

**Title of Session:** Grrreat Grants

**Moderator:** BJ Berquist

**Title of File:** 20060109grants

**Date:** January 9, 2006

Room: Grrreat Grants Group

**BjB** waves to Beth

**BjB:** Beth, are you a member of this group?

**BjB** . o O ( ggreat grants )

**BethBre:** Nope, this is my first appearance in this room, let me know if I this is an exclusive session. I just finished a 2 day workshop on grants and am looking for more information and resources. If I need to join a group or wait to be invited just let me know.

**BjB:** how about if we start with intros for the transcript

**BjB:** and then I'll show you how to join...you don't have to be invited. The group is public/open

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

**BethBre:** I'm a technology integration specialist in eastern PA - what area of the state are you in?

**BjB:** nw of Harrisburg

**BethBre:** What are the steps for joining the Great Grants group?

**BjB:** scroll down on the screen above this chat window

**BjB:** in the welcome note you should see a green i next to the group name

**BjB:** click on the green i

**BjB:** you should see the group ID page

**BethBre:** Got it! I just added myself to the group, I'm member 32

**BjB** smiles...great. That subscribes you to the group discussion board

**BjB:** I've been adding resources any time I find them

**BjB:** there are also some tutorials on grant writing

**BjB:** and some information that I got when I was at NECC this past summer and attended a grant writing workshop

**BjB:** as a member of the group you can add links to the links folder

**BethBre:** That's exactly what I'm looking for! Have you written federal grants? They look very intimidating, I'm looking to start with applying for some smaller foundation type grants to start out. But I'd appreciate any tips or pointers.

**BjB:** that is what the person at the workshop suggested...go for local resources first

**BjB:** and READ the directions and instructions for the grant very carefully

**BjB:** and also, make sure that the grantor gets something for his buck

**BjB:** do you see the folder for grant writing tips above this chat window, Beth?

**BethBre:** Yes, I can see it

**BjB:** the one I posted is Sheryl Abshire. She's the person who led the NECC workshop

**BjB:** find anything useful, Beth?

**BridgetM:** excellent resource, bj

**BjB:** the members of the group have been very generous with their posts

**BethBre:** I'm definitely printing out the Sheryl Abshire handbook as a resource, and I was just browsing through some of the other links, the UW Grants Information Collection also looks like an EXCELLENT source of information.

**BethBre:** Guess I'll be popping into this area of tapped-in quite a bit over the next year to keep up with grant writing resources!

**BjB:** I subscribe to FND...I think there is a link to that under links

**BjB:** Foundation News Something

**BethBre:** The sample grant proposals are a fantastic guide, for grant writing newbies like me, any successfully funded grant application can be a learning tool and guideline.

**BjB** agrees

**BethBre:** Are there currently any links posted for Pennsylvania, or Mid-Atlantic private foundations providing funding?

**BjB:** I haven't come across any, but if I do, I'll be sure to post to the discussion board.

**BjB:** do you know Karen Connaghan?

**BethBre:** No, the name doesn't ring a bell

**BjB:** she leads the ISTE discussions when we have them...she's in eastern PA

**BridgetM:** New York teacher centers have small grants. run through teacher unions

**BjB:** also, check the Lions clubs, etc.

**BethBre:** Hi Bridget; are you a classroom teacher, or with one of the New York BOCES? I'm with the PA equivalent of the BOCES

**BridgetM:** classroom teacher, k-2 special ed

**BridgetM:** I used to have grant lists but bet the links are old.

**BethBre:** Bless you, that takes a very special, dedicated person

**BridgetM:** we all have our special talents

**BethBre:** I'm just starting out on this grant writing adventure, I just attended a 2 day workshop with Denise Schlegel which was a great starting point, but now it's time to "solo" and go out and search for sources of funding.

**BjB:** Beth, do a google on education grants Pennsylvania

**BridgetM:** one I suggested to our school librarian was through ezra jack keats foundation

**BjB:** cool, Bridget. I love his books

**BridgetM:** used for tech support for a project with 3rd graders. collaborated with Japanese students

**BethBre:** Wow, how did you do the collaboration portion - did you use a web site or primarily email?

**BridgetM:** it was very easy to apply for but needed librarian or tech teacher to manage

**BridgetM:** I didn't do the grant. I passed the lead to librarian

**BridgetM:** she rates grants and could not believe how easy that one was to apply for

**BethBre:** I have found listings of grants in some of my professional publications (Technology & Learning, etc.) but usually the listing of the grant is only a few weeks before the deadline. Have you found a preferred turn-around prep time for grant applications (i.e. try to allow for at least 6 months to complete the grant app?)

**BridgetM:** I do \$1000 grants from the teacher centers here. Best plan is to write proposal in the summer

**BridgetM:** I also tag catalogs or rip out the pages showing things I want so I am not scrambling for info

**BethBre:** Are there any portions of the grants that are pretty standard and can be prepped prior to searching for the grant? Should my organization have on file our student population demographics, standard test scores, economic data, and constantly update (say every 2 or 3 months) just to have it ready in case we find a grant we want to apply for?

**BridgetM:** most recent year's info is usually what is needed - or a link to find latest info

**BridgetM:** standards are a must

**BethBre:** Great point - I'll definitely keep that in mind - relate back to standards whenever possible.

**BridgetM:** I think state standards as well as national organizations. Knowing where to find them - links

**BethBre:** I do have the PA state standards, NETS and ISTE standards marked as favorites on my internet browser. Now I must remember to use them as part of the grant writing process.

**BridgetM:** what grade level do you teach, Beth

**BethBre:** I work with teachers K-12 in implementing technology as a tool in the classroom. Although I technically work with teachers in all subject areas I find that I spend most of my time with Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and specials teachers (computers, music, pe, drama, etc.)

**BridgetM:** well, there is a broad mandate!

**BethBre:** It certainly is diversified, I'm never bored, and I'm always learning new things from the teachers I interact with!

**BjB:** five minutes left...any last comments or questions?

**BethBre:** Thanks for all the links and resources - as Arnold would say "I'll be back". There are lots of things I want to check out. Thanks for all your help.

**BridgetM:** yes, sharing ideas with teachers is the best

**BjB** waves bye and goes to the Arts and Literacy discussion

**BridgetM:** I am off too. Thanks BJ. Nice chatting with you, Beth

**BethBre:** Have a great evening