

Federal/State Grant Planning Committee

Oct. 8, 2020

Meeting Summary

Purpose of Committee:

To investigate and develop potential grant projects including key components so that KVCC is better prepared to submit federal/state grant (and other grant) proposals in the future; to be more intentional about preparing for and ultimately applying for federal grants.

Members in Attendance: Rachel Bair, Craig Jbara, Kathy Johnson, Tracy Labadie, Kate Miller, Janet Nykaza

Members Excused: LaJoyce Brooks, Nate Nielson, Tom Sutton

Review of recent grant activity:

Rachel Bair recently submitted a \$496,992 grant proposal for Building Pathways For Sustainable Horticulture and Landscape Management In Southwest Michigan under the U.S. Department of Agriculture- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative – Education and Workforce Development Grant opportunity. Rachel reviewed the grant components and purpose.

The College will be submitting a State of Michigan Capital Outlay planning grant request in support of rehabbing and expanding the skilled trades/auto wing of the College. We will review the submission at the Nov. meeting of this group.

Brainstorming Opportunities Discussion:

The group discussed important items to consider and other processes to leverage as we move forward:

Idea: Since we do not want to just "chase money", identify the key improvement areas of the college that we can specifically target for researching grant opportunities such as:

- a. Facility upgrades
- b. New equipment
- c. Technology
- d. Seed money for program innovation and development
- e. Job skills / training support/wrap around services for the underserved community
- f. Staff engagement

Considerations: Federal grants primarily fund programs and training, not bricks and mortar. Capital Outlay and local funders are sources for capital funding. The College's five year facility master plan is a critical document supporting the Capital Outlay process. Federal grants, capital outlay and the five year Facilities master plan should all be aligned as we

consider what to pursue. Consider if KVAAP like program could be expanded for credit and non-credit areas.

Idea: Identify organizations important for collaboration in grant pursuits

Considerations:

WMU has an excellent grant evaluation center, which would welcome an opportunity to partner with KVCC. Rachel Bair has the contacts. We should consider always using WMU for evaluation

WMU also has a centralized office of grants that has recently expressed renewed interest in partnering with KVCC on grants. Kathy Johnson has the contacts. Once we better understand what we would like to pursue, we should reach out to the WMU grants office.

Other community colleges should also be considered as partners when applying for large grants, as consortia applications are given priority.

K-12 Districts and KRESA are important partners to have at the table for EFE, and middle college/dual enrollment transferability alignment in program development. Deb Coates has the contacts related to this and will be invited to a future meeting to discuss

Corporate Partners may be identified from Perkins related Industry Program Advisory Boards. The Boards are currently being refreshed and should be updated by Dec. Tracy Labadie is the contact for this effort.

Michigan Works, Upjohn Institute, Southwest MI First, Office Community Corrections ? are important local workforce development partners for job demand data. Kate Miller has contacts at these organizations, and will provide an overview of what is possible at the next meeting of this group.

Idea: Establish criteria / assessment for determining whether to pursue a grant

Considerations: Programs that receive Perkins funding undergo a comprehensive needs assessment every two years. The last comprehensive needs assessment was done in 2019. We should use these assessments to develop a systematic process to determine what program needs and gaps are going forward. We will review several comprehensive needs assessments for a few targeted programs (AUTO, HVAC, other) at the Nov. meeting of this group.

Idea: Set up a mechanism to crosswalk non- credit certificates to credit bearing credentials

Considerations: This is currently difficult to do institution wide, but we should strive for this on a case by case (proposal) basis for federal grants.

Idea: We will need to identify apprenticeship sources for grants. How do we do this?

Considerations: We will request LaJoyce Brooks discuss what might be possible with the Colleges Apprenticeship program at the next meeting of this group.

Idea: Should KVCC consider a dedicated grants office?

Consideration: The College has established grant process and guidelines, but there are no plans at this time to establish a dedicated KVCC grant office. Faculty/Administrators act as Project Directors on grants and are provided assistance through Kathy Johnson or Janet Nykaza.

Assignments for Next Meeting:

Kathy Johnson will review the components of the Nov. 1 Capital Outlay submission

Tracy Labadie will review the 2019 comprehensive needs assessment for a few programs such as Auto/HVAC

Kate Miller will provide an overview regarding what is available through Michigan Works/Upjohn Institute/other sources of job demand data

LaJoyce Brooks will discuss Apprenticeship process/potential opportunities

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be November 12 at 1pm.