**NCAEE Classroom Innovation Grant Application**

**Overview**

The North Carolina Association of Elementary Educators (NCAEE) is pleased to award one $1,000 Classroom Innovation Grant to an educator who will apply creative instructional strategies in his/her classroom. All current NCAEE educators are eligible for this award. The grant funding needs to be sustainable; hence, the materials requested in the budget must be reusable for additional classes of students. The recipient of this award will be required to present his/her project at the next year’s annual NCAEE conference. NCAEE will cover all hotel and conference registration fees for the presentation year. Additionally, the recipient will develop a blog post about the grant and its learning outcomes. The application deadline is **Friday, September 15, 2017.**

**Eligibility**

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

* Employed as a current educator in a public or private elementary school
* Be a current member of NCAEE

Applicants must agree to

* Present at the next year’s annual conference
* Write a post for the NCAEE blog about the implementation and results of the grant

Once an educator has received the award, he/she is able to reapply three years thereafter.

**Grants**

The grant recipient will earn up to $1,000 to cover the cost of materials to implement his/her innovative learning project. The grant funding encompasses sustainable materials required to fully complete the project. The funds do not cover stipends, travel expenses, or field trips. Materials earned from the grant will become the property of the grant recipient. Upon receipt of funding, the grant will be completed no later than **September 15th** of the following year.

**Application**

The application is comprised of the following components:

* A **cover page** that includes the title of the project, name of the grant applicant(s), name of the school and county where employed
* A maximum of five additional pages that describe the innovative learning project for the students. This **written response** includes
	+ the rationale describing the innovative nature of the project and how it meets the needs to learners
	+ a detailed description of how the project will be implemented
	+ a project time line for completion and project evaluation
	+ an explanation of how the project will be assessed to evaluate student learning.
* A **budget proposal** that includes the items needed to complete the grant project and the cost of each item. A total for all items, not to exceed $1,000, will be included.
* A **letter from the school principal** detailing his/her support of the project.
* Submissions missing any of the aforementioned required components are ineligible for judging.

**Judging Criteria**

**Innovative Teaching Focus Up to 20 points**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Level** | **Description** | **Points** |
| Weak | Provides an idea that is commonplace and innovative instructional strategies are minimal or nonexistent. | 0-6 |
| Average | Explains an idea that is unique and provides innovative instructional strategies. | 7-13 |
| Excellent | Describes an idea that is extremely innovative and provides a unique experience for students. The idea will provide students with learning opportunities they would not otherwise have experienced in the classroom. | 14-20 |

**Rationale and Impact Up to 20 points**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Level** | **Description** | **Points** |
| Weak | Impact on students is minimal or nonexistent. Description of rationale is lacking in detail or is difficult to follow. | 0-6 |
| Average | Impacts students during the school year. Students impacted may be in the classroom, grade level, and/or school community. Rationale articulates the reasoning behind the project. | 7-13 |
| Excellent | Impacts students in the classroom, grade level, and/ or school community during the school year and is sustainable for future years. Rationale includes extensive detail related to the project. | 14-20 |

**Implementation Plan and Time Line Up to 20 points**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Level** | **Description** | **Points** |
| Weak | Requires additional elaboration. The implementation plan and/or time line are difficult to follow and may be unreasonable. The time line needs further detail or clarity. | 0-6 |
| Average | Provides concise descriptions of implementation. Time frames are reasonable in order to complete the project in an efficient manner. | 7-13 |
| Excellent | Allows for implementation in a timely manner and is described in significant detail. Step by step, attainable plans are included on completing the project to fruition. The time line delineates specific project plans.  | 14-20 |

**Assessment Up to 20 points**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Level** | **Description** | **Points** |
| Weak | Necessitates further explanation of strategies and/or strategies are irrelevant to the concepts assessed. | 0-6 |
| Average | Contains valid, researched-based strategies to ascertain student learning throughout the project. | 7-13 |
| Excellent | Presents a variety of research-based assessment strategies that are meticulous in method of collection, analysis of data/findings, and display of results. | 14-20 |

**Procedures for Funding**

The recipient of the NCAEE Classroom Innovation Grant will receive his/her check during the NCAEE annual conference, which is held in the fall. The grant will be completed no later than **September 16th** of the following year.

**Requirements for Conference Presentation and Blog**
The grant recipient will be required to present one concurrent session regarding the grant project at the NCAEE conference in the fall following the receipt of funding.  Also, the grant recipient will be required to write a post for the NCAEE blog that details the project implementation and results.

For questions, contact
Carol Wooten, NCAEE Awards Committee Chair

cwooten@wcpss.net

All submissions should be email/shared to Carol Wooten at cwooten@wcpss.net.