

DATE: November 15, 2012

SUBJECT: 2013 Improving Teacher Quality Grant Awards

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Operating as Title II of the No Child Left Behind Act, the Improving Teacher Quality Grant Program is a federally funded program which provides grants to public and private higher education institutions and non-profit organizations. Administered in Tennessee by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, these grants are designed to conduct training for in-service K-12 teachers.

In accordance with the state’s adoption of the Common Core Standards in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, THEC and the Tennessee Department of Education jointly developed the Request for Proposals which focused on providing high quality professional development in Grades 9-12 Mathematics.

Institutions prepared proposals to demonstrate their ability to provide a residential summer workshop, along with sustained activities throughout the school year, to Grades 9-12 Mathematics teachers. Proposals were allowed a maximum funding level of \$75,000. Projects will be funded for the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013.

An advisory committee consisting of both K-12 and higher education experts was constituted to review grant proposals and make funding recommendations to the Commission. This year’s Advisory Committee is listed on Attachment A. Attachment B presents the projects and funding levels recommended by the Advisory Committee.

OTHER SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE: The grant review process is described on Attachment C to this agenda item. All grant proposals are available for review at the Commission office.

Attachment A
2013 Improving Teacher Quality
Advisory Committee

Emily Carter
*Statewide Collaborative on Reforming
Education*

Kathryn Meyer
*Tennessee Higher Education
Commission*

Scott Eddins
Tennessee State Board of Education

David Sevier
Tennessee State Board of Education

Terrance Gibson
Tennessee Education Association

Vanita Sherrill-Lyell
Volunteer State Community College

Linda Jordan
Tennessee Department of Education

DeAnna Stacey
Tennessee Board of Regents

India Lane
University of Tennessee

Tarol Wells
Memphis City Schools

Patrick Meldrim
TICUA

Brad Windley
Citizen Representative

Attachment B
Improving Teacher Quality
2013 Recommended Projects

PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

East Tennessee State University - Dr. Chi-Che Tai
Reaching for Excellence In High School Algebra

Middle Tennessee State University - Dr. Angela Barlow
Teaching Algebra and More

Tennessee State University - Dr. Janetta Jackson
Mathematics Academy for Teachers

Tennessee Technological University - Dr. Holly Anthony
Modeling High School Mathematics

University of Memphis - Dr. DeAnna Owens
Common Core in the Algebra Classroom

University of Memphis - Dr. Kristina Whicker
Strengthening Mid-Level Math Skills in Mid-South High Schools

University of Tennessee-Chattanooga - Dr. Lauren Ingraham
*Using Reading and Writing to Reinforce Common Core State Standards in
9-12 Math and English*

PRIVATE FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

Lee University - Dr. Lori West
Mathematics in Biotechnology

Milligan College - Dr. Lyn Howell
Teaching Math Matters

Attachment C
Improving Teacher Quality
Proposal Review Process

On August 3, 2012, a memo from Dr. Rhoda and the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Improving Teacher Quality Grants was distributed to college and university chancellors, presidents, deans, and faculty. A contact at each of the 41 teacher preparation institutions was sent the RFP.

The RFP included the background of ITQ grants, federal requirements, funding priorities as determined by THEC, a description of eligible partners (including a list of high-need school districts), competition guidelines, the grant timeline, the evaluation rubric, and all appropriate forms to be completed for proposals. A Notice of Intent to Submit was due via email by September 3, 2012 and completed grant proposals were due to THEC on October 15, 2012 by 4:30 p.m. central.

THEC staff distributed the grant proposals to advisory committee members for review prior to the advisory committee meeting on November 6, 2012. The committee was divided into teams to individually evaluate proposals. The teams met separately in small groups to discuss their assigned grants and score the grants according to the evaluation rubric.

Proposals with the top scores were compiled into a master list. The large committee could pose questions about the grant proposal, make recommendations or amendments, and discuss the level of funding the proposal should receive. The committee then funded the proposals in scored-order, with necessary geographical requirements taken into account.