

Title of Session: Teachers in Training - Classroom Grants

Moderator: Mary Thompson

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Room: Teachers in Training Group

MaryFT waves to Karla and Christina

ChristinL1: hello

MaryFT: I really enjoyed that session

MaryFT: I'm glad you were there Karla

KarlaT: I have had a wonderful mentor/mentee relationship these past 7 weeks in student teaching.

MaryFT: I am soooo glad to hear it

MaryFT: you deserve it

MaryFT: they are lucky to have you

KarlaT: I just hope for a job in the fall!

MaryFT: but I still want you to teach them something too!

KarlaT: They are mostly computer savvy.

KarlaT: the two who aren't haven't asked for my help or expertise

MaryFT: does computer savvy = they use it in the classroom?

KarlaT: I think it would be presumptuous to offer if not asked. I guess I just don't have that relationship built up with them yet.

SarahSce joined the room.

MaryFT: welcome Sarah!

SarahSce: Thank you. Good evening.

KarlaT: Well, they use it mostly to create things for their class.

MaryFT: I am super-glad to see you Sarah!

KarlaT: We are lucky in Katy. I think everyone uses their three computers in their classroom each day during centers. My class does.

MaryFT: what kinds of center activities?

KarlaT: Starfall, Larson's Math, Kidspiration and KidPix

MaryFT: Kidspiration and KidPix...yay!

ChristinL1: what grade are you in Karla

KarlaT: Kdy

KarlaT: Kdg

MaryFT: ?

MaryFT: and you Christina?

KarlaT: Kdy came because of the huge mosquito hawk on my monitor! HELP

ChristinL1: I'm in 3rd

ChristinL1: I really enjoy it

MaryFT: mosquito hawks won't hurt you Karla...they're good insects!

ReneL joined the room.

MaryFT: welcome Rene

KarlaT waves to Rene

MaryFT: ok...I'm going to give you guys a little assignment

ReneL: hello there!

KarlaT: please----no homework--I haven't finished my scavenger hunt

MaryFT: look at Featured Items in this room

MaryFT: you will see a file called grants.doc

MaryFT: not homework Karla

MaryFT: just a resource list for our discussion tonight

MaryFT: okay...let's start by having everyone introduce themselves

KarlaT: U of H student teacher. Graduation 5/13/06!!

MaryFT: I am your discussion leader, Mary Thompson. I teach at the University of Houston.

AnnaES joined the room.

ChristinL1: hi, this is Christina Long, I'm currently student teaching in a 3rd grade class

DavidWe joined the room.

MaryFT: Welcome Anna

SarahSce: I'm a Network Specialist at Herrera Elementary - HISD

MaryFT: we're doing intros now

ReneL: Rene Lugo, Student teacher

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I lead a math education and technology discussion in TappedIn. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

AnnaES: Anna Solis, student teacher Kindergarten and third grade

MaryFT: great group!

MaryFT: so our focus tonight is grants for the classroom

MaryFT: this is based on last month's discussion...this was the suggested topic

MaryFT: I've prepared a brief resource list which you can find in the Featured Items section of our discussion room

MaryFT: I thought we could start there and then let the discussion take its own direction

AnnetteLA joined the room.

BjB . o O (there is also a grrreat grants group in Tapped In that has several grant writing resources)

MaryFT nods to Bj

KarlaT waves like crazy to Christina

MaryFT: I really wanted to go to your session this month...in preparation for this one!

MaryFT: I'd be interested to know if anyone here has written a grant...awarded or not

ReneL: Sort of, I have asked for money before..

AnnaES: I haven't

DavidWe has been a part of a number of grant-supported projects

SarahSce: I've been a part of different grant writing projects at my school.

MaryFT: cool David...what did you learn about the grant writing process?

MaryFT: what was it like Sarah?

SarahSce: It is nice when you have a group that bring in different ideas.

MaryFT nods vigorously

ReneL: What all do you do?

MaryFT: it really helps to write with a group

DavidWe: there's WAY too much Xeroxing

MaryFT: lots of creativity

ReneL: I mean...do you jot down a list of things you need and the amount needed?

MaryFT: good grief...that's the truth...paperless society...ha!

KarlaT: My aunt works and was hired specifically to write grants for UVA and Georgia State.

KarlaT: It seems to be extremely time consuming.

SarahSce: It is exciting when you have completed the grant. It is disappointing when you are not awarded the grant.

MaryFT: good question Rene!

DavidWe: Kind of like your birthday, huh, Sarah?

SarahSce: yes!

MaryFT: what do you all say...where should you start when writing a grant?

KarlaT: I think if I ever wrote one and was not awarded the grant, it would be my last.

ChristinL1: I've never worked with a grant before

ChristinL1: is it that much work

DavidWe: You need to make the case for people giving YOU money - it isn't always going to convince them

MaryFT: oh no Karla...you must learn from the experience

MaryFT: usually there are comments that can help you improve for the next time

KarlaT: Okay, I'm just not good with rejection.

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Welcome to the real world, Karla

KarlaT laughs

MaryFT: for example...NSF grants (the BIG federal ones) are usually not awarded until the 3rd try

ReneL: I used to work for a youth group and we often applied for grants

MaryFT: Christina...it depends on the grant and its requirements

MaryFT: they all have different requirements

AnnaES: I know what you mean Karla, it would be tough getting rejected

MaryFT: we will look at several different classroom examples tonight

KarlaT nods vigorously

MaryFT: there are pros and cons of each

ReneL: It was hard to get them and usually we applied for several at a time

MaryFT: I'm terrible about it too

MaryFT: sort of like looking for a job right Rene?

MaryFT: apply for several, keep trying until you get the right one...

MaryFT: Here is some advice from Scholastic's grant workshop...What do winning grant proposals have in common?

MaryFT: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/professional/grants/WinningProposals.htm>

ReneL: I remember there being a board or a committee or something along those lines

MaryFT: a grant writing committee?

ReneL: I really don't remember...I was 16 at the time and didn't pay much attention to it

MaryFT: take a look at that link...what do you think of the 10 commonalities of winning grant proposals?

ReneL: I do remember it was a lot harder to get one there than it was at a local community center that involved the arts

MaryFT: Annette...it might be easier to copy and paste the link

ReneL: involved

SarahSce: Element number 6 - overuse of educational jargon - This element can be a tough one.

AnnetteLA: okay, thanks

MaryFT nods to Sarah...it makes sense to us, right?

MaryFT: what would be one way to combat the overuse of educational jargon?

KarlaT: have someone-not in education on your committee

SarahSce: good point Karla.

MaryFT: yes...have someone outside of education proofread for meaning

ReneL: good

KarlaT: anytime they say, "what does that mean?" rewrite it.

MaryFT: someone not even on the committee...so that they bring a fresh set of eyes

AnnaES: proposal 4, that would have been an issue for me

MaryFT: yes!

MaryFT: however, if you have to have the word or phrase, you can provide a working definition

MaryFT: to make sure that your readers understand and are using your definition

MaryFT: how so Anna?

AnnaES: meaning, I would have probably stated the problems and assume that I would get the grant wanted

MaryFT: aha...what needs to be in the grant request besides just the statement of the problem?

AnnetteLA: how the grant will solve the problem?

AnnaES: something that will benefit everyone

MaryFT: yes! the solution! or how your proposal will be the solution

ReneL: Number 7

ReneL: giving something back

MaryFT: and...how will you prove that your solution really worked?

MaryFT nods to Rene

ReneL: Do you have to prove it worked?

MaryFT: I wrote a proposal in which a major requirement was to publish our findings

MaryFT: depends on the grantor Rene...many of them do ask for some sort of proof

KarlaT: did you have to return the \$\$ if your grant didn't do what you said it would.

AnnetteLA: I am in a district wide technology grant and the director must send in reports and progress to TEA every few months.

ReneL: ahhh, and it would be a good thing to do so if you wanna ask for more \$\$\$\$

MaryFT: if your grant doesn't do what you say it's going, then it becomes a non-example

MaryFT: exactly Rene...renewal or continuation of your grant is based upon its track record of success

KarlaT: a non-example----new vocabulary for me.

KarlaT pokes Christina

MaryFT: sometimes non-examples are powerful teaching tools...like having students define something by showing them what it is NOT

KarlaT: Oh, that's very true.

KarlaT: I printed your resource list.

MaryFT: but many classroom grants are one-shot deals...you're not out for sustainability or refunding

KarlaT: I see one I like. DEAR bookshelf grants for new books....what every new teacher needs.

MaryFT: but you may need to create a video or write a report or show a product to satisfy the needs to the granting group

MaryFT: Yes...Karla wants to look at examples of REAL classroom grants

MaryFT: what's out there for teachers

MaryFT: first, let me point out that these are general resources

KarlaT: I wonder how many they award

MaryFT: if you are a member of a professional organization many of them have grants specifically for their members

KarlaT: Is there a way of finding out how many are awarded and how many grant requests they receive?

KarlaT: Does Golden Key or Phi Kappa Phi?

MaryFT: it may be in the actual materials Karla...that information is usually available somewhere

MaryFT: yes Karla

MaryFT: and Kappa Delta Pi

MaryFT: KDP awards classroom grants to its teachers

KarlaT: Uhhh, I can never seem to sign up for KDP when I need to):

MaryFT: but Karla was referring to the list of grant resources that can be found in the Featured Items section of this room

MaryFT: it's called grant.doc

ReneL: We set up a "teen night" where we would educate the teens on many topics---we would send in the topics of discussion and the sign-in sheet along with other proof we said we would

MaryFT: the first few grants on that list are tech-centric

MaryFT: good Rene...that's an example of collecting data for the granting agency

MaryFT: depending on the type of program, different types of evidence/data will be required

MaryFT: thanx for the tech grants Sarah!

KarlaT: Playground grants sure would be great for new schools or very old school in need of revamping their playground.

KarlaT: That's also on Mary's grant resource list.

SarahSce: I like the term tech-centric. That is a cool word!

MaryFT: yes...I liked that one because it specifically requires community involvement

MaryFT: thanks Sarah...I'm all about tech-centric

KarlaT: Community involvement as in companies or parents?

SarahSce: Yes you are!

ReneL: The last school I was placed in needs that grant...they don't have a playground...lots of ground

MaryFT: the one I like most out of the tech-centric grants are the FutureReady grants #2

MaryFT: or a Toyota Tapestry Grant Renee

KarlaT: Hey - the winners will be announced this month

MaryFT: they support things like building gardens and nature paths for observations

MaryFT: yes Karla!

MaryFT: that's really cool...so we can see pretty soon who won and how

KarlaT: Do they publish their grant proposals?

MaryFT: check out what is offered in the Dell Intelligent Classroom award though

MaryFT: <http://www.futureready.org/intelligent-classroom/>

MaryFT: click on View prize package

KarlaT: WOW! Sweet...

SarahSce: Our school applied for that one.

MaryFT: I got all giddy when I saw the little interactive classroom illustration

ReneL: wow

MaryFT nods to Sarah

ChristinL1: neat

MaryFT: and....

MaryFT: have you heard ANYTHING yet?

ReneL: could you get all of it?

MaryFT: that's what I understand Rene...it's a package deal

SarahSce: I'll have to ask our principal. He did the legwork on that one over Christmas.

AnnaES: neat stuff

MaryFT: it would be so exciting

ReneL: that is so cool.

MaryFT: I really like the last thing on the list though

MaryFT: anyone see that?

ReneL: professional development

KarlaT: yeah--prof dev

MaryFT: Finally...a sustainable thing

MaryFT: technology goes away, get broken, changes

MaryFT: but professional development has a lasting effect

MaryFT: imho

ReneL: yep

SarahSce: yes!

MaryFT: so...Karla liked the DEAR grant from NEA

MaryFT: Rene liked the playground grant

KarlaT: Yes - I love books and reading

MaryFT: I love the classroom technology one

ReneL: I like them both...in fact, I like them all

MaryFT: Christina? Annette? Anna? did you all see any that sparked your interest?

ChristinL1: I liked the classroom tech one also.....very cool

ReneL: financial help in any area is a plus

AnnaES: to be honest, the technology stuff

ReneL: like you said...apply for them all

SarahSce: Does HP still have a tech grant?

KarlaT: Do you have the time Rene?

AnnaES: true, true

AnnetteLA: I am in a very large tech grant. so much that is overwhelming at times.

ReneL: time consuming, but worth it

MaryFT: the benefit of that, Rene, is that you can often reuse a lot of the preliminary descriptive stuff...no need to track it down each time if you already have it ready

MaryFT: I believe so Sarah

MaryFT: will have to look

ReneL: that's why you get ppl to help you, ppl at your school

MaryFT nods

ReneL: right

ChristinL1: what's ppl

KarlaT: people

ReneL: people

MaryFT: I don't think I would do a grant by myself

ChristinL1: oh

MaryFT: it helps to work with the team at your school

MaryFT: one last item

MaryFT: I wanted to point out that one of the big Toyota Tapestry grants was won by a school here in Houston

KarlaT: which school?

ReneL: Branch

AnnaES: that's neat, which school?

ChristinL1: can anyone apply for the grants

MaryFT: to read their project description see <http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry/thisyears.htm>

MaryFT: it looks wonderful!

MaryFT: it would be a neat thing to go see

MaryFT: depends Christina...the grant will say who is eligible

ChristinL1: I see

MaryFT: did anyone check out the Branch school's project description?

MaryFT: what do you think?

ReneL: checking

SarahSce: checking to

MaryFT: okay...but I see that the clock has ticked our time almost away

AnnetteLA: do you invite teachers to be on the committee to write and fulfill the grant requirements?

MaryFT: I'd like to take some questions

MaryFT: and suggestions for next month's topic

MaryFT: oh yes Annette

MaryFT: most of these grants would be initiated by the teachers themselves

MaryFT: but for larger grants like yours the teachers need to be in the loop from the very beginning

ChristinL1: do you think that as beginning teachers, we should apply for many grants

ReneL: yeah, should we?

MaryFT: why not?

ReneL: time

MaryFT: you'll be the ones with the energy!

KarlaT: energy

ReneL: new to the school

ChristinL1: that's true

MaryFT: well yes

AnnetteLA: I wouldn't, unless you are very proficient in the tasks required

MaryFT: but again...I would enlist a group

KarlaT: It would be wonderful to suggest one to your mentor and then sit in on the committee and their work.

MaryFT: good suggestion Karla

ReneL: I would mention it if they don't already have a grant writing group

ChristinL1: good idea

SarahSce: great idea

KarlaT: Then next time, you could be the leader.

AnnetteLA: yes

ReneL: yeah

MaryFT: you guys have wonderful ideas

ReneL: You have to start somewhere

MaryFT: also, start small...it doesn't have to be a humongous award

KarlaT: We've had wonderful teachers!

KarlaT: Yeah - \$250 for books...

ReneL: DEAR

MaryFT: a small grant can really boost your confidence

AnnetteLA: thanks for letting me visit.

ReneL: Yep

AnnaES: yes, same here

MaryFT: and give you the feeling that people respect and notice what you are doing

SarahSce: Thanks for inviting me to this meeting. I hope I can attend again.

MaryFT: suggestions for next time???

ReneL: Ummm...

MaryFT: what's of biggest concern to you in your current classroom?

ChristinL1: classroom management

AnnetteLA: electronic portfolios

AnnaES: yes, definitely classroom management

MaryFT nods

KarlaT: what grade Christina?

MaryFT: anything specific you need to know about CM?

ChristinL1: 3rd

ReneL: I am done with my first student teacher and don't move on to the next till after Spring break

MaryFT: everything about electronic portfolios Annette or have you started one and need suggestions?

ChristinL1: well.....I just have problems with them taking me seriously

MaryFT: that's a nice break Rene

ReneL: **ChristinL1**, are you nice to them?

AnnetteLA: have not started, plan to attend a session on the 15th

ChristinL1: yes

KarlaT: I could see because you have such a quiet, disposition.

MaryFT: we'll need to talk then about strategies that you've already tried and see if we can come up with some that you haven't

AnnetteLA: **ChristinL1**, do you have the same students all day?

MaryFT: good Annette! maybe I'll see you there

ChristinL1: yes I do

ReneL: well, one thing I've learned is you can not be too nice. You are their teacher first

ReneL: then their friend

AnnetteLA: so true, they will take advantage of that. even at a young age

KarlaT: I hate to be sexist, but it is a little easier for a male.

ReneL: I had a wild bunch

MaryFT: okay then...we'll focus on ideas for classroom management (specifically those for beginning teachers) for next mo.

ReneL: this time around

ChristinL1: sounds good

ReneL: k

KarlaT waves nighty-night

ReneL: have a good night

MaryFT: it was great to have you all here tonight

AnnaES: thanks Mary

MaryFT: thanks for all the excellent input!

SarahSce: Thanks!

AnnetteLA: thanks

ChristinL1: thank you, good night

SarahSce: good night