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**NNER Setting Renewal Grants – 2013-15**

Call for Proposals

The work to advance the Agenda for Education in a Democracy (AED) is an ongoing process.  Sustaining it requires participation at every setting and throughout the setting including the wide array of expertise within the setting. The Executive Board and the Governing Council (GC) understands that changes—in leadership, national and state policy, and budgets as examples—are ongoing and can affect involvement and commitment to the AED at local levels, collaboration within and across setting institutions, and engagement by partners to advance the simultaneous renewal of schools and places that prepare educators.  The GC is committed to supporting settings’ efforts to renew, sustain and revitalize local work to ensure that partners are fully engaged in advancing the NNER mission.

Background:

At the October meeting in Denver, the GC agreed that the NNER should fund options that support local setting activities aimed at renewing the setting’s structures and partnering activities. Setting colleagues may determine that the work is not as vibrant as it could be and/or note that changes over time have resulted in diminished focus on the NNER mission and AED as the guiding principles for the partnership. Another consideration is that over time the depth and breadth of partnership work is in need of renewal. Indicators of this include the need to increase cross- institution communication and collaboration in partner schools, ongoing university–school reciprocal support for schools and educator preparation programs, authentic university presence in schools and school personnel presence in university programs, a shared Arts and Sciences and college of education commitment to educator preparation, a culture that values all partners’ roles, and structures that enhance the partners’ work—all grounded in the NNER mission.

To address the ongoing need to renew and sustain quality work in the settings the executive board, at its December meeting, approved allocating $12,000 annually over a three year period (2013-2015) to support up to ten local efforts to provide leadership development and increase commitment to the NNER mission. Individual proposals can be submitted for up to $3000.

Following is a call for proposals for settings interested in planning and delivering setting renewal sessions:

The proposal must include:

* A brief history of the setting’s structures and activities that support the NNER mission
* A description of the current state of the partnership with specific information related to what areas require attention with evidence that the description includes the voices of all partner groups (i.e. A&S, education, school partners).
* Clear goals or outcomes that address how the session will improve local work to advance the NNER mission and/or AED throughout the setting
* Clear description of how participants will be invited and included in meaningful ways including in the planning of the session
* List of targeted participants including institutional roles and roles in the partnership work
* Commitment to providing an in-depth planning process to be held over time including proposed dates for the sessions
* An outline of the sessions’ proposed content and processes
* A detailed budget description of how the NNER funds will be used
* A description of local support such as meeting space, food, chart paper and other materials.

Settings may request that the executive director, executive board members, or other NNER colleagues participate in the session. This may include facilitation related to specific content, overall involvement, or serving as a consultant for various aspects of the planning and/or delivery of the process.

Proposal Guidelines: (not to exceed 5 pages)

1. All points listed above must be included in the narrative.

Questions to consider when writing the narrative:

* What processes have we used to reflect on our setting’s renewal needs?
* What are the most critical needs to strengthen our collaborative work aligned with the NNER mission?
* Who needs to be involved in the planning and the process?
* What type of communication is needed to ensure that all needed voices are heard in the process of development and delivery?
* How will the results of the session be incorporated into the ongoing structures and activities of the setting partners?
1. List the materials that will be used.
2. The NNER has allocated $12,000 in each of the calendar years 2013, 2014, 2015 to fund setting renewal grants. There is no timeline for these proposals; they may be submitted anytime during the approved funding period. The Executive Board will appoint a committee of three tripartite members to review each proposal and will ensure that no one from the setting from which the proposal comes is a reviewer for that proposal. All proposals will be reviewed within 60 days of receipt as they are submitted and if acceptable will be funded in the order in which they are received. If acceptable proposals exceed budgeted funds in any one calendar year, setting proposals will be funded in the next calendar year. Settings are encouraged to consider and plan for this contingency.

Submit the proposal electronically to Ann Foster at annfoster@nnerpartnerships.org and Greg Bernhardt at gregory.bernhardt@wright.edu