

MSP Action Research Grants for Teachers
2004-2005 Award Application

BASIC INFORMATION

The Center for Research on Educational Reform at UTEP invites math and science teachers from El Paso area public middle and high schools to apply for the *El Paso Math & Science Partnership (MSP) Action Research Grants for Teachers*, sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Up to ten grants ranging from \$2000-\$4000 will be awarded to fund promising action research projects.

NOTE: Teachers who apply for or are enrolled in the MSP Induction, Noyce, or PETE programs for 2004-2005 are not eligible for the MSP Action Research Grants, and vice versa.

PURPOSE

Broadly, the objective of MSP is to advance knowledge and understanding about the systemic improvement of mathematics and science education. The purpose of the action research grants is to fund innovative teacher-initiated classroom research projects aimed at bolstering achievement in math and science for middle and high school students. The research projects should use scientific methods to answer questions such as the following: Which characteristics of a student (e.g., skills, preparation) are likely to enable success in math and science? How does a specific curriculum or method of instruction help students succeed in math and science? In what way can collaborations between teachers, parents, and universities help reduce the achievement gap in the areas of math and science? Previous awardees have investigated topics such as the use of technology in geometry lessons to improve students' performance, the impact of innovative versus traditional teaching methods on students' algebra achievement, and the use of a hands-on environmental project to influence students' attitudes toward science.

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

1. Teach math or science in a public middle school or high school in the El Paso area.
2. Willingness to conduct a classroom research project with some guidance from a designated UTEP faculty mentor.
3. Willingness to adhere to due dates regarding reports and presentations of project outcomes.

AWARDEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Applicants selected for an award hold the following responsibilities: oversee the development of the research project, submit required progress reports, attend mandatory meetings and workshops, deliver a final report and presentation, and contact appropriate staff regarding any alterations of the project. Teachers may submit an application for a research award individually or in pairs. In other words, *no more than two teachers* can assume responsibility for a research project. Teachers applying for this grant who will assume responsibility for the project are referred to as *teacher-researchers*. (Note: multiple teachers may participate in the project by aiding the teacher-researchers with data collection, feedback on project materials, etc.)

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must submit two items: 1. Applicant Information Form (see page 3) and 2. Action Research Proposal (as described on the following page).

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Applicants must submit an Action Research Proposal (maximum three typewritten pages) that consists of *all* of the following:

- A research topic pertinent to the above-stated purpose of MSP Action Research Grants
- Project title
- Clear statement of the purpose of the research project
- Statement of *specific* research questions to be investigated
- Clear and thorough explanation of the design and methodology of the project
- Description of the classrooms and participant samples involved with the project
- Explanation of plans for data collection and data analysis
- Discussion of the implications of the project's outcomes in relation to improving math or science education
- A detailed timeline that specifies the month in which each project activity will take place (i.e., August - develop questionnaires; October - administer tests; April - analyze data). The timeline may encompass the 2004-2005 academic year, depending on the duration of the project.
- If two teachers are applying jointly, list the project tasks that will be undertaken by each teacher
- An itemized budget listing expenditures such as stipends for teachers, photocopies, electronic equipment, books, etc. (maximum \$4000 total)
- Concise summary of the proposal (maximum 100 words)
- (Optional) Suggestion of a UTEP faculty member who would be an appropriate mentor for the project (however, the final designation of a mentor will be made by the award committee)

APPLICATION PROCESS

An award committee organized by the Center for Research on Educational Reform and the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence will review only complete applications (that is, a fully completed Applicant Information Form and Action Research Proposal). Applicants must demonstrate that their project can be executed within the given time frame and with the amount of funds requested. The award committee will fund only expenses clearly described and justified in the budget proposal. The committee will evaluate proposals on their clarity, comprehensiveness, use of scientific methods, intellectual merit, and consistency with MSP objectives. Award tenure will begin in October 2004. Selected applicants must commit to submitting a final project report to the Center for Research on Educational Reform by August 31, 2005. Also, selected applicants will be expected to present their findings to fellow educators.

DEADLINE

Applications are due October 18, 2004. Proposals can be sent by mail (and postmarked by the due date), email, fax, or delivered in person to Dr. Penelope Espinoza, Assistant Director of the Center for Research on Educational Reform, at:

Center for Research on Educational Reform
The University of Texas at El Paso
500 W. University Avenue
Education Building, Room 910
El Paso, TX 79968-0727
FAX: (915) 747-5344
EMAIL: ppepinoza@utep.edu

For further information regarding the application process, teachers may contact Dr. Espinoza by email or phone (915-747-8784). Additional application forms are available on the Center for Research website: www.crer.utep.edu.

MSP Action Research Grants for Teachers
2004-2005 Applicant Information Form

Please provide the information requested below. This form provides information about the applicant to the Director and Assistant Director of the Center for Research on Educational Reform, in the case that the applicant is selected for an award. Personal information will **not** be used in the selection process; it is only relevant for disbursing grants to awardees and for data collection purposes.

Teacher-Researcher #1:

Name (Please **print**.)

Gender: M F

Ethnicity: Native American African American Hispanic/Latino Anglo Other

School name

School district

Principal's name

Subject(s) and grade level(s) teaching for 2004-2005 school year

Work phone

Cell phone

Home phone

E-mail

Permanent mailing address

City, State, Zip

Social security number (for issuing the grant, if funded)

Citizenship (for issuing the grant, if funded)

Are you certified traditionally or through ATCP? _____

If through ATCP, what is the name and location of the program you attended? _____

When (month and year) did you receive your certification? _____

For what years is your certification valid? _____

What grade levels are you certified to teach? _____

What subject(s) are you certified to teach? _____

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Teacher-Researcher #2 (if applicable):

Name (Please **print**.)

Gender: __M __F

Ethnicity: __Native American __African American __Hispanic/Latino __Anglo __Other

School name

School district

Principal's name

Subject(s) and grade level(s) teaching for 2004-2005 school year

Work phone

Cell phone

Home phone

E-mail

Permanent mailing address

City, State, Zip

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