



GRO-o-gram October 2005

Thanks to all who stopped by our booth at the EdMN convention! There is interest in grants to enhance educational programming. The good news is that grant funds are available—one just needs to know where to make the calls and send the letters of inquiry. Since our last GRO-o-gram, our office has sent out over 100 grant funder ideas to members who requested help in identifying foundations and grants. Check out our Grant Search Help Request Form (Click on #5 below) and send it to us so we can help jump start your grant searching.

The GRO collaborative is also a leader in sharing the latest research to practice ideas through courses, trainings, and resources on our GRO web site. We have highlighted a number of good workshops below related to our initiatives. If a topic or title is underlined, we have attempted to hot-link you to the full information. If you are interested in joining the Grants and Research Office, please e-mail us at info@grantsandresearchhelp.us

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1. MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN SYMPOSIUM 11-15-05

The Minnesota High School Redesign Symposium sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Education is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2005, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Continuing Education & Conference Center, 1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota. This symposium aligns with the efforts of the GRO Personalizing the High School Learning Experience Project. To register for the symposium go to <http://education.state.mn.us/mde/static/High%20School%20Redesign%20Symposium.doc> Questions? Contact Jacqui Steele at jacqui.steele@state.mn.us or 651-582-8852.

For information on the GRO Personalizing the High School Learning Experience Project go to <http://www.grantsandresearchhelp.us/research/html/personalizing.htm>

For information on the Minnesota Department of Education High School Initiatives go to http://education.state.mn.us/mde/Academic_Excellence/High_School_Initiatives/index.html

2. GRANT-WRITING ESSENTIALS WORKSHOP 11-03-05

Park Nicollet Foundation and the Hopkins School District proudly present an opportunity to enhance your fund-raising skills. This half-day workshop will provide valuable tips and insights for writing effective, compelling grants. Designed for the grant writer who is looking for a new approach, the session will cover how to find funding and the essential components of a grant proposal.

The presenter will be Barbara Davis, adjunct faculty for Saint Mary's University and the Center for Nonprofit Management at the University of St. Thomas. This workshop has been underwritten by Park Nicollet and Hopkins so is very affordable. Cost: \$15, includes continental breakfast. Location: Eisenhower Community Center, Hopkins, MN Time: 7:45 to noon. For more information and to register call 952-988-4073.

3. MN COUNCIL OF NONPROFITS CONFERENCE Nov. 3-4, 2005

Framing: Crafting Messages that Build Support, St. Paul River Centre

Crafting strong messages and delivering them to the appropriate audiences will help nonprofits advance their missions by building support from volunteers, board and staff members, policymakers, donors and the wider community. At this year's MCN Annual Conference, we'll be framing messages that work. This year's conference will feature eight tracks of breakout sessions: Executive Leadership; Governance; Finance and Management; Marketing and Communications; Human Resources; Fundraising; Public Policy and Advocacy; and Crafting Messages that Build Support.

For information call 651.642.1904 or visit <http://www.mncn.org>

4. DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION FOR ADMINISTRATORS & TEACHER LEADERS 12/1, 1/13, 3/9

Dr. Richard Cash will present three half-day workshops scheduled for December 1, January 13, and March 9 on Differentiated Instruction to help administrators and teacher leaders implement systems that support differentiation in all classrooms. These sessions align with the efforts of the GRO Differentiated Instruction for All (DIAL) Project.

The sessions are sponsored by the Metropolitan Principals Academy and the Minnesota Department of Education. For additional information go to <http://www.megt.org/links/Differentiating%20for%20Adminis.pdf> or contact Judee Ferguson at judee.ferguson@state.mn.us or 651-582-8865.

For information on the GRO Differentiated Instruction for All (DIAL) Project go to <http://www.grantsandresearchhelp.us/research/html/differentiated.htm>

Check out the new GRO resources added this summer to the DIAL Project web page located at http://www.grantsandresearchhelp.us/research/html/dif_resources.htm

5. GRANT SEARCH HELP REQUEST FORM

Do you have a program or project for which you need funds? GRO staff can help search for grants and link you to possible funders. As a member service, we have developed a [grant search help request form](#) available on our web site. Describe your project and the difference you'd like it to make, and we'll send you some grant funder ideas or creative ways to find community support.

6. GRANT TIP: Calling Foundations to find a match

If you fill out the grant search help request form (see above), GRO staff can help you develop a list of foundations that may be interested in funding your project or program. Before sending in a grant proposal, read the foundation's guidelines carefully (often available on-line) and then call a staff person at the foundation for further clarification. When calling a foundation, keep a summary of your project and the foundation's guidelines in hand. Remember to:

- (A.) Introduce yourself.
- (B.) Ask for a copy of their guidelines (if you do not already have them).
- (C.) Ask if they have a minute to clarify the current interests of their board.
- (D.) Summarize your project in 30 seconds, ask if it fits their interests, and if they are receiving proposals from new groups.
- (E.) Finally, inquire about the next board meeting and whether it would be good to send a letter of inquiry or a full proposal. Clarify the deadline, so that they can receive your letter of inquiry or proposal in time for review. Thank them for their time.
- (F.) Type up the notes from the conversation and keep it filed (hard copy or electronic) for future reference.

7. GRANT FUNDER PROFILE: IMATION

Imation has a commitment to the health and vitality of the communities in which the company employs people and conducts business. This corporate giving program awards grants for K-12 education with the focus on business/education partnerships and special education programs that create opportunities and encourage the use of technology as tools to gain and retain knowledge.

Imation also has a human services priority for programs that focus on life and job development skills for youth and programs that encourage the disadvantaged and those with significant barriers to employment to become self-sufficient through the creative use of technology.

For geographic limitations, Imation prefers Twin Cities organizations that serve a specific neighborhood or a more narrowly focused community, with priority given to programs located in St. Paul and Eastern suburbs.

For more information on Imation's Corporate Giving Program go to:
http://www.imation.com/about_imation/company_info/corporate_contributions.html

8. SCHOOL FUNDRAISING IDEA: Target's Take Charge of Education

Target has donated over \$154 million to schools through Take Charge of Education. You can help your school raise even more with these easy-to-use fundraising tools.

Through the Take Charge of Education program, Target donates 1% of participating family/individual purchases made on target visa or target charge cards at Target stores and on-line at Target.com (and 1/2% of Target Visa purchases made elsewhere) to your school. For some schools, that's over \$10,000 a year.

Once your school is registered, tell parents to sign up for the program and to designate your school as the one to receive the donations from their card use. Get everything you need to spread the word, from flyers and press releases to letters and clip art from their web site. You can download them for use in your school newsletter, printed materials or for your school web site.

Target also offers store-based grants that support projects promoting early childhood education, the arts and family violence prevention.

Raising money for your school has never been easier. For more information go to:
http://target.com/target_group/community_giving/take_charge_of_education.jhtml

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Send comments, suggestions, and ideas to: rmhefte@district287.org