



A Proposal for a Prosperity Region 9 Challenge Grant

"Career Exploration Summer Experiences"

Livingston Educational Service Agency
1425 West Grand River
Howell, MI 48879
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The Livingston Educational Service Agency is pleased to submit for review and award, this application for funding in the amount of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) to support and defray costs for career exploration summer camp experiences for 85 middle school students.

Background, research, and impetus:

The Livingston Educational Service Agency (LESA) is the Intermediate School District serving Livingston County including the five local school districts of Brighton, Fowlerville, Hartland, Howell, and Pinckney. In addition, LESA serves three charter high schools, five charter primary schools, and numerous (and changing) private elementary schools and home school families. Our total student count for 2014 is approximately 28,360. (Audited count, March 25, 2015) There are no significant subpopulations based upon race, disability, or gender, but this proposal focuses on services to low-income students, a group for whom special programs are difficult to provide due to challenges in identifying group members.

Among the many functions of LESA is the establishment, delivery, and administration of programs that augment core curricular delivery in the schools. Specifically, linking school to careers and post secondary education through employer involvement and career exploration has become the job of LESA. Two important pieces of information inform this proposal and its anticipated outcomes.

First; the rate of college going and post secondary credential attainment among low income students is significantly lower than our rates for student bodies as a whole. In Livingston County, data from the National Student Clearinghouse shows that nearly 80% of our high school graduating classes enroll in post secondary programs within a year of high school graduation and after 6 years, 40% of those enrollees have earned a degree or certificate. For low income students the rate of enrollment and completion is uniformly half that of the general population; 40% enroll and only 20% complete. These figures are consistent across Region 9; students from low income families participate in and complete higher education at half the rate of the population as a whole.

A survey of high school alumni conducted 6 years post-high school graduation uncovers an important factor influencing post secondary enrollment and completion. When graduates who did not enroll in post-secondary programs or who enrolled and did not complete programs were asked to indicate why not the most common response was (as anticipated) **money**. However, when questioned further the foundation of the money issue became clearer. Responses paraphrased as "I didn't know what I wanted to do in college, so it was a waste of money", or "I was wasting money on a bunch of classes in which I had no interest" were most common. From this anecdotal information it can clearly be extrapolated that the key to getting young adults, and especially young adults from low income families to attend and complete post secondary education is to provide them the opportunity to formulate a plan, choose a career path, and set a goal. This is the intent of this proposal; students exposed to high-skill, high-wage, high-demand career options will undoubtedly pursue education and employment in those career areas. Even if students finds themselves NOT interested in a specific area the career exploration exercise can be deemed a success as the student will not false-start down a career path that is later found inappropriate.

Alignment with Region 9 goals:

This proposal is ideally aligned with region wide priorities on multiple levels:

- a. It addresses the region wide need to grow the future talent pipeline of employees ready to work in the businesses and industries of the region by aligning the offerings of the summer experiences to the needs of regional employers. Specifically, our three career exploration areas are health care careers, information technology, and high tech manufacturing. In each area participants are exposed to fields of employment, not specific job titles. For example, in manufacturing, participants participate in activities that illustrate the full “art to part” process of design, engineering, prototyping, manufacture, and quality control testing. Through the “all aspects of the industry” model a student who doesn’t care for learning to run a CNC milling machine may be totally enthralled with CAD design. Both are areas of high need in the manufacturing sector. In similar fashion, most young people are familiar with the role of a registered nurse, and many of those students indicate they “don’t want to be around sick people all day”. However, how many of them understand the opportunities in research, clinical laboratories, or allied health professions that don’t put the practitioner in patient contact? Illustrating “all aspects” is an important part of filling the pipeline.
- b. It addresses the goal of career awareness, and the strategy of recruiting and retaining under-represented groups by ensuring that ALL potential employees have the knowledge and opportunity necessary to enter a field of employment regardless of income level. An award of this grant removes a significant barrier for a critical mass of students.
- c. It addresses the regional strategy of employing hands-on, real life examples of work in each of the career fields through entertaining, engaging, and age appropriate activities. In addition, each camp experience puts participants in touch with adults currently employed in each field through lunch time round tables and lunch buddies, presentations by industry representatives, and a clear outline of the academic preparation needed for entry into each of the career fields.

Regional emphasis:

While the camp experiences will be held Livingston County, they will be open to students region-wide and advertised as such. It is noted that other counties in our region have active summer programming through their career tech centers, but with no such center or tax millage assessment in Livingston County, that avenue for offering career focused experiences is not available. Our partners in this endeavor come from across the Region. Shop Rats is located in Jackson, Eastern Michigan University is in Ypsilanti, and The Michigan Council for Women in Technology is based in Ann Arbor.

Conversely, our success in offering summer career exploration is easily replicated in any community within the region, and as part of our deliverable we will be happy to share our model of success with any regional partner who is interested.

Expected outcomes:

Successful completion of the project to be supported by the regional challenge grant will be indicated by the following:

- a. 85 middle school students will complete a one week career awareness experience in one of three areas; advanced manufacturing, health careers, or information technology
- b. Of the 85 participants, at least 20 will be students who, without the support of this grant, would not have been able to attend due to the cost. This will be evidenced by referrals provided by the participant's teacher(s), principal, guidance counselor, or other responsible adult.
- c. 100% of participant will indicate an increased knowledge of career opportunities within the field of emphasis for their camp experience and 50% will indicate an increased likelihood of pursuing a career in that field as indicated on pre and post experience surveys of participants.
- d. 100% of parents or guardians of program participants will indicate an increased awareness of career opportunities and the academic requirements for entry into the field as indicated by post tests and evaluations of the program.
- e. 100% of participants indicate that the week long experience was worth their time and effort as indicated by evaluations at completion of the program.

Matching funds and in-kind:

LESA has commitment from the following program providers for support of the summer camp experiences:

- a. The "Shop Rats" foundation, a Jackson Michigan based group dedicated to the growth of a skilled manufacturing work force, is the provider of curriculum, materials, and instruction for the manufacturing-based experience. The normal cost of the one week camp plus preparation and evaluation for 30 participants is \$10,000. The Shop Rats Foundation defers \$3,400 of this cost to their foundation and in effect donates to the program in that amount.
- b. Michigan Council of Women in Technology is the provider of the Information Technology experience. Similar to the foundation indicated above. The cost for the I.T. camp for 25 participants is \$11,000, but the Association discounts one half of the cost through its own sources. As a result, the Michigan Association of Women in Technology make a donation of \$5,500 to the project.
- c. Eastern Michigan University is the provider of the Health Careers program, and as above, actual cost of the experience is divided equally between EMU and LESA. Value of the donation by EMU is \$5,000.
- d. In previous years the Manufacturing and I. T. experience have cost each participant \$75. While this aspect of the program will continue, our goal is to maintain the cost per participant and totally remove the \$75 barrier for low income students. Without assistance from the Challenge Grant the cost per participant would be \$200 with no subsidy for low income participants. The difference between the actual cost to LESA for the programs and the participant fees collected is covered by donations from various sources. These sources may or may not be available for summer of 2016, which is why we are requesting Region 9 Challenge Grant support.

Summary of matching contributions

Source	Amount
Shop Rats foundation	\$3,400
MI Council of Women in Technology	\$5,500
Eastern Michigan University	\$5,000
Participant fees	\$4,875
LESA Career Tech funds	\$2,125
Total	\$16,500
Region 9 Challenge Grant	\$10,000

Budget:

Cost	Manufacturing	I.T.	Health Science	total
Instruction	2,800	3,000	2,700	8,500
Supplies	3,200	3,000	3,200	9,400
Snacks	400	400	400	1,200
Lunch	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
marketing	400	400	400	1,200
T shirts	700	700	700	2,100
Transportation	500	1,500	1,500	3,500
Admin	1,000	1,000	0	2,000
Less contribution	3,400	5,500	5,000	13,900
Cost to LESA	6,600	5,500	5,000	17,000

Summary:

Cost to LESA	\$17,000
Participant registration fee	4,875
Career Tech funds	2,125
Challenge Grant Funds Requested	10,000

September 1, 2015

Shanna Draheim
Senior Consultant
230 N. Washington Square, Ste. 300
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Ms. Draheim:

I am writing to you in support of the Region 9 Prosperity Grant application being submitted by Livingston Educational Service Agency (LESA).

The concept of using summer camps to foster awareness and excitement for the growing talent needs in engineering and manufacturing is adamantly supported and utilized by The Shop Rat Foundation.

In our work over the last ten years, providing exposure, exploratory and preparatory programs for youth related to construction, engineering, machining, welding and advanced manufacturing, we have seen the impact of these opportunities. Young people need to be exposed to career opportunities and pathways so they can successfully navigate their high school, college and future employment opportunities. We have witnessed an increase in awareness throughout the community, among parents and students, when exposure to enriching opportunities such as career summer camps are provided. Students need more opportunities to learn about careers and apply academics through hands-on practical applications.

With over 3,000 youth across Jackson, Ingham, Lenawee and Livingston Counties served annually, we have been fortunate to learn first-hand from the students we serve and their parents what a difference these opportunities have and will continue to make.

Growing the talent pipeline into our communities with interest and awareness in careers is a concept we are deeply connected to. If you have any questions, or would like to learn more about how we are working collaboratively with the Livingston Educational Service Agency, please contact me at 517-769-2100.

Sincerely,



Kelly Burr
Executive Director
The Shop Rat Foundation, Inc.



THAI SUMMIT AMERICA CORPORATION, 1480 West McPherson Park Drive, Howell, Michigan 48843, Phone (517) 548-4900, Fax (517) 545-3806

September 1, 2015

Leslie Martz
Human Resources Manager
Thai Summit America Corporation
1480 West McPherson Park Dr.
Howell, MI 48843

Shanna Draheim
Senior Consultant
230 N. Washington Square, Ste. 300
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Ms. Draheim:

I am writing to you in support of the Region 9 Prosperity Grant being submitted by Livingston Educational Service Agency (LESA).

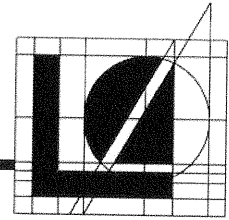
The concept of using summer camps to foster awareness and excitement for the growing talent needs in engineering and manufacturing is highly supported by Thai Summit. We seek out the most highly skilled and trained people for our company and would like to employ people locally. Creating awareness about Thai Summit and our hiring needs as well as supporting the educational development and exposure to careers is a focus of our company.

Young people need to be exposed to career opportunities and pathways so they can successfully navigate their high school, college and future employment opportunities. We need people in our corporation with the skills and passion for what they do. Growing the talent pipeline into our communities with interest and awareness in careers is a concept we highly support. If you have any questions, please contact me at 517-548-6031.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Leslie Martz'.

Leslie Martz
Human Resources Manager
Thai Summit America Corporation



September 3, 2015

Shanna Draheim
Senior Consultant
230 N. Washington Square, Ste. 300
Lansing, MI 48933

Our Mission

Integrity
in architecture and design
in client relationships
in employee relationships
in community relationships

advancement
in all these efforts

Re: Region 9 Prosperity Grant Support

Dear Ms. Draheim:

I am writing to you in support of the Region 9 Prosperity Grant being submitted by Livingston Educational Service Agency (LESA).

The concept of using summer camps to foster awareness and excitement for the growing talent needs in IT, design and engineering is highly supported by Lindhout Associates Architects. We seek out the most highly skilled and trained people for our company and would like to employ people locally. Through our volunteering efforts, we help to create awareness about what employers in our industry are seeking, support educational development and share the potential job experiences.

Young people need to be exposed to career opportunities and pathways so they can successfully navigate their high school, college and future employment opportunities. We need people in our industry with the skills and passion for what they do. We enjoy being given the opportunity to assist in developing the talent in our communities with interest and awareness in careers is a concept we highly support. If you have any questions, please contact me at 810-227-5668.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Muñoz Fuller, Assoc. ASID, LEED AP
Designer
Lindhout Associates Architects