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June 28, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Career and Technical Education Directors

FROM: Loretta Costin, Interim Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education

SUBJECT: Project Lead the Way Innovation Fund Scale-Up Grant

Last month, the Florida Department of Education provided Project Lead the Way (PLTW) with a Letter of Support for their efforts in obtaining an Innovation Fund (I3) Scale-Up Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The primary goal of the Scale-Up Grant funds is to provide high need students with uninhibited access to PLTW programs. In the event that PLTW receives the award and in an attempt to ensure fairness in the distribution of this funding, PLTW is employing a competitive application process for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to apply for the funding based on a variety of specific qualifications.

Although PLTW has received no notification to-date that it has been awarded the Grant, it is preparing its network in the event that it receives the funds. If PLTW is fortunate to receive an award, LEAs will have a very short window of opportunity to apply (see attached timeline). PLTW strongly encourages LEAs and groups that are intending to seek funds from PLTW to begin formulating their plans as soon as possible.

The first step in this process is for interested and qualified LEAs to inform PLTW of their intent to apply. The Letter of Intent does not obligate the LEAs, but the deadline for e-mailing it to PLTW is July 1, 2010. The attached Letter of Intent template should be used to declare your intent and e-mailed to the address provided in the template.

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The attached application document from PLTW provides detailed information about the grant requirements, process, qualifying factors, and scoring criteria. PLTW is in the process of setting up a special portal on their website (www.pltw.com) to provide LEAs with information and answers to frequently asked questions as well as handling electronic submission.

This is a unique opportunity for LEAs to consider implementing new or expanding existing PLTW program offerings at both middle and high school levels. We are currently preparing the State Capacity Document in support of LEA applications.

If you have any questions, please contact Duane Hume at duane.hume@fldoe.org or by phone at (850) 245-9003.

Thank you.

LC/dhj

Attachments