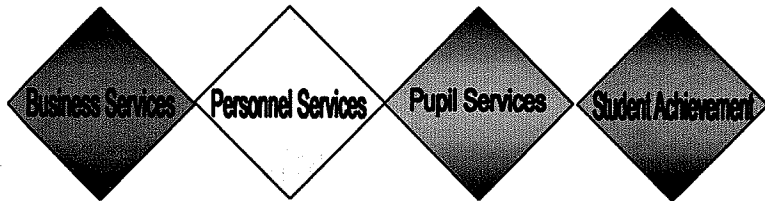


School District of New London



MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: December, 2009

STEM Grants:

The School District of New London was one of 13 schools highlighted by state superintendent, Tony Evers, for the award of our 2009-10 STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) grant. Recent media releases are included in the pages that follow.

We had identified a need for additional training and applicable resources to aid in our quest to help intermediate students grasp and conquer challenging concepts with hands-on experiences in science.

Our district's award of \$4,465 will allow fourth and fifth grade students the opportunity to interact with units from the Einstein Project. Einstein project training and resources have been developed by the Smithsonian Institution, National Academy of Science and the National Science Resource Center.

Fourth grade teachers will be trained for the implementation of *Electric Circuits*. Students will be introduced to the basic properties of electricity as they learn about circuits, conductors, insulators and more. They will construct a flashlight, investigate properties of a diode, and wire a cardboard house. Community connections will be made to New London Utilities and career opportunities connected to the physical sciences.

Fifth grade teachers will be trained for the implementation of *Food Chemistry*. Students will explore basic concepts related to food and nutrition. They will set up their own classroom laboratory and perform physical and chemical tests to identify the presence of starch, glucose, fats and proteins in common foods. Students will relate their findings to issues regarding health and wellness. Community connections will be made to Taher, Inc. Professional Food services and career opportunities connected to both life and physical science.

Students will participate in these units during the final 9 weeks of the school year. Building principals are aiding in the successful implementation of this grant opportunity.



District Priorities:

Efforts to strengthen our curriculum continue as we consistently communicate what we want students to know and be able to do. As work with clear learning targets continues, Jane Pollock meets with small groups of teachers and administrators to ensure we have a common understanding of instructional practice that encourages success for all students.

We will maintain our focus and address district priorities as we:

1. Identify learning targets, ones that are robust, not just daily classroom objectives.
2. Use instructional strategies that work to help the learner remember and apply information and skills.
3. Use varied assessment strategies to provide important performance feedback to help the learner improve, and design performance assessments.
4. Use performance data for continuous individual student improvement and program development.

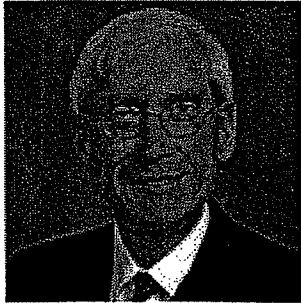
ESEA Audit

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has oversight and monitoring responsibilities to review compliance within the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) consolidated programs including Title IA, Title ID, Title IIA, Title IID, Title IIIA and Title IVA. A one to two-day monitoring session has been scheduled to begin Tuesday, April 13 at the district office. We are preparing for the visit by ensuring documentation is available to highlight District and Program Requirements to include:

- District Needs Assessment
- Private School Consultation
- Parent and Community Participation and Involvement
- Integration with Federal, State and Local Programs
- Professional Development Plan
- Public Reporting and Parents' Right to Know
- Title Programs



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Tony Evers, PhD
State Superintendent

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13 districts receive STEM grants for 2009-10 school year

Robotics lessons, an adventure week, and a career workshop series are among 13 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) instructional programs funded for the current school year from \$59,400 in state grant money.

Initiated as part of the 2007-09 state budget, the grants support innovative STEM programs for students who are under-represented in those fields. Under-represented students include economically disadvantaged students, English-language learners, females, students of color, and students with disabilities.

"Some of these grants are targeting students in the elementary grades. Igniting an interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics at an early age is the place to begin a lifelong fascination and perhaps spark a career in these fields," said State Superintendent Tony Evers. "Other grants work with middle and high school students to nurture curiosity and to help young people become tomorrow's scientists, inventors, and entrepreneurs."

Funded projects include student activities and collaboration with another school district, two- or four-year college, business or industry, or community-based or nonprofit organization that serves youth. In addition, each grant applicant conducted a needs assessment and set goals and objectives that are measurable and contribute to closing achievement and participation gaps in STEM coursework. School districts requested more than \$167,000 in the competitive grant program for projects that will be completed by June 30, 2010.

Additional information, including a list of projects receiving Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics State Grants for the 2009-10 school year, is available in the [complete news release](#).

Last updated on 11/30/2009 8:46:37 AM

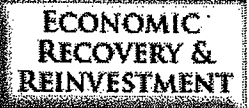


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News Release

Education Information Services ■ 125 South Webster Street ■ P.O. Box 7841 ■ Madison, WI 53707-7841 ■ (608) 266-3559

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, November 24, 2009

Contact: Patrick Gasper, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

DPI-NR 2009-52

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“This is a small grant program and demand far exceeds available state funds,” Evers said. School districts enthusiastically seek out funding to support innovative programming that will help their students gain a competitive edge for the technological world that awaits them. STEM fields offer high-skill, high-wage careers that should reflect the diversity of our schools and communities. This grant program supports that effort.”

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NOTES: A list of projects receiving Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics State Grants for the 2009-10 school year follows. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2009_52.pdf.

STEM State Grants

2009-10 School Year

Blair-Taylor School District, \$4,804
We Do Robotics, Grades 2-4

De Forest School District, \$4,054
Career Workshop Series with STEM Emphasis, Grades 9-12

Ellsworth Community School District, \$4,804
STEM for Green Technologies, Grades 6-9

Elmbrook School District, \$4,804
Engineering - The Helping Profession, Grades 8, 10

Green Bay Area School District, \$4,804
After School STEM Club, Grades 2-5

Lac du Flambeau #1 School District, \$4,804
Robotics in the World of Work, Grades 6-8

Milwaukee Academy of Science, \$4,783
Math H.E.L.P. (Helping Everyone Lift Performance), Grades 3-8

Milwaukee Public Schools, \$4,804
Aquaponics as a Context for Learning Science, Grades 9-12

New London School District, \$4,465
Elementary Einsteins, Grades 4-5

Oconto Falls School District, \$4,804
Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Academy, Grades K-8

Plymouth School District, \$3,244
Science and Engineering Adventure Week, Grades 1-5

Sheboygan Area School District, \$4,704
Increase Under-represented STEM Enrollment, Grades 6-8

Winter School District, \$4,522
STEM: Opportunities to Learn, Grades 9-12