



The Nevada Association of School Administrators

## Center for Educational Excellence

Review, Proposal, and Long-Term Vision for use of the RPD Administrative Funds  
Presented for RPD Council 10/1/19

### **Vision**

NASA wants to be the premier provider of professional development for Nevada's educators. In doing so, other educators from across the country and in other countries could be included to be part of a worldwide focus on quality education. Providing leadership training that is high quality, sustainable, teachable to others, and most importantly, positively impacts the performance of educators to the benefit of our children is the goal. NASA wants to enlarge the trajectory to include training and support for all Nevada's educators through:

- Offering a variety of coursework designed to support and increase educator capacity
- Increasing the number of participants engaged in each course
- Enlarging the number of delivery methods to include live, digital, print, pop-up, annual, ongoing, etc.
- Considering the benefits of connecting educators in Nevada with those from other states and countries
- Partnering with businesses, organizations, individuals, etc. to expand the opportunities to offer high-quality training and networking
- Expanding the training to include recruitment and retention of teachers (working with universities and high school students to encourage teaching as a profession)
- Partnering with agencies and departments that provide support and training to parents and caregivers to increase children's access to high quality pre-school learning
- Opening the doors to other ideas, venues, resources, platforms, participants, presenters—in other words, possibilities—to truly impact education

## Schedule

### Review of 2018-19

- Dates were established for two-day sessions four times throughout the 2018-19 school year resulting in travel, lodging, and per diem costs for participants four times
- Two sessions were held in northern Nevada (Reno, Lake Tahoe) and two in southern Nevada (Alexis Park, Switch). Since most of the participants were from Clark, this resulted in higher travel, lodging and per diem costs
- Participants were reimbursed for travel (air, vehicle, shuttle), lodging, and if travelling, per diem. Since the number of participants was increased to 60+ from an original projection of 45, these reimbursement costs exceeded the available funds. Additionally, air costs were higher since it was a legislative year. Also, not all participants made the cheapest travel arrangements possible by waiting until too near the session to get reduced rates, etc.
- Sessions were conducted at Alexis Park in Las Vegas and at the Peppermill in Reno. Since hotels have excellent conference space, this seemed like a good fit, however, there many requirements for meeting in a hotel (use of their AV equipment, requirement to use their catering services, etc.) that drove up the expenses.

### Proposed additions/changes 2019-2020

- Dates have been tentatively established for three-day sessions three times for the 2019-2020 school year resulting in reduced travel costs.
- Two of the three sessions will be conducted in Clark County. The first session will be held at the Orleans, November 13, 14, 15, 2019. NASA's Fall Conference is to be at The Orleans November 15 and 16. This will allow CEE participants to continue learning if they choose to stay for the Fall Conference. We did check for another location (SWCTA, WCTA, NWCTA, Switch, PEF, PBS) without success since the date is so close. We have *VegasPBS* for February 2020, and will begin seeking a venue in Reno for the Spring session once this plan is approved
- To increase the number of participants, it is proposed that there is an established reimbursement amount not to exceed a limit (for example, \$400). This would result in participants incurring some costs while RPDP Administrative funds would reduce individual costs for professional development with credit for recertification.
- The proposal is to use alternate spaces when available. For example, the proposed February session will be held at *VegasPBS* at a minimum cost. Additionally, with Brent Husson's assistance, many options for partnerships are being explored that may result in additional space availability and those funds to be redirected toward reimbursements. Dr. Hawk has generously offered space may be used if large enough to accommodate participants.

### Long-Term

- Partnerships that would pay for the venue, travel and any associated costs could be offered opportunities to present to Nevada's educators and could form stronger business and education networks that could benefit both parties. With the assistance of Brent Husson, current explorations are occurring with MIDAS Education and Amazon. Dr. Geihs has formed sponsorships for NASA with various vendors who may be willing to expand their participation to the CEE.

## Participants

### Review of 2018-19

- Participants submitted an application. A committee of NASA board members reviewed the applications for completeness, current position held and district representation from those districts represented among the applicants.

### Proposed additions/changes 2019-2020

- Since it is NASA's intention to expand this professional development to include additional participants, the application process will be simplified and applicants will be considered by current position held giving first consideration to district/state leaders. With the addition of Title IIa funds, participants for the live, three-day sessions can be increased to 110 for this current year (see *VegasPBS* offering for additional participation.)

### Long-Term

- NASA could easily accommodate three groups of 100 each by staggering the dates and enlarging the inclusion of other presenters. The vision would be to include partners that could make this increase a reality so that more educators could be positively impacted each year.

## Presenters

### Review of 2018-19

- Dr. Pete Gorman and Dr. Jim Hager were the primary presenters for the CEE. One-day presentations were made by Dr. Robert Avossa and Dr. Jonathan Raymond. Participants were given signed copies of Raymond's book, *Wildflowers*, that is about educating the whole child.

### Proposed additions/changes 2019-2020

- This year the same presenters are joined by additional presenters using Title 2a funds. This will allow us to expand the topics to include Climate, Culture, Trust, and Relationships. Two books will be offered to participants this year—*Wildflowers* and Dr. Gorman's new book on leadership. Also, through our partnership with *VegasPBS*, participants will be able to view leadership lessons, presented digitally. These lessons can be viewed in home districts and carry university credit. For those educators who may not be able to come to the "live" sessions, this digital series can be made available at a shared cost between NASA and the individual educator and/or district. Then those participants could come to the live sessions offered during the 2020-21 school year, for example.

### Long-Term

- With partners who invest in this venture, varied information can be presented. For example, with *VegasPBS*, digital learning has been secured. With another organization, such as Amazon, information on using the cloud could be added. Also, as new content is added, with expansion, we can invite previous participants back to share in the new learning. The goal is to have participants improve their practice and share their learning with others so the entire system benefits from the content and context. This means the format can include live sessions, digital sessions, sessions of varying length, other locales inside and outside of Nevada, etc. For example, with a partnership with another school district—inside the US or beyond, participants could learn about new

strategies and techniques unique to various locations. Also, with additional business partnerships, venues for various events can be expanded—again, including actual venues and various digital platforms.

## **Funding**

### **Review of 2018-19**

- All funding was based on reimbursement making accounting difficult. NASA put a small amount into a separate account so that some bills could be paid and, thereby, generating reimbursement. This was a slow, tedious, and labor intensive process. It was with help from State set aside dollars and Title IIa dollars that final bills and invoices were paid.

### **Proposed additions/changes 2019-2020**

- This year if the plan is approved, *VegasPBS* (through their 501c3 Southern Nevada Public Television) has agreed to be our fiduciary agent. In this way, NASA will collect receipts, ready all accounts for payment and *VegasPBS* will pay invoices, participant reimbursement, and venues and *VegasPBS* will receive the reimbursement funds from the State. This will allow bills to be paid in a timely fashion and for the time a NASA employee spent on the accounting tasks to be redirected to curriculum, instruction, and event planning for the CEE.

### **Long-Term**

- As new partnerships are formed, a greater flow of funds would greatly expand the ability of NASA to reach more educators. The goal is to partner with businesses, other educational organizations, individuals, corporations and others to reach an amount of available dollars to impact educators in their various districts, at centralized events, online, and through other platforms or combinations of platforms. This would also allow us to expand our presenters to include more national experts, local experts, digital coaches and mentors, and business people who can support educational efforts. It could, as mentioned earlier, also include opportunities to learn from other districts (on location) through summer institutes, vacation travel and learn events and other opportunities as may be presented.