Title of Session: Grreat Grants
Moderator: BJ Berquist
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Room: Grants Group

BjB: we usually start all Tapped In discussions with introductions. Please let us know where you are located, what you teach and what brings you to the grants discussion.

BjB: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and I'll be leading the discussion.

ShereeR joined the room.

BjB . o O (until I can find someone else to do the job!)

BjB: Hi, Sheree! We're just starting introductions

ShereeR: Hey Bj

JeffC . o O (we need to write a grant to get a new facilitator)

BjB smiles and nods to Jeff

ShereeR: I am Sheree. I live in St. Petersburg, Florida. I teach severely emotionally disturbed students K-12 (ART).

BrendaE: I'm teach in the computer lab at a very small a jersey shore community public school. I am looking for some ways to try to update out equipment and bring us into integrating technology throughout the curriculum.

BrendaE: our equipment

PatrickCA: My name is Pat, and I'm a computer teacher/network admin from Chaska Mn. I saw the session on the calendar last week and thought it looked interesting.

ChristyY: I teach 1st grade but am moving to a librarian position in the fall in Colorado. I am new to Tapped In and just looking around the site. Grant-writing interests me as I know I will write many in my new position.

BjB: wonderful! Thanks, everyone.

JeffC: Jeff Cooper... I'm on Helpdesk here and my local school district wants me to write a grant bringing laptop carts into all the K-4 schools. I have yet to find a grant site where this would be possible.

BjB: Some of you have apparently had experience in writing grants...

BjB: you will find that this room has been made into a resource room to give you some information on grant writing

BrendaE: Jeff, that's the type of grant I too am looking for.

ShereeR: Yes <---------------lots!

JeffC: I don't think they exist any more Brenda.

BrendaE: That is what I have experienced thus far, but am hoping to find something that will be a good fit with our school.

BjB: Sheree, it looks like you're our expert. Do you have any advice on where to look for grants?

BjB . o O (is there a single grant source or should you start locally?)

ShereeR: Hmmmmmm, that is basically my interest too. I have written many grants. I just can't find any right now to upgrade technology equipment. I was doing more technology within the classroom 10 years ago than I am now due to lack of current hardware.

BjB nods

PatrickCA: Have any of you looked into partnerships with industry/local business?

ShereeR: I wish I knew where to look. I would share it with you. However, similar to Jeff's experience, I can't find grants that will give you enough money for hardware.

BjB: if you re-attach your chat window and scroll down to featured items...

JeffC: so... we're all here for the same reason... to get more hardware... I wonder if we can't all write a grant together... with the purpose of having our respective school districts collaborate with each other... focusing on project based learning and keeping the tech somewhat in the background.

BjB: there is a folder for grant resources

BrendaE: Local businesses where I live are basically small family owned enterprises.

BjB: Local resources are usually good, Brenda, if they haven't been sucked dry by the school system already

BrendaE: Jeff, you might have something there.

JeffC: local resources have been sucked dry around here... I'm thinking along the lines of the feds, or Gates, or Paul Allen.

BjB: or HP

BjB . o O (not harry potter)

JeffC: HP grants seem somewhat iffy to me. You have to get a small grant, then apply in a year for a larger one... at least that is what I found anyways.

BjB: one of the Tapped In members said that HP has a lot of tech grants for teachers

BjB: gotta start someplace, Jeff

BrendaE: That's encouraging.

PatrickCA: I like how you aim high Jeff, but I think there are resources in the community that should not overlooked (Knight of Columbus, Legions, VFW)

JeffC: right... for individual teachers... but I'm talking about entire districts here... yeah.

BjB: try this http://ejw.i8.com/grant.htm

ShereeR: Yes, well I am an individual teacher, but I want the equivalent of a small tech lab. A grant for one computer isn't going to do it for me. Been there, done that.

PatrickCA: Intel just had a grant out for a project called "Master Teacher"

BjB: I attended a workshop by Sheryl Abshire at last years NECC...

BjB: she was terrific.

BjB: her grants list is at http://www.cpsb.org/scripts/abshire/grants.asp

BrendaE: Patrick, any details on the Intel project?

PatrickCA: Let me check it out here for you and I'll see if I can post it

BrendaE: Thanks, that would be appreciated.

ChristyY left the room.

PatrickCA: Here's the link www.intel.com/education/teach

BrendaE: Fabulous, thanks.

BjB: also make sure you look at http://www.intel.com/community/grant.htm

PatrickCA: A question for you...Are all these resources going into a folder, or will they just show up in the text we receive?

BjB: they'll show up in the transcript, Pat

PatrickCA: Thanks

JeffC: I bookmark them on my computer as well.

PatrickCA: In Minnesota, one of the places we go for $$$ is an agency called Mcknight. They offer a lot of different grants that often are dependent on your free and reduced lunch count

BjB: I recently came across the Fund for Teachers...think it was listed on one of the arts lists http://www.fundforteachers.org/

ShereeR: I am going to to look up that Intel Master Teacher thing too. The problem with a lot of tech grants I find is that they cater to higher level students than I teach.

BrendaE: Sheree, are there sites dedicated to special ed students that offer grant opportunities?

ShereeR: Oh sure there are. I have gotten those grants. I just can't find one big enough for what I need

BrendaE: I understand.

BjB: try http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/grants/us/programs/tech_teaching/k12_main.html

PatrickCA: How many computers are we talking about Sheree?

BjB: and also consider getting together with other teachers and writing a grant as a team

ShereeR: What I was saying is that the larger more generous grants I have found are for those higher level students in science/math/college prep/etc.

JeffC: From what I've read recently... most of the grants are going for science related projects, etc.

BrendaE: That hp site looks promising. I like the collaborative edge.

ShereeR: Well, back between 1996-2004, I had a very nice little art lab going with 3 student workstations and a teacher laptop. I had two scanners, digital cameras, two printers, etc. It was heaven.

BrendaE: It does seem to be more difficult to get hardware if the project is not science or math based

PatrickCA: Hook up with your local VFW or Legion and arrange to do a piece of the door, pulltabs etc on a specific night.

ShereeR: I still have some of those things now, but they are limping and pretty near lame. I am still using a wonderful G3 with a 1 GB hardrive and a fading monitor. I love it, but I will be buying a bouquet of flowers soon.

JeffC: I think school districts should budget $400K for tech hardware and make the teachers write grants for textbooks.

ShereeR: HA!!! Yes!

BrendaE: Now there's a concept!

BjB: try this for digital cameras
http://www.toolfactory.com/olympus_contest/olympus_teacher.htm

ShereeR: As much as I use my textbooks, that would be easy for me! LOL

ShereeR: I have to take a top down approach at this point BJ. I need the computers before the peripherals.

BrendaE: Oh, this site (digital cams) I really like. And I have a project idea that needs cameras.

BjB: take a look at the transcript archives, Brenda...

BjB: Olympus did a presentation on that grant for the grants group

BjB . o O (forget when)

ShereeR: I have three digital cameras right now. Two very junky Kodaks and one great Canon.

BrendaE: Thanks, I'll check it out.

ShereeR: However, if I change schools next year, I won't have any.

BjB: fyi, transcript archives are at www.tappedin.org/transcripts

PatrickCA: Has anyone seen this one from Best Buy?
http://communications.bestbuy.com/communityrelations/teach.asp?kiosk=

BrendaE: Thanks.

BjB: are you planning on changing schools?

ShereeR: YES. I am trying. This is the first time in 13 years I put in for a transfer. I want to teach different kids for a while.

BjB understands.

ShereeR: I figure I already have my ticket to heaven. It is time for a change.

JeffC: Take your stuff with you.

BrendaE: I'm not certain if I am thinking of the correct grant, but I believe that the Best Buys one funds projects already in existence. I need start-up funding for a new project.

ShereeR: No can do.

ShereeR: The stuff belongs to the school, not me.

JeffC: Just don't tell anyone... bring a pair of bolt cutters to work.

ShereeR: Yeah right

JeffC: Will you be in the same district?

ShereeR: Oh yes. I am not leaving the district.

PatrickCA: Ever consider donations? http://www.ctcnet.org/

BjB: Jeff, this is for you http://www.gatesfoundation.org/PacificNorthwest/

JeffC: Well... maybe you can make a case to your new principal as well as your old one that you should keep the equipment, in addition to working out a deal to try and get more for both schools. It would be a shame if you left equipment behind that ended up lying fallow. Unless you have some real tech savvy teachers with you.

JeffC: Thanks Bj

ShereeR: I will be able to take my laptop because I got that with my own grant money and the two junky Kodaks. I could take my G3. I got that with my grant money too, but it wouldn't be worth the trouble now. It is on its deathbed.

ShereeR: Jeff, that is not my business. The teacher that replaces me with get the stuff left in my room whether they are tech savvy or not.

ShereeR: I will figure it out. I am just thinking out loud now.

KristeeS: I am trying to catch up I just came in. What types of grants are discussing?

ShereeR: Who knows, I might get a job in an art room with bunches of tech stuff. You never know!

BjB: most of us are looking for grants for computers, Kristee

KristeeS: Thanks!

SusanR . o O (sighs ..no grants awarded to Canadian teachers or classrooms)

KristeeS: Does anyone know of any literacy grants?

BjB: should be quite a few out there, Kristee...literacy is big right now

KristeeS: so is technology

BjB: National Geographic grant for geography literacy
http://www.nationalgeographic.com/foundation/grants_teacher.html

BrendaE: Kristee, you might check http://www.reading.org

KristeeS: I'll check into those.

ShereeR: Sheree is signing off too. I have to watch the new show "Honey, we are killing the kids".....See ya!

ShereeR left the room (signed off).

BjB: http://www.aft.org/teachers/jft/grants.htm

BjB: National Council of Teachers of English http://www.ncte.org/about/grants

PatrickCA: Has anyone seen this site?
http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/2comptec.htm   Looks promising if you're willing to dig around

BjB agrees about the digging...most sites require that!

BjB: here's another one http://www.technologygrantnews.com/grant-index-by-type/k-12-grants.html

BrendaE: That one looks like it has possibilities.

BjB: if you're near an eds site you might try http://www.eds.com/about/community/grants/

BjB . o O (not very big grants though)

PatrickCA: I saw that one. Looks good for those near a site

BjB: ok, everyone. Our time is up! Thank you so much for participating in this discussion.

PatrickCA: I think that can be a problem...people want the home run when they can get the same result with hitting singles

BjB: This is exactly what Tapped In is for - collaboration and sharing resources

PatrickCA: Thanks. See you

BrendaE: Thanks for sharing the sites. I'm looking forward to checking out the camera grant site.

BjB waves bye and heads for the Festival Planning Meeting