

## Professional Development Grants for Districts

By Ann Ellefson, Director of Academic Support

On Friday, August 14 the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) announced the availability of funding to support professional development for North Dakota schools and districts. This is an opportunity for districts to offer high-quality professional development for North Dakota school district administrators, principals, teachers and paraprofessionals. Title I and non-Title I districts and buildings are welcome to apply, as these are Title VI funds used for standards and assessment. Depending on demand, it is anticipated grant awards will range from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

The funds available are specifically earmarked for professional development in one of the three areas:

- Professional development aligned to the North Dakota standards for English language arts (ELA)
- Professional development aligned to the North Dakota standards for mathematics
- Professional development aligned to the North Dakota standards in other content areas

Interested districts, must complete the following by September 4, 2015 to be eligible for the funds.

- Budget Application (SFN 52929)
- Detailed description of how these funds will be utilized

It is certainly acceptable to have multiple professional development opportunities that align to more than one of the allowable activities. If seeking funds for multiple professional development opportunities, please prioritize each in the event the request needs to be reduced. More information regarding this opportunity can be found [online](#).

Questions can be directed to [Ann Ellefson](#) at (701) 328-2488, or [Jane Gratz](#) at (701) 328-2292.

## Leveraging the Senior Year

By Ann Ellefson, Director of Academic Support

This two-pronged initiative funded by the 2015 Legislative Session has projects happening simultaneously to address the needs for secondary students to be college and career ready. It ensures that all students grow academically during their secondary career.

The first prong of Leveraging the Senior Year ensures that students who are not on track to take credit bearing courses their first year of college can get the extra instruction they need their senior year. This approach is referred to as College Lab for English and Math (CLEM), or MyFoundations Lab. Students will have the opportunity to pursue CLEM coursework which will help address the credit bearing courses in which they are struggling. The NDDPI will be working with the ND University System to accept MyFoundations Lab instruction as proof that remediation is unnecessary at the college level.

The second prong of Leveraging the Senior Year ensures that students who have taken all of the available courses at their high school have greater options for advanced coursework through Advanced Placement (AP) classes. In order to do this, additional professional development will be available for experienced and new AP teachers. Additionally, state funding will be used to cover the expenses of AP online coursework, AP exam fees, and scholarships for students.

Questions can be directed to [Ann Ellefson](#) at (701) 328-2488.