

## **FAQ from the Helios STEM School Pilot (HSSP) Information Sessions:**

### **What is the anticipated level of funding? Will everyone get \$500k?**

The level of funding will correlate to the level of STEM immersion and scope of the work as described. Not every level of immersion warrants maximum funding.

### **How many grants will be awarded?**

Since the funding will vary depending on the level of STEM immersion that is determined by the applicant, we can not say for sure how many grants will be awarded.

### **What role should a Community College or University have?**

HSSP grants will be awarded directly to schools and/or districts. Institutes of higher education cannot be awarded a grant directly. However, it is expected that a representative from higher education should be part of your development team and could be directly involved in planning your pilot proposal.

### **While it is clear that staff development should be a major focus of effort and funding in the grant proposal, how detailed does the staff development plan need to be?**

The expectation is that a grant proposal demonstrates strong evidence that the issues related to obtaining high quality staff development have been considered. While the specifics of delivery are not required, clear evidence of the commitment to its delivery is expected.

### **Should the proposal's budget include funding for the external evaluator required by the grant?**

No, SFAz will be responsible for providing the external evaluators. The proposal should clearly articulate the commitment to supporting the work of external evaluators in assessing the grantees success.

### **What level of commitment do you expect from a business partner?**

During our examination of STEM programs, one of the key elements of successful programs was a broad base of support by the local community, including business partners. As part of your design team, business should assist with identifying career readiness goals and strategies specific to the employment needs of your region.

Other examples of appropriate business partnerships might include but are not limited to:

- classroom presentations
- mentorship opportunities for students and/or teachers

**When will we have access to the STEM Technical Advisors? How often will we see them?**

STEM Technical Advisors will be available to support you as soon as the grants are awarded. We currently expect awardees to be informed in March 2013. STEM Tech Advisors will work consistently with each site to develop, implement, monitor and provide mid-course corrections, from the beginning of the grant term through the expiration of the grant term.

**The page count seems to go beyond the specified 25-page limit provided.**

The formal proposal is limited to 25 pages. The appendices are not included in the 25-page limit.

**The RFP specifies the font Times New Roman, but not size or spacing?**

The preferred size is 12pt. Text should be double spaced with 1 inch margins.

For further information, please contact:

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