

On Wed, Jun 1, 2022 at 9:54 AM Luo, Fenqjen <fluo@montana.edu> wrote:

Dear GEAR UP School District Superintendent,

Last summer, I had conversations with the Montana GEAR UP Director, Dr. Travis Anderson, and the *Director of American Indian/Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships*, Dr. Angela McLean, in OCHE about helping develop K-12 STEM teacher leaders in high-need school districts like your school district. My MSU colleagues and I later wrote a proposal to the National Science Foundation for a planning grant that would ultimately support science and math teachers in rural areas. Although we were not funded, I am pleased to share that our proposal was rated **competitive** during its first review. The reviewers offered actionable feedback, so we feel optimistic about a resubmission this year.

If selected, this capacity-building project would help us conduct a needs analysis and build partnerships in order to later develop a complete Noyce Track 3 Master Teaching Fellowships (MTF) project (up to \$3 million). The grant would provide participating teachers with a \$10,000 salary supplement each year for a five-year teaching commitment period while teaching in a high-need LEA.

I hope that you will be interested and available to support this work by being our partner on the small capacity-building project that could lead to the larger proposal. If our proposed project is funded, your commitment would involve **completing one survey, participating in one meeting, and reviewing the submitted project materials in early summer 2023**. We will be able to offer you or your school district a small stipend for your efforts and time if funded, and of course, your district would be a key collaborator on the full proposal, which could bring \$50,000 salary supplements to a STEM teacher in your district.

If you can join us, we need a letter of support by June 9, 2022. Please feel free to copy the text in the attached template onto your letterhead and add your signature. If your school can join us, we need a letter of support by **June 9, 2022**. I attach two NSF slides including basic information about Capacity Building (CB) and Track #3 projects. I am happy to schedule a time to talk about the resubmission.

Thanks for considering,

Sincerely,

Fenqjen Luo

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