

Grant Funding Leads

Dollars Will Follow Technology, STEM Initiatives in the New Year

A happy new year is upon us once again, and the educational hierarchy is continuing the search for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) satisfaction. The STEM disciplines can be unnerving for students, and maintaining interest in the course work can be challenging. However, with teacher impetus, students will realize they are on a road not just for college but also for entry into the workforce.

STEM professional development for instructors and after-school activities fraught with Pitsco Education or LEGO® Education products will enhance preparation for the adequate delivery of the technology embedded in the classrooms. The pressure is on to exhibit growth in the technological knowledge of teachers and students, and dollars will follow to those who are most demonstrative of that ability. Many of the efforts to acquire funding will be associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, such as Race to the Top grants. But don't lose sight of private sources, such as the following, which could be a great boost in times of financial need:

Lumina Foundation

The Lumina Foundation desires to expand knowledge and improve practices that affect students' access to and success in postsecondary education.

More information: <http://www.luminafoundation.org/grants/index.html>

Rural Telephone Finance Cooperative

They are attempting to assist rural schools to catch up in acquiring technology.

More information: <http://www.fred.org/tech.html>

Walmart Foundation

The Walmart Foundation focuses on the education needs of underserved people. (Grants are \$25,000 and up.)

More information: <http://walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving/236.aspx>

ING Unsung Heroes Awards

These grants support educators who have innovative programs but lack funds to bring their creation to fruition. (Grant range is \$2,000-\$25,000.)

More information: <http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/Education/INGUnsungHeroes/index.htm>

Monsanto Fund

This fund's primary interests include science education and healthy environment.

More information: <http://www.monsantofund.org/asp/Priorities/science.asp>

Teacher's Pet

(grant tip geared specifically toward teachers' smaller projects)

Melinda Gray Ardia Environmental Foundation

This foundation seeks to lead students into projects to protect and conserve the environment.

More information: <http://www.mgaef.org/grants.html>