

Title of Session: Grrreat Grants

Moderator: BJ Berquist

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Room: Grants Group

BjB: while we wait a few minutes...a reminder that if you're new to Tapped In you may want to go to the ACTIONS menu in the top right of your chat window and click on DETACH

DavidBro: Done!

KellyAC: Thank you BJ.. I forgot about that feature

BjB: Let's start with introductions

BjB: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

KellyAC: I am a 3/4th grade teacher from Southern California.

DavidBro: David Brown. Working on a grant for EFI study.com

KimS: Kim, teacher in PA, 2005 Keystone.

VirginiaMe: I'm a technology consultant in FL as well as mentor to principals and teachers re curriculum and instruction and administration

DavidBro: We're certainly a mixed lot!

BjB: Renee?

DavidBro: That's great.

JeffC joined the room.

DavidBro: Hi Jeff.

BjB: does anyone have any questions that specifically brought them to this discussion tonight?

KellyAC: not yet

JeffC: Yes... where be da money at?

DavidWe joined the room.

BjB waves hi to Jeff and David

DavidWe waves

KimS: Cute Jeff...but ditto! :0)

BjB: Jeff, from what I can see there is lots of money out there...

JeffC: Seriously though... what about a grant that would bring Tapped In (and Helpdesk support) to hundreds of school districts... grants for servers, programming support, and Helpdesk?

VirginiaMe: Sort of, I've been away from grants for a while and I have a school interested in grant monies for a really neat reading skills program they have designed and I would like to provide them with some resources.

BjB: you just have to know where to look

DavidBro: I found Unesco's Babel Initiative this week.

BjB: Virginia, check out the featured links on the welcome screen

JeffC: The money wouldn't have to be extreme... the software is open source... servers don't cost *that much*... programmers cost a few and so would Helpdesk. Perhaps focusing on Title I schools?

VirginiaMe: I have already copied them to research, Thanks

KellyAC: when writing grants, what are some of the buzz words that they are looking for?

DavidWe . o O (return on investment?)

BjB: grant funders want to know what they are going to get from their investment

BjB: they don't want kiss up stuff...

BjB: they want detailed information about how you are going to use their money...

KellyAC: I see... so a lot of funders are open to what the grant is or do they have specified requirements? or does it just depend on the funder

BjB: and they want you to follow the directions on the grant applications

KellyAC: thank you BJ

DavidBro: We learned last time that not following directions is the most common cause of losing a grant.

BjB agrees with David

KellyAC: I can see that.

DavidWe: Yes, it's silly, but a way to winnow out extra applications

KimS: I'm interested in hearing about recent successes some of you may have had with a particular foundation, corporate, fed. funding?

KellyAC: I know that there is money out there, but is there a good place to start when you are new at writing grants and an elementary school teacher?

DavidBro: Silly, David.? Sometimes there's lot of their money involved.

DavidBro: www.google.com is helpful.

BjB: it also helps to start out small

JeffC: We should be able to do better than google... can we list a Top 10 Grant sites here? I'll repost to Discussion.

BjB: and perhaps check out local grant resources

DavidBro: Or YOUR favorite search engine.

KellyAC: thanks

JeffC: Professional Development Grants:
http://www.askasia.org/for_educators/professional_development_grants/prof_deve_gran.htm

DavidBro: The Foundation Center is a good source. I posted a link here the first week.

JeffC: Could you repost it please David?

BjB: is the Foundation Center on featured links?

DavidBro: Yes, Bj. www.fdncenter.org.

SusanR joined the room.

DavidBro: Hi Susan

SusanR: Hi David

SusanR: Sorry I am late.

SusanR tiptoes in and sits quietly at the back of the room

KellyAC: are there any sites or funders that we should avoid?

KimS: Good question Kelly.

BjB: wow, that is a good question, Kelly!

DavidWe . o O (Enron, WorldCom)

BjB: I'd check to make sure what strings are attached to any grant

BjB smirks at David

DavidBro: That would be great (top 10) Jeff.

KellyAC: I would hate to have a bad experience my first time writing a grant. What kind of strings might I avoid?

JeffC: I'd probably avoid sites that look like this: <http://www.usgrantsguide.com/cgi-bin/usg.cgi?gpgrants>

DavidBro: You can't win them all, Kelley. It's a numbers game.

SusanR . o O (wonders if anyone has had experience with requesting a grant from Apple)

DavidWe: I've never heard of bad experiences with grants from Apple

DavidBro: Or Bill Gates?

DavidWe: Microsoft bought the Math Forum a pretty nice server (\$20K) in the mid-90s

DavidBro: Bill and Melinda seem to be the top givers.

DavidWe: They are giving a lot to small, innovative schools

JeffC: no bad apples?

DavidWe: rarely

KellyAC: do big companies want to deal with an individual teacher from a very small district

DavidWe smiles

SusanR: Apple did send a group of us technologists to Boston Macworld one year.

DavidWe: I know that Exxon has supported math education for some time

DavidBro: Good for them, David.

DavidWe: You really have to check their giving patterns. What goals they try to support

KellyAC: ok

DavidWe: I think there is an increasing interest (I read an article) about K-12 receiving money that previously almost ALWAYS went to higher education

KellyAC: good to know David

DavidWe: I think philanthropies are realizing the struggle with public monies and the growing importance of K-12 education

DavidWe: Something I saw in the New York Times in the last month, Kelly

SusanR: K to 12 are doing some innovative projects

DavidBro: That may be NCLB. The federal government's not funding it.

DavidWe: Exactly!

DavidWe: Much more innovative, typically, than higher education these days

DavidWe: One thing I've known is that writing the first grant is challenging. It gets easier once you've done it once

SusanR: Have you heard about MIT's 100\$ laptop initiative?

DavidWe: It's being OVER-discussed on a couple of mailing lists I am on

KellyAC: I might try getting a committee together to write one? I have not heard of the MIT's initiative. Tell me more

SusanR: not a grant but <http://laptop.media.mit.edu/>

DavidBro: I hope so, DW.

DavidWe: <http://laptop.media.mit.edu/>

DavidWe . o O (oops, good one, Sue)

DavidWe: Nicholas Negroponte - the head of the Media Lab (way, way cool stuff) at MIT - announced it some weeks ago

KellyAC: thanks

SusanR: http://news.com.com/The+100+laptop+moves+closer+to+reality/2100-1044_3-5884683.html

SusanR: an update

DavidBro: Is that the \$100 laptop, Susan?

SusanR: yep

DavidWe: What do you teach, Kelly?

DavidBro: Amazing!

KellyAC: I teach a 3/4th grade combo class in So California

DavidWe: Nothing is going to happen very soon on that project, IMHO

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Have you seen the Math Forum - www.mathforum.org - site, Kelly?

KellyAC: I am looking to write a grant for my GATE (Gifted) students. I am the Gate coach at my school.

DavidWe: Your kids can Ask Dr. Math a question

KellyAC: I have not tried that web site yet but I will check it out David

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: We developed that web site with a big GRANT from the National Science Foundation

KellyAC: cool

KellyAC: The only problem is that my school is not hooked up to the internet yet (We are a year or so away) if you can imagine that. It is tough because there are so many great tools and resources out there to use.

DavidWe: Ouch! Really?

SusanR: That is surprising, Kelly!

DavidWe wonders if Kelly is cheering for the Angels

KellyAC: yeah... we are currently going to modernization but who knows how long that will take for them to finish. GO "ANAHEIM" ANGELS!! NOT LAA!

DavidWe: I was in Manhattan, today, with lots of people wearing Yankees paraphernalia

DavidWe . o O (0-0, top of the 2nd)

KellyAC: thanks for the update

KimS: Kelly is your district/school using fed. \$ or waiting on self support.?.
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/et/ft/eratemain.asp> for more info. on erate.

KimS: that is for internet connection....

DavidWe . o O (Yankees 1 - Angels 0)

DavidBro: www.thejournal.com might interest you, Kelly No grants, but lots of info on .technology in the classroom.

KellyAC: we passed a bond 2 years ago so they have trenched for it. I think we need to wait for the construction and stuff to finish first.

KellyAC: thank you for all the info. This will help.

KellyAC: The Angels will come back David

DavidWe . o O (1st and 3rd, one out, Derek Jeter at bat)

KellyAC: aren't we supposed to be talking about grants David...

DavidWe: Do you guys in California have any contacts with CUE (Computer Using Educators)?

DavidWe: You know that the NECC conference - big educational technology conference - will be in San Diego July 5-7

DavidWe gets back on-topic

KellyAC: not that I am aware of... I am still fairly new to teaching and stuff.

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: One of the powerful aspects of Tapped In - collaboration

DavidBro: I'm a member of CUE.

KellyAC: what do they offer?

DavidWe: www.iste.org is the big group for educational technology

DavidBro: Periodical and website.

DavidWe: I did a search for "grants" from their website and got 271 records

KellyAC: I am a member of iste... cool

DavidWe nods

DavidBro: That's right DW.

DavidWe: Jeff and I will hopefully do some sort of presentation at NECC next year, focusing on Tapped In

DavidWe . o O (we both submitted proposals)

KellyAC: I just started my masters in Science, math and technology so I am just beginning to check out these different resources.

DavidWe: I've been working with teachers, Kelly, around math (and science) for the past 12 years

KellyAC: it has been an eye opener to see all these resources and how unfortunate my school is not to be able to utilize them yet. Hopefully soon though

DavidWe: Well, you have access somewhere (I'm guessing home), Kelly. So that's a start

KellyAC: that is true and it has been fun actually using the internet for my own educational purposes

DavidWe: This is PRECISELY what Tapped In was set up to help foster - encourage dialog and collaboration among educators

DavidWe smiles

SusanR: do your students have home/library access, Kelly?

KellyAC: there is a library but I work at a title 1 school and a lot of the students do not have access to the library or computers because of their home situation. We have a lot of free/reduced lunch kids, motel kids and a fairly high transiency rate

DavidBro: Thanks all. It's been lovely.

BjB waves goodnight

SusanR: your school district deserves a grant on that basis, Kelly

KellyAC: I agree... it is just getting someone (like me) to get a committee together and the district office to write one