

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

FROM: Sharon Katt, Administrator, Adult Program Services
Vicki Bauer, Director, Adult Education

SUBJECT: Approval of WIA Incentive Grants for Adult Education local programs

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Consent Item: Authorize the Commissioner to approve the slate of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Incentive grant awards to local Adult Education programs.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

These WIA Incentive funds will incorporate distance education in eleven Adult Education (AE) programs throughout the state. Two additional AE programs, Alliance Public Schools and Bellevue Public Schools, will initiate distance education with existing funding. Both a GED prep (*i-Pathways*) and ESL (*USA Learns*) distance education components will be implemented in the first quarter of calendar year 2012. Federal Adult Education (AE) funds will be used for partial funding of the grants because the cost of statewide implementation exceeds the available WIA Incentive monies.

During the fall months, pilot projects for both *i-Pathways* and *USA Learns* were conducted at six Adult Education programs in preparation for the statewide implementation in 2012.

Distance Education programs provide the opportunity for adults to participate in classes when unable to attend classes on a regular basis due to job and/or family responsibilities or other reasons. A hybrid model will be used in Adult Education; students come to the AE program for initial pre-testing, orientation, and goal setting. Students must also attend class at least two times a month and also return for post-testing. In addition, the GED prep teachers communicate with students both on-line and by phone as the students progress through the distance education classes. Many ESL students have limited computer knowledge and access to computers, so the majority of their distance learning takes place in class or a computer lab that has staff available for assisting them.

The WIA Incentive funds were made available to the state when both the Nebraska Department of Labor Workforce Development and the Nebraska Department of Education Adult Education programs met their performance standards during the 2008-2009 program year.

Following is a list of grant recipients and the amounts to be granted:

Adult Education Program	Amount
Blair Community Schools	\$ 5,487.70
Central Community College area	\$ 29,903.91
Crete Public Schools	\$ 23,092.11
Mid-Plains Community College area	\$ 17,654.74
Northeast Community College area	\$ 42,809.65
Omaha Metropolitan Community College area	\$ 26,209.96
Plattsmouth Public Schools	\$ 4,092.00
Southeast Community College – Beatrice	\$ 17,334.54
Southeast Community College – Lincoln	\$ 35,505.15
Western Nebraska Community College area	\$ 16,567.34
York Public Schools	\$ 4,633.30

Estimated Cost

The cost of this project is \$ 223,300.40 in federal funds that are currently available.

Supporting Documentation Included: NA

For additional information on this item:

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