

# GRO-O-GRAM

Grants and Research Office (GRO)  
INNOVATION THROUGH COLLABORATION  
 Intermediate Districts 257 and Northeast Metro 915



**September 2007**

**In this Issue:**

1. Meet new GRO consultant, Marlin Possehl
2. GRO website
3. NWEA Climbing the Data Ladder: Building Local Expertise Workshop, Oct 2
4. See you at NAGC Conference, Nov 7-11
5. CSSR and NASSP sponsored conferences on Secondary School Redesign, Oct & Feb
6. Lesson Study to Support Differentiated Instruction, Oct 3
7. MCF Grantseeking seminar, Sept 20
8. Grantwriting Tips & Help
9. Grant Deadlines

**1. MEET NEW GRO CONSULTANT MARLIN POSSEHL**



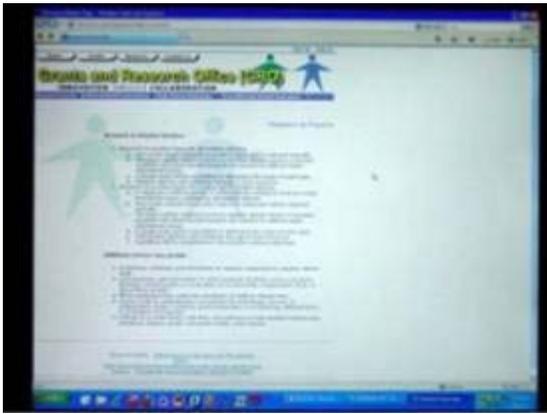
The GRO Office is please to announce the appointment of Marlin Possehl as its new coordinator. Marlin is assuming responsibilities for grants research and facilitation, the GRO-O-Gram and managing content on the grants assistance website. He also has some ideas for creating online bulletin board or blogs for professionals in different locations with similar interests or concerns.

Marlin has been the Executive Director of several non-profit organizations, including The ALS Association, The Epilepsy Foundation and Big Brothers of Minneapolis. He has experience with private foundation and corporate funders. Marlin hails from Minneapolis and is the current president of the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association. Help us welcome him and feel free to contact him with questions or ideas. And please contact him if you plan to submit a grant

request so we can support it and track progress.

[Gro-guy@comcast.net](mailto:Gro-guy@comcast.net)

**2. GRANTS AND RESEARCH HELP WEBSITE**



Find helpful information at the 287/916 Grants and Research website. Categories include:

- Research to Practice Services
- Differentiated Instruction (including DIAL E-Learning online courses)
- High School Redesign
- Scientifically Based Education
- Grantwriting Assistance (Tips, Templates, District Info, Help with Prospect Research)

Go to: <http://www.grantsandresearchhelp.us/>

# Professional Development

### **3. NORTHWEST EVALUATION ASSOCIATION (NWEA) MAPS TESTS STEP 3 – CLIMBING THE DATA LADDER: BUILDING LOCAL EXPERTISE WORKSHOP**

Tuesday, October 2, 2007 from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm (Register by September 27)

ID 287 Service Center, Room 321, 1820 Xenium Lane, Plymouth

Cost: \$250

Credits: 6 Hours Continuing Ed Units

This workshop is designed for instructional coaches, lead teachers, and others who will be responsible for training district staff. It includes a focus on three sections: instructional ladders, differentiated instruction, and lexiles. The instructional ladders section will address ladder instruction; assessing student readiness, learning styles, and interest; zone of proximal development; designing instructional ladders; and assessing student progress.

The differentiated instruction section will focus on basic concepts of differentiation: flexible grouping, respectful tasks, ongoing assessment/adjustment/differentiation by content, process, and product; strategies for differentiation; grading in the differentiated classroom; and managing the differentiated classroom.

The final section on lexiles will address what lexile measures; using lexile in the content areas; creating a lexile breakdown chart; and lexile ladders.

For details, map and registration go to: <http://www.prepcenter.org/index.php?src=events&srctype=profile&refno=250&category=PREP%20Events>

### **4. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GIFTED CHILDREN CONFERENCE**

Wednesday – Sunday, November 7 – 11, 2007

Minneapolis Convention Center

Cost: \$290/Members \$370/Non-members (Early Bird Rates good until Friday, Sept 21)

Visit our GRO booth while you're there.

The Annual Convention is divided into three parts. Separate registration and payment are required for pre-convention and action labs.

The **Regular Convention** consists of:

[350 breakout sessions](#)

[three general sessions](#)

The [2007 Signature Series](#):  
featuring the program chair's invited sessions

**Pre-convention:**

**Wednesday**

[Wednesday Academies](#)

**Thursday**

[Focus Sessions](#) and [Action Labs](#)

[Click here](#) to view the full schedule of events.

[Click here](#) for a full listing of Exhibiting Companies

Read more about the limited number of need-based [2007 NAGC Convention Scholarships](#) available.

**NAGC's Annual Convention is being held November 7 - November 11, 2007**

Most events will take place at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

For details and registration go to: <http://www.nagc.org/index.aspx?id=1357>

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##### **5. Secondary School Redesign Upcoming Conferences**

The Center for Secondary School Redesign (CSSR) & The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) are pleased to sponsor:

The Showcase of Model High School Programs  
The Conference Center at Bentley College,  
Waltham, Massachusetts  
October 10, 2007

Breaking Ranks Fall Institute  
Bedford, New Hampshire  
October 22-26, 2007

The Breaking Ranks™ Secondary School Showcase  
San Diego, CA  
February 4-5, 2008

For additional information and registration go to [www.cssr.us](http://www.cssr.us)

##### **6. Lesson Study to Support Differentiated Instruction**

Wednesday, October 3, 2007 from 12:30-4:00 pm  
ID 287 Service Center, 1820 Xenium Lane, Plymouth  
Cost: \$30  
Credits: 3.5 Hours Continuing Ed Units

FOCUS:

This workshop will provide an overview of lesson study as a staff development strategy to raise differentiated instruction to a higher level of implementation. Participants will learn the lesson study fundamentals and implementation strategies that have been successfully used in single and multiple districts.

In addition to learning the lesson study fundamentals, participants will also explore ideas of how to design, implement, and support pilot groups of teacher-alike groups within their own district or across multiple districts to support differentiated instruction.

Lesson study is a method of job-embedded professional development that can also give structure to existing Professional Learning Communities.

**FACILITATOR:**

Pete Ziegler, Executive Director, Minnesota River Valley Education District, is a recognized trainer who has worked successfully with several school districts to implement this highly effective strategy.

**INTENDED AUDIENCE:**

Staff development, teaching and learning, and gifted and talented leaders; school leadership team members; and principals.

**REGISTER ONLINE** at <http://www.prepcenter.org>

If you have difficulty with online registration, contact the PREP Center at 763-550-7124.

After you register online, please forward a check payable to Intermediate District 287 or a purchase order to invoice your district to:

Jean Wiley  
Intermediate District 287  
1820 Xenium Lane N  
Plymouth, MN 55441  
(Phone: 763-50-7221)  
(FAX: 763-550-7199)

Important: Please include your name, site, workshop date/s and title/s.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:**

If, after registering, you find you cannot attend, we encourage you to send a substitute. We accept early cancellations (e-mail these messages to [jbwiley@district287.org](mailto:jbwiley@district287.org)). NOTE: No-shows and cancellation e-mails received after 3 PM on Friday, September 28, will result in billing for your full registration fee unless it is an emergency for which GRO staff has approved waiver of your workshop fee.

**QUESTIONS:**

Contact Duane Udstuen, Research-to-Practice Consultant: [dhudstuen@district287.org](mailto:dhudstuen@district287.org)

For additional information on the Differentiated Learning for All Learners (DIAL Project) go to:

<http://www.grantsandresearchhelp.us> (under "E-Learning Community" menu).

# Grantseeking Assistance

**7. THE MINNESOTA COUCIL ON FOUNDATIONS "Grantseeking for Beginners" seminar**

Thursday, September 20, 2007 (registration deadline is September 13)

Continuing Education and Conference Center at the U of M – St. Paul Campus.

Cost: \$95.00

This popular seminar provides essential information for grantseekers interested in learning the basics of grantwriting. The Grantseeking for Beginners seminar will help you:

- Be more effective in researching potential sources for grant support
- Gain an understanding of good proposal development process, and pinpoint key elements and information to include in your grant proposals
- See the proposal review and decision-making process from a grantmaker's point of view during a grantmaker panel discussion

***This seminar will address foundation and corporate giving only. It will not cover government funding sources.***

#### **Questions?**

Contact the Minnesota Council on Foundations:

Phone: 612.338.1989

E-mail: [info@mcf.org](mailto:info@mcf.org)

For more information, visit <http://www.mcf.org/MCF/grant/beginners.htm>

## **8. GRANTWRITING TIPS/HELP**

### **Five Tips for Foundation Grant Writing**

- Have a clear idea and an outline of a proposal before searching for funding. Be specific.
- Find out exactly how much the project will cost before you search for funding.
- Know who will benefit special needs, ethnicity, geographic area, etc.
- Apply to more than one foundation.
- Focus on client (student or teacher) benefits, not benefits for your organization.

Over half of Minnesota's foundations use a common grant proposal template, consisting of:

1. Letter of inquiry - general overview - 1 page
  - Who we are;
  - Geographic location;
  - What the Requested Amount of the Grant is;
  - What the money is for;
  - Who would benefit.
2. Body of grant proposal - usually 5 pages maximum
  - Background of organization;
  - Budget;
  - Objectives of grant proposal;
  - Timeline for proposal.

Timing:

For foundation funding, there is a lag between when the grant proposal is due and when the money is awarded - maybe as much as 6-8 months. Early planning is essential.

Corporations often have a quicker turn-around time. They sometimes have a less formal process and deadline schedule than private foundations.

#### **More Grant Help**

##### **Online grant writing resources**

Visit [www.educationworld.com](http://www.educationworld.com) for help with basic grant writing and search techniques.

**(find more grant writing tips on the Grants and Research Office website, under Grant Help)**

## **9. GRANT DEADLINES**

### **Richfield Community Foundation**

Application deadline: October, 2007

- Geographic focus: Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, Community of Richfield
- EDUCATION: Pre-school/elementary, Secondary.

Contact Lynn Schoonmaker, PO Box 23077, Richfield 55423 612.869.8057

**Andersen Corporate Foundation**Application deadline: October 15, 2007

**EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT:** Andersen Corporate Foundation supports organizations that offer intellectual and social opportunities with a focus primarily on young people, senior citizens, and people with disabilities.

**Focus Area Description:**

- Programs for public and private schools that are not funded in the general operating budget, and a responsible, independent group oversees allocation of the funds
- Programs that focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- Post-secondary education that prepares individuals for the workplace
- Leadership development
- Formalized enrichment activities

<https://www.srinc.biz/bp/index.html>

**Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota**Application deadline: October 1, 2007

- **K-12 Education**

Wells Fargo provides a wide range of support to K-12 schools:

- Matching Gift to Education program that matches team member contributions to accredited Pre-K schools through Colleges, dollar for dollar up to \$6,500 per year, per employee
- Wells Fargo is the largest provider of Junior Achievement volunteers in Minnesota K-12 schools
- *Hands on Banking* financial literacy education program - Wells Fargo is proud to provide every person the opportunity to learn about banking basics, savings and checking accounts, budgeting, credit and investing through our financial literacy program, Hands on Banking. This financial literacy program presented in both English and Spanish has specific curricula designed for Grades 4-6, Grades 7-9, High School and Adults. Also included are teacher guides. Hands on Banking can be accessed on the web at [www.handsonbanking.org](http://www.handsonbanking.org), or through the Wells Fargo website at [www.wellsfargo.com/about/community](http://www.wellsfargo.com/about/community).

[https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/charitable/mn\\_guidelines](https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/charitable/mn_guidelines)

**Marlin Possehl, GRO Manager & GRO-o-gram Editor**Send comments, suggestions, and ideas to: [gro-guy@comcast.net](mailto:gro-guy@comcast.net)

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