

Federal/State Grant Planning Committee

January 14, 2021

Meeting Summary

Purpose of Task Force:

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

Members in Attendance: Rachel Bair, LaJoyce Brooks, Craig Jbara, Kathy Johnson, Tracy Labadie, Kate Miller, Dan Mondoux, Janet Nykaza, Tom Sutton, Dan Mondoux

Other Information: Nate Nielson has left KVCC. Nate's replacement will join this committee in the future. Brian Lueth/Sara Herrmann will attend in the interim.

Review of recent grant award:

The College has been awarded a \$496,992 grant from the USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture. The KVCC Building Pathways for Sustainable Horticulture and Landscape Management in Southwest Michigan grant project will support the planning and development of a new, industry- informed and leading-edge certificate and degree program in sustainable systems for Horticulture, Agriculture, and Urban Landscapes. The project will be a collaboration between non-credit and credit areas of the college. Rachel Bair, Director for Sustainable and Innovative Food Systems, will work closely with Dr. Paige Eagan and other academic faculty and leadership on the grant project.

Rachel Bair discussed the process for developing the proposal, including the community and regional linkages that she established and nurtured over the past two years – these connections contributed to the Colleges RFP success. The USDA grant project will provide a template to connect credit and non-credit programs. The project is a great example of the power of grants for the College.

Apprenticeship Update and Review of Michigan Apprenticeship Expansion RFP

LaJoyce Brooks provided an overview of the KVCC apprenticeship program. In the current semester KVCC works with approximately 200 registered industrial trades related apprentice students, and 104 companies that sponsor apprenticeships. The traditional path to apprenticeship begins with a potential candidate working within the manufacturing area of the company. Good candidates are chosen by the company to proceed through the program. An apprenticeship has both education and experiential components. KVCC provides the education needed and works closely with the apprentice students and the sponsoring companies to track and facilitate student success.

The group discussed a recent State Apprenticeship Expansion (SAE) 2020 Grant RFP that that is due February 1. The Dept. of Labor Workforce Development RFP seeks to provide more apprenticeship opportunities in high demand areas to underserved populations. The RFP is highly complex and the requirements of the grant would be difficult to achieve. KVCC would not be eligible to apply directly, but would need to seek out a Regional Implementation Consortia (RIC) to join. Currently the College does have an RIC identified. The grant also requires RIC employer partners that stand ready to hire and provide apprenticeships to the students served by the grant. It is difficult to find employers willing to agree to this

as it is outside of the traditional way employers sponsor apprenticeships. KVCC will not be pursuing the RFP.

The group discussed what it would take to expand apprenticeship programs beyond Industrial Trades. If the College can establish workforce need we could look at other industries, for example IT or healthcare. The upcoming Perkins Comprehensive Needs Assessment would provide the data for establishing workforce needs. Once need is established the College would be in a better position to apply for grants.

There is other information that would be helpful to keep in a central repository for grants. For example successful and unsuccessful RFPs, and reviewers comments. At the next meeting the group will brainstorm what information should be kept in a central repository.

As we have looked at why the College is not able to apply for grants, the same roadblocks seem to keep coming up. At the next meeting we will formalize a list of roadblocks so that we can pursue how to remove them over time.

Perkins biannual Needs Assessment as a source for programs to target for grants

Dan Mondoux discussed the 2019 Perkins needs assessment completed by the College and sent to the group to review.

The College is now required to complete a Perkins comprehensive needs assessment every two years. The next assessment is due in Dec. 2021. The assessment provides a systematic way for the College to identify needs and gaps in occupational programs (funded by Perkins). Occupational programs are those that federal and state grants most often seek to fund.

The group agreed that studying/assisting with the upcoming 2021 Perkins needs assessment would be a good way to identify opportunities the college should pursue for grants.

As a next step the group will review the 2021 needs assessment process in more detail, including studying data needs. This will be done at the February meeting.

Assignments for Next Meeting:

Everyone will offer the internal roadblocks they see for grants, and the partnerships and linkages that need to be established for grant success.

Everyone will provide a list of what they would like in a common Grants shared area

We will further investigate the 2021 Perkins comprehensive needs assessment and how completing it will help us identify opportunities.

Request from Nov. meeting - Craig Jbara asked that everyone come prepared to identify one area they think the College should focus on for federal/state grants.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be Feb. 11 at 1:00 (via Zoom)