



MVLA Foundation Innovative Learning Grants **Back by popular demand!!**

Program Description and Application 2020-21 – Phase 2 **Due September 30, 2020**

Program Description

The MVLA High School Foundation once again, has awarded the district \$100,000 for the **2020-21** school year to inspire **CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION** in instruction. Innovative Learning Grants fund projects that teachers and staff design to create unique learning experiences that deepen student knowledge and understanding in a particular subject or across multiple subject areas. **Among the many desired outcomes, SOLVING REAL WORLD PROBLEMS, CRITICAL THINKING, TEAM WORK, AND CREATING EXTENDED, AUTHENTIC OUT-OF-CLASS CAREER-ORIENTED LEARNING EXPERIENCES rank the highest.**

These grants are intended to enhance the educational experiences of your students, taking them **above and beyond** those that are typically found in high school classrooms around the country. The Foundation seeks to support the creation of stimulating learning experiences that mirror those encountered in institutions of higher learning and in professional settings. **The Foundation encourages participation in this grant opportunity by everyone who has a role of directly impacting learning, regardless of whether the applicant is a teacher, a paraprofessional or classified employee.** The Foundation will accept applications that are designed to improve efficiency and effectiveness of programs and services to students which can be enhanced through creative and innovative solutions.

Projects are intended to be seen as pilots, and if successful, they are expected to become part of the district's curriculum, supported with district dollars. As such, Foundation grants are to be considered "seed money". Requests for renewing a previously approved project that has been deemed successful should be submitted on a separate request form, as the cost of consumables required for the continuation of a project will be funded directly by the district. Please contact Grace Icasiano or Brigitte Sarraf to see whether you are eligible for a continuation of a previously approved Foundation grant and to request a form for re-application.

Grants up to \$5000 each. Limits are applied to each grant, regardless of how many staff members are collaborating, or how many students are affected.

Important points to remember:

- Field trips and outside speakers are allowed, however, field trips **cannot** be overnight. Both of these activities must be clearly related to, and supporting a desired and demonstrable educational outcome that are tied to academic or college and career readiness standards.
- If you have been approved for a previous Innovative Learning Grant, you are eligible to submit an application for a different grant **only** if you have submitted your reflection on the implementation of your previous project. Reflections are expected to be submitted using the link provided to an [Innovative Learning Grant Reflection Google form](#). (Please note this does not apply to grants from Phase 1 that were approved contingent on the

- physical return to the classroom.)
- Wellness-related projects will once again be considered.
 - Projects outside of science and technology are highly encouraged.
 - To help scaling of successful projects and promote interest in the Foundation Grant program, the department chair or program coordinator MUST show his/her support for the project by signing the application.
 - To stimulate creativity and innovation, we encourage staff to look at successful past projects for ideas to apply for a similar project, or a totally new one on their campus.
 - Previously successful grant applicants who can show that their projects have become permanently embedded in their, or other teachers' instructional programs, will be given an extra point in the scoring of their application. (See exception above)

Timeline

- Application due date: **September 30, 2020.**
- Notification of grant approval shortly after the Foundation board meeting, October 14, 2020.
- Purchase orders can be submitted to Grace.Icasiano@mvla.net.
- Project Implementation: Spring 2021.
- Reflections on completed projects due two weeks after completion, but no later than May 15, 2021. REMEMBER: You are not eligible to apply for a new grant if you have not submitted your reflection.

Criteria for projects to be eligible for funding:

Proposals will be ranked on how well they address the goals/objectives below. (15 points total)
Minimum of 12 points required for the application to be recommended to the Board for funding)

1. **Impact of the project on student learning and scaling projects to enhance instruction across course teams and potentially across the curriculum at the school and district level: (15 points, 3 pts. each)**
 - Evidence that the project will enhance students' depth of knowledge and curiosity, consistent with 21st Century Skills: career readiness, collaboration and teamwork, communication in diverse formats, critical thinking, complex reasoning and problem solving
 - Relevance to real-world issues and attempts at finding solutions to issues and problems, at home and/or globally
 - Interdisciplinary approaches, and experiences that involve field work or collaboration with professional experts in-and outside of MVLA
 - Evoking interest, curiosity and passion for learning and making learning relevant to the individual student
 - Potential for project to be scaled and integrated at the course team level and across district curriculum
2. **For previously approved projects, 1 bonus point** if you can demonstrate that the project has become permanently embedded in the curriculum of the course for which it was intended or picked up as a model to enhance instruction in other disciplines.



Application Guidelines

Project Description: Describe your project in some detail. What will your students be doing? What resources do you need to complete the project? What goals do you want to achieve? How does this project deepen or enhance knowledge and understanding of the subject matter? Does this project address 21st Century Learning? In what way? How will this project take teaching and learning to a higher level? What sets the learning experience apart from what students normally experience in this class?

Impact on Curriculum: If you have been approved for a project before, explain the impact that it has had on your curriculum and/or instructional program.

Student Information: How many students are likely to be involved? What is the typical grade level (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th)? What specific class(es) will be involved in this project? What types of students will be involved in the project: AP, Honors, College Prep or traditionally underserved students?

Budget: List expenses and material costs (including shipping and tax). Attach a quote or purchase order. Please separate fixed, one-time costs of equipment and potential annual cost for consumables, should the project be re-authorized by the district.

Evaluation/Reflection Plan: How will you determine whether this project was successful in motivating students and enhancing their depth of knowledge or improving their skills? What outcomes are you seeking? How will you measure the results that you have achieved?

Using the [Innovative Grant Reflection Google form](#), submit a written narrative reflection of your project's outcomes to Ed Services within two weeks of completion of the project. **Applicants who have failed to submit reflections from prior projects are not eligible to apply for a new grant.**

For examples of previously approved projects, please click [here](#).



MVLA Foundation Innovative Learning Grant Application

2020-21 - Phase 2

Submit to Educational Services on or before **September 30, 2020**

Name of Applicant(s): _____
Course/Program: _____
High School: _____
Project Title: _____
(you **must** give your project a title for future reference)

Project Description

1. Impact of the project on student learning and scaling projects to enhance instruction across course teams and potentially across the curriculum at the school and district level (15 points total)

- a. Evidence that the project will enhance students' depth of knowledge and curiosity, consistent with, 21st Century Skills, e.g., career readiness, collaboration/teamwork, communication in diverse formats, critical thinking, complex reasoning, and problem solving (3 points)**

- b. Relevance to real-world issues and attempts at finding solutions to these issues and problems at home and/or globally (3 points)**

- c. Interdisciplinary approaches, and experiences that involve field work or collaboration with professional experts in-and outside of (3 points)**



- d. Evoking interest, curiosity and passion for learning and making learning relevant and meaningful to the individual student (3 points)**

- e. Potential for project to be scaled and integrated at the course team level and across district curriculum (3 points)**



2. (For previously approved projects) Provide evidence that the project has become permanently embedded in the curriculum (1 bonus point)

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Student Information

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| 3. How many students would likely be involved? (range: minimum to maximum) | |
| 4. What is the typical grade level? (9 th , 10 th , 11 th , 12 th) | |
| 5. What class or classes will be involved in this project? (Class titles) | |
| 6. What types of students will be involved in the project? (AP, Honors, College Prep, or traditionally underserved) | |



Evaluation/Reflection Plan

8. Project evaluation

a. How will you determine whether this project was successful in motivating students and enhancing their depth of knowledge or improving their skills?

[Empty text box for answer a]

b. What outcomes are you seeking?

[Empty text box for answer b]

c. How will you measure the results you have achieved with this project?

[Empty text box for answer c]

Applicant Signature

Date

Please have the Department Chair or Program Director provide a statement of support for your project.

Department Chair's Signature

Cost of consumables: \$_____

Principal's Signature

I support this project and acknowledge the potential consumable costs, if applicable

I do not support this project

If not supporting the project, the Principal must provide a rationale:

