



## Classroom Innovation Grant Application (*formerly Venture Grants*)

**Deadline - October 27, 2010**

### **Overview**

The information that you will include in the attached application form will provide the LPEF Grants Committee with the data needed to determine whether or not to fund your project. Applications may be from staff, students, parents or community members who partner with School District of La Crosse staff. Applications for other opportunities with the Foundation are available for download on our website at [www.lpefonline.org](http://www.lpefonline.org).

### **Guidelines**

- Grants must serve the students in the School District of La Crosse.
- Projects must be innovative, creative and new funding initiatives within the School District of La Crosse.
- The grant may be denied if another funding source might be more appropriate.
- Project funds must be spent by May of 2012.
- Interim and final reports will be required.
- Payments for services of La Crosse School District employees are prohibited.

### **Criteria**

Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis by the Grants Committee of the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. Priority is given for Classroom Innovation Grants that:

- meet multiple educational objectives
- align with district/school/curricular goals
- impact a variety of students and/or schools
- are collaborative
- are sustainable

Please see the Classroom Innovation Grant evaluation rubric for the grant proposal evaluation criteria. Although most applications are worthy of awarding, the committee has limited funding and must set priorities that help the foundation fulfill its mission.

### **Instructions**

- € Complete the following grant application.
- € Save as a Word document. Name the document the same name as your grant proposal.
- € Print page 1 of the application. Sign and obtain other necessary signatures. Submit a paper copy of page 1 to the La Crosse Public Education Foundation at Hogan via inter-school mail or by mail to P.O. Box 1811, La Crosse, WI 54602-1811.
- € Submit the entire application electronically to [lpef@centurytel.net](mailto:lpef@centurytel.net).
- € Both the paper copy and electronic copy must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 22, 2010.

If you have questions, please contact Geva Thole at 608-397-0176.



**La Crosse Public Education Foundation  
Classroom Innovation Grant Application**

**Section 1: Personal Information:**

Name : Tracy Snowberger

School: Longfellow/SOTA II Middle

Position/Title: Family and Consumer Education Teacher

School Phone: 608-789-7670

**Section 2: Basic Project Information:**

Project Title: Teen Connection (Longfellow Middle School and Humane Society)

Total Request \$ 2,200

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Principal \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of IT Department Rep (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

The intention of the Foundation is to fund projects not covered by the regular school budget. Please document that regular avenues of funding have been exhausted. (i.e. requests to Principal and curriculum supervisors)

**Section 3: Project Description:**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, one of the most important elements of student learning is “engagement” or buy-in of student learning. This engagement can come in all forms, but for some students the four walls of the bricks and mortar building just do not seem to provide this internal motivation or desire for students to want to learn to the best of their ability. For these students, alternative methods of engagement or motivation appear to provide the “key” to building internal motivation. The bottom line is that it is imperative to reengage these students in their learning, as these are the students at highest risk for dropping out of school. Community service learning appears to have a positive impact on these learners and is a way that makes their learning come alive. Students get an opportunity to give back to their community in a way that holds meaning for them. Whether it is walking dogs, cleaning out pens, learning about the facility, stuffing dog and cat treats or sweeping floors, the Coulee Region Humane Society is an area that is truly a collaborative way for these students to learn.

In order to provide this experience by March of 2011, ten 8<sup>th</sup> grade “at-risk” students from Longfellow Middle School will become students of the Coulee Region Humane Society resulting in a

large service-learning project that will benefit both the students and the Coulee Region Humane Society. This project will be complete and presented to The Coulee Region Humane Society no later than June 3, 2011.

II.

<b>Objectives of Project</b>	<b>List the corresponding district/school/curriculum goals (if applicable)</b>	<b>State how you will evaluate whether objectives are met.</b>
1. To provide a weekly work/learning experience at the Coulee Region Humane Society for select 8 <sup>th</sup> grade students who are not motivated and/or producing in our traditional school environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longfellow’s Site Plan for improvement designates specific plans for working with our non-work producers. Longfellow has developed a pyramid of interventions for this group of students with alternate educational opportunities at the end of the spectrum. These alternate educational interventions include off-site learning.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre and post survey of students who are identified as at-risk students. At-risk students are those students who are at-risk of not graduating from 8<sup>th</sup> grade and for whom summer school would be a must.</li> </ul>
1. To give back to the community via service learning projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School District of La Crosse identifies Life Science Curriculum as an area that 7<sup>th</sup> grade students must have.</li> <li>• Longfellow’s curriculum identifies life science elements as identified below in letters A-E.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre and post grades with students who are involved in this program.</li> </ul>
2. To learn about physical science through the capable hands of staff at the Coulee Region Humane Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a) Big ideas include continuity and change in living things, characteristics of animals and the environment they live in. b) Understanding the animal life cycle. c) Investigating the science of nutrition using animal foods currently available to consumers. d) Understanding of the different traits of dogs and cats through study and inquiry of animal DNA. E) Understanding types of dog breeds and the canine genetic characteristics that change when animals are crossbred.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student final project that will involve a portion of their learning that will give back to the Coulee Region Humane Society. Ex. Infomercials for Humane Society, written and recorded by students. Students will also be responsible for running the school wide fundraiser - “Pennies for Pups”</li> </ul>
2. To make the connection to a “love of learning” through this alternate means.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will learn to communicate with adults from CRHS on topics associated with animal care and ownership.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student self-reflection – Post Journaling after each visit to the Humane Society.</li> </ul>

III.

Activities to Accomplish Objectives	Who Will Be Responsible for Implementation	Resources Needed (not financial)	Timeframe to Accomplish
1. Identify 8 <sup>th</sup> grade “at-risk” students	Tracy Snowberger, Barb Schultz, Dave Dinger, and administration	Time to speak to core and specialist teachers	January of 2011
2. Collaboration with Coulee Region Humane Society as to outline of program	Tracy Snowberger teacher, Dave Dinger counselor, Barb Schultz Counselor, administration, and Coulee Region Education Director, Kaylynn Cooper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Time to discuss student learning objectives and service learning opportunities for students</li> <li>○ Creation and implementation of lesson plans with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, taught by Humane Society Personnel and School District of La Crosse Staff</li> </ul>	February of 2011
3. Implementation of and attendance at the Coulee Region Humane Society- 10, 1/2 days on Thursdays to replace student academic time	Tracy Snowberger, Dave Dinger, Barb Schultz, CRHS Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Transportation to and supervision of educational time spent at CRHS</li> </ul>	March -May 2011
4. Communication between CRHS and Staff of School District of La Crosse	Tracy Snowberger and Kaylynn Cooper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monthly reports as to how students are doing</li> <li>○ Student portfolios of learning-computer generated</li> </ul>	March-April-May
5. Student Culminating Projects	Tracy Snowberger, Dave Dinger, Kaylynn Cooper, and all participating students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Students must generate a process or product based on the 7<sup>th</sup> grade life science curriculum. The project must demonstrate benefits to the Coulee Region Humane Society. In addition, they must present in front of their teachers what they have learned. This project includes a documentation of student efforts at the Coulee Region Humane Society, thus the need for the iPad</li> </ul>	May 2011

IV. What is the lifespan of this project?

We are committed to making this alternative community connection a long-term project with not just the Coulee Region Humane Society but for other community organizations as well. This is just the beginning in what we hope will be collaboration for learning outside of the physical walls of our

school. Additionally, it is another tool to aid students who are at-risk of dropping out of school to connect to what is important-their community.

**V. Approximately how many students will be affected by this project? Explain your number.**

The number of students that this program would affect would be ten, 8<sup>th</sup> grade “at-risk” students. The number is low due to the fact that this population is identified after many other interventions have been tried and have found to be unsuccessful. We believe that reaching this population is well worth our time and efforts, as we believe that these students will become adults who live in our community. To give them every reason to want to learn is the best thing we can do for them.

**VI. Please state how you will collaborate with...**

This project is not possible without our partnership with the Coulee Region Humane Society. These people have committed to meeting with and teaching our students once a week for ten weeks. These people introduce our students to the totality of what the agency does (by teaching short lessons each week) and then they invite them to be a part of CRHS in terms of doing for our community animals.

**Other schools in the district (if applicable)**

N/A

**Other departments/classrooms (if applicable)**

For any 8<sup>th</sup> grade student who is currently not producing and for whom all other interventions have not helped, this is the program that is being proposed.

**VII. What will happen to the project at the conclusion of the grant? If it is to continue, how will it be sustained?**

At the conclusion of the grant, we will sustain this and other community collaborations with donations, fund-raising, and Longfellow budget monies. As stated above, we are committed to making these learning platforms a reality.

**VIII. How could the project be shared with other teachers and schools to benefit more students?**

We would be happy to share information with any and all District and out of District teachers at our staff development days, staff meetings or any other platform that would allow for teacher presentation time. We would also be willing to share (both teachers and students) our information as to the process we went through to make this type of learning a reality.

**Section 4: Budget Information:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>
T-shirts	Coaches Corner, Holmen WI	\$250.00
Sub Time	Longfellow/SOTA II Middle School	\$650 – 10- ½ days days of sub time for one teacher. The other staff members do not need substitute time.
Coulee Region Humane Society Costs	\$10.00 for 80.00 hours	\$800.00
1 iPad	Apple	\$500.00

<b>Total request: \$ 2,200</b>
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Other sources of funding for this project (if applicable):

- PTO funds

Total budget to accomplish project: \$2,200

**Section 5: Summary:**

**How will this project bring visibility to LPEF in the community?**

The Coulee Region Humane Society is a community agency that gives credit where credit is due. The fact they will be aiding in this project will be information that will be placed on the top of the CRHS website as well as placed in the Longfellow/SOTA II newsletter, and The Longfellow/SOTA II Website. We will also be communicating this information to the La Crosse Tribune and making podcasts of student learning that will include The La Crosse Public Education Foundation as a the source of funding.

**Please provide a one-paragraph summary of your project including an explanation of why we should fund your project.**

As stated earlier, it becomes clearer with each passing school year that we as educators need to continually reinvent the way we reach our students. There is no “one size fits all”, and we would be willing to bet there never was. What has existed is frustration when the educational needs of students were not met. We can no longer afford to let any of our students not produce or become disengaged with our schools. Teen Connection will aid our students with “hands on” learning at the Coulee Region Humane Society while giving back via service work to this agency. In order to continually look for alternate ways to connect students with our community and ultimately with their learning, we feel that Teen Connection offers a unique and innovative way to accomplish this goal.