

**Intermediate District 287 & Northeast Metro 916
Grants and Research Office (GRO)**

**Grants and Research Office (GRO) Annual Report
2004-2005**

Differentiated Instruction for All (DIAL) Project

- The website contains the structure for both the institution and the classroom to implement differentiated instruction.
- Exemplary programs and resources gathered from other schools and institutions are hot-linked into our website. Current hot-links are being reviewed and updated for use next year.
- Differentiated instruction learning communities are being completed for this school year and are now being promoted for use next year.
- Differentiated strategies focusing on specific curricular area will be added to the website for use during the next school year.
- The DIAL Project is being shared at professional conferences and being considered for use in teacher education programs.

Scientifically Based Education Research (SciBER) Project

- The three-part *Bridging Research to Practice Symposium* was held during this school year.
- The three-part *Bridging Research to Practice Symposium* will be repeated this summer as part of the GRO Initiatives Summer Institute.
- A format is being developed to condense scientifically based education researched science programs into a useful form to support districts as they consider new science curriculum.
- A format will developed next year to condense scientifically based education researched math and reading programs into a useful form to support districts as they consider new curriculum for these areas.

Personalizing the High School Learning Experience Project

- The Personalizing the High School Learning Experience Forum included representatives from high schools of member districts. Joe Nathan, the keynote presenter, shared research and examples of successful personalization strategies and programs.

- Grant planning and process materials created for a forum on “Smaller Learning Communities: Developing a Strong U.S. Dept. of Ed. Grant Proposal.” These new materials, available on the “Personalizing the High School Experience” section of the web site, include:
 - Identify & Involve Key Stakeholders (graphic)
 - Grant Action Planning (steps for facilitators)
 - Facilitating a Focus Group on SLC’s (sample questions)
 - Small High Schools: Possible Resources
- Regular updates are sent to interested schools on the status of funding and the process for applying for Smaller Learning Communities grants through the U.S. Dept. of Education.
- In collaboration with the Center for School Change, GRO is offering two staff development sessions as part of the GRO Initiatives Summer Institute focusing on building community partnerships to support high school reform and implementing successful high school transition support systems including advisor-advisee programs.

GRO Initiatives Summer Institute

- GRO is sponsoring our first GRO Initiatives Summer Institute. These training opportunities further two major GRO initiatives to apply research to practice.
 - Bridging Research and Practice is a three-part series that has run successfully during the school year.
 - Personalizing the High School Experience provides two new seminars for administrators and teachers.

We have clustered these training sessions and linked them with our priority areas, to better serve our member districts in implementing and seeking funding for research-based educational programs and practices.

Grant Services

- U.S. Dept. of Education grant section redesigned with new categories and hot-links to the Ed.gov web site. Grant examples were updated. Links to Minnesota schools who have been awarded federal grants were added.
- New introduction written for the MN Dept of Education grant page to help members identify and contact key people to learn about state grants. (All references to Dept. of Children, Families and Learning changed to MDE.) MDE does not have a data based web site to easily find their grants on-line. In the future, when state grants are announced, GRO will try to post them on the web site.
- Foundation section of web site is being revised and updated. New categories to include: National Foundations, Minnesota Foundations, Local Community & Family Foundations. Will be completed June, 2005. Foundation information will be presented in a standard format with direct hot-links to individual Foundation web sites to find more information.

- Helpful links to other grant web sites (i.e., MN Council of Foundations) and grant search sites added to help members find other grant funders, resources and more information on grant writing. “Training Events” section of the web site added so members can easily check out upcoming GRO symposiums, forums, and summer institutes and sign up on-line.
- Continue to respond to requests for membership, grant funding research, grant writing questions, and other grant and research requests.

Grants and Research Office Operations and Promotion

- The Grants and Research Office Advisory Committee has met twice during the year to provide input and feedback related to GRO initiatives.
- The Grants and Research Office promoted its services at the Education Minnesota Fall Conference.
- A brochure has been developed for use with member districts providing an overview of grant-writing and research-to-practice services. A supplement to the brochure includes the services provided for associate members of the Grants and Research Office.
- A postcard was mailed to all school districts in Minnesota promoting GRO Associate Membership.
- The St. Michael-Albertville Public Schools and the Elk River Public Schools have joined GRO as associate member districts.
- Materials associated with GRO initiatives are frequently distributed at professional meetings to connect people to the Grants and Research Office.
- The Grants and Research Office had a booth at the Minnesota Association of School Administrators’ Conference in the fall.
- The GRO-o-gram is electronically distributed to all member districts featuring the summer institute, grant funders, and hot-links to important resources. A new index format was created for easier scanning of information and reading of updates.

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