grant Opportunities are EVERYWHERE!!

- MACUL
- Best Buy
- Google
- Build-a-Bear
- Digit@l Reflections
- DonorsChoose
- Reading Sparks
- Sea Grant Michigan
- Michigan Science Teachers Association
- Wal*Mart
- DTE Energy
- RocketMath!
Funding opportunities are sometimes disguised as competitions!

Examine existing programs
... you may already have a winner 😊
Design a fix to meet a critical need

RocketMath!

Infused aeronautics into math classes in partnership with my science unit to address low scores on state math assessment

$22,000 for a 3-year program fully funded by our state natural gas corp
Think beyond one ‘silhouette’

Reading Sparks

$2,000 for a set of Kindles and digital bookshelf as a classroom lending library
Make it Memorable!

RocketMath!

Reading Sparks

digit@l reflections

Environmentors

The SWiMiM Team
Student Water Initiative in Michigan
Harper Woods 7th grade SWIM Team

Student Water Initiative in Michigan

Grant Funds of $20,000+ in one calendar year!
The Student Water Initiative in Michigan

The dream that drove this project: Place-Based Learning for Environmental Stewardship in Our Great Lakes

- Partnerships with stakeholder organizations for in-kind &/or financial support
- Comprehensive plan mapping out the year, detailing the dreams, student assessment, ways to share success with other educators
- Multiple letters of support

Polished this proposal over an 8 month timespan
Robust Partnerships and Strong Curricular Base!
Meet **BOB**: Our “Basic Observation Buoy”

- Construction plan from NOAA researcher
- Previously implemented along Atlantic coast with university undergrad students and high school science clubs
- First time in fresh waters and with middle school students!
- Anchored in shallow, calm waters for a 24/7 data stream
We started the year’s studies in July!!

A summer Discovery cruise on Lake St Clair
Service Learning -
International Beach Cleanup Day

Connections to Nature

Lots of trash!!
Harness the Power of Experts!
Supplies from Alliance for the Great Lakes

Instruction to Build Foundational Knowledge and Skills

Guest Speaker Dr. Sonia Joseph Joshi from the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory at U of M in Ann Arbor
Involve the community!

Wild Birds Unlimited

Edsel Ford Estate

Huron-Clinton Metroparks
Share with Authentic Audiences!
Build in Multi-Grade or Cross-Curricular Components!
Recruit Colleagues!
Use the lingo! ⭐
Know the current trends!

“Place-based Education”

“Under-represented groups”

Women in Science

“Citizen Science”

“STEM”
Share word of the program
Market, Promote, Alert the Media!

“Authentic Audiences”
Stakeholder Groups
Search the net! Join every listserv! Make Cold Calls! Ask at Parties!

**Government Agencies**

- Departments of Ed – state and national
- Ex: [http://www.epa.gov/students/awards.html](http://www.epa.gov/students/awards.html)

**Educational Organizations**

- Local ISD ✦✦ Professional Groups ✦✦
- NSTA ‘Building a Presence for Science’ …

**Local/National Businesses**

- Lowes ✦✦ Home Depot ✦✦ Best Buy ✦✦
- Sam’s Club ✦✦ Walmart ✦✦ Dollar General …

**Philanthropic Foundations**

- Voya ✦✦ MEEMIC ✦✦ …

www.getedfunding.com
Remember why you’re doing this!
Thank You!

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Thank You!