

**TO:** Roger Breed, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Mary Ann Losh, Administrator, Equity/Instructional Issues

**SUBJECT:** NASA Award

**Proposed Board Action:**

Grant the Commissioner the authority to accept, upon notification, an award of a NASA Summer of Innovation Cooperative Agreement of up to \$750,000 and to grant a sub-award not to exceed \$110,000 to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to deliver training on robotics content.

**Background Information:**

The Nebraska Department of Education, 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) program, applied to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for a \$750,000 Summer of Innovation Cooperative Agreement. This four-year project beginning in the summer of 2011 will provide middle school students who participate in 21st CCLC programs at least 40 hours of summer NASA science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) instruction and 25 hours of NASA STEM engagement during the school year in selected NASA themes including robotics, earth and space science, aviation and aeronautics, and rocketry. In addition, the project will utilize NASA experts and partners from the University of Nebraska system to provide 40 hours of professional development opportunities for certified teachers each year. The sub-award to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will provide funding to purchase robotics kits required for program implementation and to deliver professional development in the area of robotics. Announcement of awards is scheduled for late April or early May. Since there is not a State Board of Education meeting in June and training needs to be initiated prior to the next State Board meeting, approval is being requested contingent on notification of the award.

**Estimated Cost:**

The sub-award to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will not exceed \$110,000.00.

The funding source (contingent on notification) is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, an independent Federal Agency of the United States created by the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958.

**Supporting Documentation Included:**

**For Additional Information on this item:**

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