



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: December 12, 2022

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Kristin Yates, Information Systems Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Authorize the Commissioner to accept GEER II funds from the Nebraska Department of Labor to purchase robotics kits for schools through the ESUCC.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In response to a request from the Governor's office, NDE facilitated the repurposing of unspent NDE GEER I funding for a project involving the acquisition of robotics kits for Nebraska public and non-public school districts in Fall 2022. ESUCC served as the contractor for this project and had primary responsibility for designing and implementing the process for district requests for kits, consolidating and scaling requests received to available funding and coordinating the purchase and shipment of kits to receiving schools. Demand for robotics kits exceeded available funding remaining through GEER I. Additional funding for robotics kits was identified as part of GEER II monies allocated to the Nebraska Department of Labor to fulfill unmet need remaining from the initial robotics kit project.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): January 2023

ESTIMATED COST: Up to \$1,500,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: GEER II funding received from Nebraska Department of Labor
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement:
Non-competitive negotiation.
- Rationale for method of procurement: The current project is a continuation of work begun with GEER I funds. Public urgency or emergency exists which does not permit delays associated with competitive solicitation for the service as GEER II funds must be committed and expended in accordance with federally mandated deadlines.
- Rationale for contractor selection: ESUCC is uniquely positioned to fulfill projects requirements because of their recent prior experience with procuring and delivering robotics kits as a part of GEER I funded activities and their knowledge of unmet needs still existing from the initial project. ESUCC was also selected for this project because of their access to established vendor relationships and collaborative purchasing agreements in the educational products area.