

CASTLE Planning Grant to Z. Smith Reynolds

Overview: To submit a planning grant to the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. The deadline for application submission is February 1st and August 1st.

Planning Grant Purpose: To bring together a consortium of potential partners to develop a plan that will allow the partners to work together on improving Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in CMS elementary schools (K-5) by providing professional development training and STEM-based education kits to elementary school teachers.

Project Partners: Project partners to date include representatives from CMS, Discovery Place, Queens University, and UNCC.

Planning Grant Goal: To determine the feasibility of combining content immersion, student work review, case studies and STEM-based educational kits together in order to improve CMS elementary teachers' ability to teach STEM in their classroom.

Activities to Accomplish this Goal:

Two to Three Day Planning Retreat – Group members will attend a weekend retreat to accomplish the following tasks.

- 1. Develop a Plan to Provide Professional Development to CMS Elementary Teachers*** – The group will work with a consultant on developing a plan to provide professional development to elementary CMS Educators.
- 2. Education Kits*** – Review existing STEM-based kits to determine if their contents are sufficient to meet this project's goal. If they are, the group will determine how to duplicate the process here in Charlotte. If not, the group will develop a plan for revising the kits to meet our elementary teachers' needs.
- 3. Measurement Tools*** – The group will conduct research to determine if an existing measurement tool exists that we can use to evaluate the success of the project in meeting its goal. If a measurement tool does not exist, the group will develop one or contract with an evaluation firm to develop it for them.

Budget: We are planning on requesting \$40,000 from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation to cover the following costs:

- 1. Consultant Fees for the Retreat*** – estimated cost \$7,000
- 2. Retreat Costs*** – this includes lodging, food, and mileage reimbursement. Estimated cost is \$7,000
- 3. Professional Development Curriculum Development*** – hire a consultant to develop and professional development curriculum and workshop agenda. Estimated cost \$20,000
- 4. Educational Kit Development*** – funds to develop prototypes of the educational kits. Estimated cost \$6,000