

DATE: November 19, 2009**SUBJECT:** Improving Teacher Quality Grant Program Awards, 2009-2010**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 K-12 teachers, paraprofessionals and principals. Eligible subject areas include Mathematics, Science, English/Language Arts, Social Studies, Foreign Languages (including English as a Second Language) and related Arts. The Commission adopted a State plan and created an Advisory Committee to review grant proposals and make funding recommendations to the Commission. This year's Advisory Committee is listed on Attachment A.

The attached materials present the projects and funding levels recommended by the Advisory Committee. The recommended projects reflect those that provide maximum effectiveness in involvement of instructional effort for public and private K-12 schools in Tennessee.

As a method of soliciting proposals in direct alignment with Tennessee's K-12 needs, the Request for Proposals included special categories that could be integrated into a project's goals and objectives. This initiative highlights strategies for professional development. Another feature in this year's review process was a two-tiered competition which included the General Competition and a Capacity Building Competition. The Capacity Building Competition was included to encourage more sustained and time intensive professional development. It differed from the General Competition in three major ways: institutions could request up to \$175,000 over a 24 month period, the participants would receive at least 6 hours of graduate credit, and school administrator participation was mandatory. The General Competition was the same as in previous years with institutions being able to request up to \$75,000 over a 12-month period.

Forty-seven proposals were submitted; of those, the Advisory Committee recommended funding for 15 projects totaling \$1,288,733.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION INCLUDED: A list of recommended institutions and funding levels is provided in Attachment B. The General Competition projects will be funded for the period January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010 and the Capacity Building projects will be funded January 1, 2010 to

December 31, 2011. The grant review process is described on Attachment C to this agenda item.

OTHER SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE: All grant proposals are available for review at the Commission office.

ATTACHMENT A
2009
IMPROVING TEACHER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Kay Clark
Tennessee Board of Regents

Dr. Linda Creek
Tennessee Department of
Education

Dr. Linda Doran
Tennessee Higher Education
Commission

Dr. Scott Eddins
Tennessee Department of
Education

Ms. Nicki Fields
Tennessee Education Association

Mr. Fred Heifner
Cumberland University

Ms. Linda Jordan
Tennessee Department of
Education

Dr. Patrick Meldrim
Tennessee Independent Colleges and
Universities Association

Ms. Katrina Miller
Tennessee Higher Education
Commission

Dr. Jennifer Nix
Tennessee Department of Education

Dr. Stephanie Steele
Union University

Dr. Bonnie Yegidis
University of Tennessee

Dr. Roger Weimers
Tennessee State University

Ms. Tarol Wells
Memphis Public Schools

Dr. Brad Windley
Private Citizen

**ATTACHMENT B
RECOMMENDED PROJECTS FOR 2008-09
PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS**

<u>Austin Peay State University</u> “Physics First in TENNESSEE (PFIT)” Dr. Sheila Farrell Pirkle	\$75,000
<u>Middle Tennessee State University</u> “High School Science Redesign” Dr. Rick Vanosdall	\$166,091
<u>Middle Tennessee State University</u> “Mathematical Literacy: Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking Mathematics” Dr. Jeremy Winters	\$72,617
<u>Tennessee Technological University</u> “Supporting the New High School Geometry Standards: Focus On Processes and Technology” Dr. Holly G. Anthony	\$74,703
<u>Tennessee Technological University</u> “Upper Cumberland Institute for Writing and Critical Thinking” Dr. Shannon D. Collins	\$73,745
<u>University of Tennessee at Chattanooga</u> “EXPLORE-ing Middle School Mathematics” Ms. Meg Kiessling	\$74,808
<u>University of Tennessee at Chattanooga</u> “Literacy Across the Content Area” Dr. Kay Cowan and Dr. Valerie Rutledge	\$74,928
<u>University of Tennessee at Chattanooga</u> “PLAN of ACTION for High School Mathematics Teachers” Ms. Tracy Hughes	\$74,977
<u>University of Tennessee at Knoxville</u> “Mathematics for At-Risk Preschool Students (MAPS): Enhancing Instruction in Pre-Kindergarten Environments through Improving Teacher Quality” Dr. Mary Jane Moran	\$74,993
<u>University of Tennessee at Knoxville</u> “Ready to Learn: Connecting Language, Literacy, and Transitions in the Early Years” Dr. Reggie Curran	\$70,315

University of Tennessee at Knoxville \$167,000
“Strategic and Interactive Writing Instruction (SIWI): A Two-Year Focus on the
Language and Literacy Development of Deaf and Linguistically Diverse Students”
Dr. Kimberly A. Wolbers

University of Tennessee at Martin \$75,000
“Project RICA: Reading to Increase Comprehension in Academics”
Dr. Beverly Hearn

PRIVATE FOUR YEAR INSTITUTIONS

Lee University \$73,178
“Collaborating for Autism through Modeling and Picture Schedules (CAMPS)”
Dr. Kimberly Moffett

Lee University \$75,000
“Improving Numeracy and Algebraic Thinking (INAT)”
Dr. Steven R. Lay

Lipscomb University \$66,378
“Preparing Physics and Physical Science Teachers”
Ms. Kara Krinks

Attachment C

Proposal Review Process

On August 6, 2009, 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, a list of funding priorities as determined by THEC, a description of eligible partners (including a list of high-need school districts), competition guidelines, the grant timeline, and all appropriate forms to be completed for proposals. Completed grant proposals were due to THEC on October 5, 2009 by 4:30 p.m. central.

THEC staff distributed the grant proposals to advisory committee members. The advisory committee received all grant proposals by October 9, 2009. The advisory committee met on October 28, 2009 to make recommendations for awards. The committee was divided into four teams for each subject area, Language and Literacy, Science, Mathematics, and Other. The teams met separately to discuss the grants related to their content area. Each grant proposal was assigned a lead discussant who gave an overview of the proposal and moderated the team's discussion. Each team chose their top proposals for funding and brought them before the entire committee.

The committee was given an overview of the proposals chosen for funding. The committee could pose questions about the grant proposal, make recommendations or amendments, and discuss the level of funding the proposal should receive. Once each team presented the proposals recommended for funding, the committee voted on funding levels for each of the proposals and stated any required conditions for funding.