Great Ideas For Enhancing Education

A Mini-Grant Program For All Educators in Beaver County
Sponsored by the Beaver County Educational Trust

Dedicated to promoting Excellence in Education, the Beaver County Educational Trust is looking for educators with ideas for programs to benefit their classrooms and schools that:

- Encourage Creativity
- Spark Student Enthusiasm
- Reach Out into the Community
- Broaden Horizons
- Stimulate “Thinking Outside of the Box”
- Create Active Learners

Now in its twentieth year, the Great Ideas program has provided opportunities for teachers with initiative and imagination to carry out innovative projects with their students and communities that stretch educational experiences beyond the world of the everyday classroom. Sponsored by the Beaver County Educational Trust, the funding for the awards is provided through grants from local and regional corporate contributors and other foundations.

Mail All Proposals To:
BEAVER COUNTY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
P.O. Box 216
Beaver, PA 15009

Deadline: October 19, 2012
GREAT IDEAS FOR ENHANCING EDUCATION
PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES
The major objective of the BCET and the Great Ideas Mini-Grant Program is to enhance the quality of educational experiences for our students. The emphasis is on stimulating new teaching ideas and new learning opportunities within the classroom made possible through the creative spark of the teacher. An additional emphasis is also placed on developing community outreach projects, encouraging students and schools to work with the community.

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS
The program is open to all public and non-public teachers in Beaver County, grades K-12. Team projects from several teachers working together with multiple groups of students are also accepted and encouraged. For the school year 2012-13, building administrators and resource specialists are invited to submit a group proposal with a minimum of five staff members that is designed to include an entire department or building.

GUIDELINES FOR STORY WALK APPLICATIONS
Teachers may also use this application to apply for grants for Story Walks which are open to Elementary schools only. The Story Walks must include the whole school, be held outside of class time, and incorporate family and community involvement.

FUNDING/BUDGET GUIDELINES
The maximum amount of a grant to be awarded for an individual teacher or several teachers who are teaming on a project is $500. Building administrators or supervisors who develop a project at the building level with a team of teachers (minimum of five) may be eligible for a grant up to a maximum of $1000.

Expenditures for program materials to enhance or extend a regular program or to create a new program are encouraged; they should be beyond the scope of the regular school-line item budget. If a pre-packaged kit is the major activity for your project, indicate how you would supplement the kit and customize it for your program. Please indicate how the project ties to the Pennsylvania Academic Standards and/or the National Standards of your discipline.

Items or areas not eligible for funding include the following: capital improvements, large equipment, salaries for personnel (including speakers, consultants), transportation, and admission fees.

SUBMISSION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS
Proposals must be completed on the application form or a copy. One additional page may be attached to describe the project more fully. If applying by mail, please include 8 copies of proposal. Project proposals must be postmarked not later than October 19th. Notification to all applicants will be made by December 3rd. Awardees are to complete their project by May 10th and submit a written report summarizing results, expenditures, and effectiveness of the project not later than May 24th.

SELECTION OF GRANT Awardees
Following the submission of all applications, the Beaver County Educational Trust Advisory Committee that is comprised of a team of area educators reviews them. Winners are determined on a countywide competitive basis, with awards going to the top-ranked proposals, regardless of the number of awards from the same school district. Factors taken into account in the final decision include adherence to proposal guidelines, creativity of the project, impact on students and community, and the opportunity the project presents to make a difference in the education of students.
BEAVER COUNTY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
“GREAT IDEAS” MINI-GRANT APPLICATION

Name: ________________________________ Grade Level: __________

Email: _______________________________________________________________________

School District/System: ___________________________ Building: ______________

School Building Address: ___________________________ Telephone: ______________

Project Title: __________________________________________ Story Walk: Y or N (circle one)

Subject/Content Area most closely related to Project: ________________________________

Amount of Request: ______________ Number of Students/Participants: ______________

Please provide the following:

1. **NEEDS:** Identify the specific need(s) to be addressed by this project.

2. **OBJECTIVES:** Identify the key objectives of the project.

3. **EVALUATION:** Indicate how you will determine if your objectives have been met.

4. **TIME SCHEDULE:** for implementation: Beginning Date: _____ Ending Date: _____
   (On the reverse side, complete project description and budget)
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED BUDGET

Project Title: _________________________________________________________________

Grade Level(s): _____________ Number of Students/Participants Involved: ______________

(Give a complete description of your project proposal. Be concise without eliminating any of the necessary details that may be helpful in the evaluation process. You may attach an additional sheet, if necessary, with any supporting information.)

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

(Provide a breakdown of expenditures as an indication of how the funding is to be spent. Include the use of matching funds, if any. It may be helpful to review the funding guidelines on the inside cover.)

Applicant Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Principal’s Signature: ________________________________

Superintendent’s Signature: ________________________________