Report for Seed Grant #22-566-28  
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For Spring semester, 2002, I received a Seed Grant for a project titled "Futures in Education: Minority Teacher Recruitment at IUSB." I requested course release that semester to develop the Education F200 Exploring Self as Teacher Course and to seek a grant that would support tuition for area high school students taking this course through the Advance College Project (ACP).

The goal in the Futures in Education program is primarily to help high school students actively consider teaching as a career. In ACP, students take an IU course for college credit at their local high school. The F200 course is designed as an exploration of the teaching profession and includes an extensive field experience in K-9 classrooms for high school seniors. The social value of the School of Education/ACP Futures in Education initiative is evident in its mission of minority recruitment. As IUSB encourages minority student persistence and recruitment in its strategic directions work, the Futures in Education program affords high school students an opportunity to work closely with the School of Education faculty, students and staff in order to develop and heighten their awareness of the vistas of the field of education.

Progress Update

My goal by this point was to have grant money in hand so that students taking the course this Spring, 2003, could have tuition support if needed, which I hoped would encourage more minority students to sign up for the IU credit option. As often happens, other priorities pushed time to achieve this goal to the back burner. During Spring, 2002, without a formal administrative role and subsequent benefits, I was given the task of finalizing reform of the entire secondary education curriculum at IUSB to meet new state standards. This included not only our own Education courses, but also all the content courses our secondary students take in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. I also led the Secondary Education program meetings and dealt with other administrative tasks. This important work, which had to be completed by last summer to meet state accreditation requirements, often superceded grant writing. In addition, I submitted my dossier for promotion and tenure in Fall, 2002.

In order to be a good steward of the support given by the IUSB Research and Development Committee, I am now placing the highest priority on submitting grant proposals and obtaining at least a small grant to support the Futures in Education program. Here is what I have done so far:

- Finalized the syllabus for F200, Exploring Self as Teacher (attached), made site visits to all three current participating high schools (Elkhart Central, Elkhart Memorial and Penn), and taught a workshop for the high school teachers delivering the course to ensure curriculum alignment. In addition, I coordinated a campus visit, including observation of an Education course and interaction with current students, for the students in the Elkhart Memorial program last spring.
- Explored with Mary Anna Dimitrakopolous, Director of the Advance College Project at IUSB, and Rosemary Hengesbach, Director, Office of Student Scholarships at IUSB, the possibility of providing more scholarships for students taking the F200 course. There is already an IU fund established to provide financial awards for a limited number of students taking Advance College Project courses (10 awards annually for the IUSB campus, based on financial need). However, this money stretches for all ACP courses - not just F200. The
census figures for the course in Spring 2003 (current) so far are 16 at Penn and 9 at Elkhart Memorial (none at Elkhart Central). I am administering a survey at all 3 high schools currently to determine why students sign up (or not) for the IU credit. Rosemary is willing to advocate for funding several additional scholarships if numbers and need warrant. However, given the realities of our current budget, this additional support is unlikely.

- Explored potential grant funders with Erika Zynda on the online Foundations Directory, with a special focus on local, regional and state funders who might be more likely to fund a small project with students from local schools.
- Contacted Terry Fields at Indiana Workforce Development about an RFP for innovative program for youth, due 12/1/02, including career development, work-based learning and partnerships between secondary schools and post secondary institutions. This grant seemed like the ideal match on paper, but when I talked with Terry, he said the monies would not be able to support tuition dollars.
- Contacted the Division of Alternative Education and Learning Opportunities in the Indiana Department of Education to get the status on a former grant available for exploratory teaching programs in Indiana high schools. Elkhart Schools had applied for and received this money for several years to purchase materials for their Exploratory Teaching course at both Memorial and Central High Schools. However, this fund no longer exists (2001-02 was the last funded school year).
- Contacted Jon Housand at Elkhart County Community Foundation. He encouraged me to submit a proposal to help fund the program for the two Elkhart high schools for their June deadline, which I will be doing.
- Administered a short survey to current Futures in Education students about their reasons for signing up for the IU credit for the course (or not). This survey is in process with current students at the three high schools – results will be available shortly.
- Contacting guidance counselors at each building to set up a way to track student progress post-high school, so we know how many students from the program end up majoring and graduating in teacher education programs, and find other tools for data collection and analysis.

I am scaling back my original grant proposal outline, which asked for money for course release, travel support, and so forth, to a smaller grant that will directly support students at the high schools for tuition and materials support for the IU course. Since local funders seem to be the best option for this local program, I believe I have a more realistic opportunity to get grant funding if the money is clearly targeted to students, and to recruiting more minority students into the teaching profession.

**Summary**

To summarize, then – I have laid the groundwork for a grant proposal and am currently in the process of writing a proposal to submit to several state and local funders, including the Elkhart Community Foundation. I will submit the proposals before June 1, 2003, and hope to have at least one grant awarded for students who take the F200 course for credit in Spring, 2004.

I would happy to address any questions or comments from the R&D Committee about this project. Thank you for your support.