

# Executive Summary

## Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

### November 11, 2014

## Institute of Museum & Library Services Grant

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### **Board Goal:**

*2b – Establishing high expectations with a curriculum that fosters inquiry and critical-thinking*  
*2c - Developing academic skills and interpersonal relationships necessary for student success in college, the workplace, and for life.*

### **Purpose of Report**

Denton Inquiry 4 Lifelong Learning (DI4LL) is a groundbreaking project with multiple learning space partners in Denton, Texas. Our long range plan is to produce a replicable model of a Pre-K-20 research initiative that is adaptable by other educational groups for improving student performance in research and critical thinking.

The purpose of this grant is to write a vertically aligned curriculum for inquiry skills from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 20 (Graduate-level dissertations) which according to a review of the literature has not been done before. Our partners in the grant are UNT Libraries, UNT SLIS, TWU Libraries, TWU SLIS, and the Denton Public Library.

As we progress through the various stages of this project, members of the DI4LL Advisory Board have spoken at state, national, and international conferences, written articles in national publications, and gained the support of experts in the field. The Center for the International Scholarship in School Libraries (CISSL) at Rutgers University is interested in partnering with us and serving as the outside entity that will validate any research we gather.

**Objectives** (One sentence, bulleted statements of the objectives of the programs or activity for which the report is written)

- Address the statistic that 1 in 3 students in Denton County at-risk for drop out.
- Enlist the support of other partners (Denton Public, social service agencies) to address workforce readiness skills.
- Enlist the support of partners (Denton Public, social service agencies) to help identify preschoolers and their families not currently being served by Denton ISD and address their needs either within Denton ISD or through some of our content partners such as the public library.
- Continue to teach our curriculum in order to prepare students for college level research.
- Create a longitudinal study to assess the effectiveness of the various inquiry programs offered by the coalition partners (universities, schools, public library,

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social service agencies) in order to see what changes need to be made in order to address the needs of our patrons (at all levels served from birth to adult).

- To create a replicable model other communities could use to meet the needs in their community. Dean Halbert of the UNT Libraries said this study has the potential to be quoted in the literature as the “Denton Study.”

**Operational Impact** (Include facts and figures as to personnel needs, budget impact, facilities impact, and time frame, commitment(s) required from the District, etc. Report “bottom line” in this section.)

We are applying for an Institute of Museum and Library Science (IMLS) Connected Learning Grant. If we receive the IMLS Research grant there will be no operational impact on Denton ISD as all expenses will be paid for by the grant.

**Results** (A brief summary of what the program or activity for which the report is written can be expected to accomplish. Discuss the advantages *and* disadvantages of the proposal. Include in the report (but not in this summary) any evaluative data which may help illustrate program status or progress.)

We expect to be able to show growth through the instruction of Information Literacy Skills. Students will be able to:

- develop a research plan
- Identify a research question,
- find sources (online and print) to answer their research questions,
- refine the research question, if necessary
- evaluate the information found for bias and accuracy,
- use the information gathered ethically and appropriately
- Share their information with others
- evaluate their own work.

**Other Options** (List all other options that are available for the Board to consider.)

If we are not awarded the IMLS grant:

- a. Sub Days for Teachers/Librarians
- b. Speaking Fees for Dr. Leslie Maniotes, one of the developers of Guided Inquiry Design and a Teacher Effectiveness Coach with the Denver Public Schools to train teachers/librarians.
- c. Materials – The book Guided Inquiry Design: A Framework for Inquiry in Your School by Carol C. Kuhlthau, Leslie K. Maniotes, and Ann K. Caspari and workshop handouts for each participant.