

## Whalen, Leonard

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**From:** Warren, Todd - WKEC  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 2:09 PM  
**To:** Allen, Casey - Superintendent; Clark, Vince - Superintendent; Collins, Aaron - Superintendent; Hayes, Terry--Superintendent; Henderson, Casey - SUPT; Henderson, Joe-Superintendent; Shively, Donald - CO Superintendent; Smith, Tamara - Superintendent; Whalen, Leonard; Zimmerman, Victor  
**Subject:** Federal Grants and Signatures  
**Attachments:** WK GEAR UP 2017 Overview.docx; EIR 2017 Overview.docx

Greetings CIE superintendents. I hope this finds you well. CIE is currently preparing two exciting federal grant proposals to benefit our member districts. I have attached detailed information about both grants, but briefly described them below. I do this now because if possible, I would like to get your approval and signature on agreement forms at the WKEC board meeting this Wednesday, March 22. If you are sending a designee, his or her signature will work as well. (If no one is going to be in attendance at Wednesday's Board meeting from your district, we'll find a way to get that from you between now and the middle of April.) The two grant programs are:

1. GEAR UP. Many of you are familiar with this middle and high school college and career readiness grant program. It is a seven year grant program for middle and high school students. CIE is working with Dianne Owen (former Fulton Independent superintendent) in preparing this proposal. Due date is April 19.
2. Education, Innovation and Research (EIR) Program. Very similar to the i3 grant program. Our proposal will benefit middle and high school math and science students, teachers, and administrators. The EIR proposal will model our very high scoring i3 proposal from last year and will include a partnership with Texas Instruments (TI) and ASCD to provide technology professional development, hardware, and training on working with rural poor students and families. This is a five year grant project. Due date is April 13.

As usual, I have included an "upon local Board approval" clause on the participation agreement. If CIE is fortunate to be funded on one or both grants, I understand most of you will need Board approval to participate. If you so choose, this clause will allow you to present the grant to your local Board only if funded, and they can decide then if they want to participate.

Again, if possible, I'd like to get your signature (or your designee's signature) on both agreement forms at the WKEC Board meeting on Wednesday, March 22.

Thank you,  
Todd

**Todd Warren**

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**West Kentucky GEAR-UP Grant Program**  
**Due April 19, 2017**

CIE is writing a grant proposal that will be a seven-year project beginning in 2017. The goal of the grant is to provide services through partnerships to high-poverty middle and high school cohorts from their sixth-seventh grades to their first year of college.

Highlights include:

1. College/Career Coaches will be hired through the colleges/WKEC to work with KHEAA, college recruiters and admissions personnel, guidance counselors, principals, and other school personnel to provide financial aid workshops, college, technical, career counseling, and scholarships to ensure that students can afford to attend a two-year or four-year college or training center to obtain the degree, diploma, or certifications, needed to enter the workforce. They will also work with first year college students.
2. Emphasis on establishing dual credit college programs through partnerships with MSU and WKCTC and other college partners for all 10 districts so that the students can take full advantage of Kentucky's dual credit scholarship program as well as ensure that students succeed at dual credit and rigorous classes.
3. Provide tutoring and remedial programs designed to meet the needs of each school that will help middle and high schoolers move towards proficiency and pre-ACT prep programs such as Pre-ACT or ACT Aspire that are designed to begin preparing middle and high schoolers for the ACT and career exploration. Technology needs will be considered as most of these are on-line programs.
4. Partner with area technical centers to assist students who are interested in pursuing a technical degree or certification into completing their first year of college while still in high school so that they can move on to their second year at a technical college.
5. Provide soft skills training such as Soft Skills Field Manual and career/finance programs such as Junior Achievement and Dave Ramsey Finance Course for middle school and high school students.
6. Increase the graduation rate at the 10 schools.
7. Increase the number of seniors advancing to post-secondary training and successful transition into the workforce through the WK/KY FAME Project, career fairs, campus visits, and apprenticeships.

GEAR UP is a discretionary grant program which encourages applicants to provide support and maintain a commitment to eligible low-income students, including students with disabilities and English learners, to assist the students in obtaining a secondary school diploma and preparing for and succeeding in postsecondary education. (From GEAR UP grant application) There is a 50% match (can be in-kind)

The scope of the grant must include the following for every student and their families in the cohort:

1. Providing information regarding financial aid for postsecondary education;
2. Encouraging student enrollment in challenging curricula and coursework;
3. Improving the number of participating students who obtain a secondary school diploma;
4. Improving the number of participating students who complete application and enroll in a program of postsecondary education; and
5. Providing scholarships to students.

Priority will be given to:

1. Projects that are designed to reduce the need for remedial education.
2. Projects that are designed to implement at least one strategy supported by evidence of effectiveness.

**EDUCATION, INNOVATION, AND RESEARCH (EIR) GRANT PROGRAM**  
**Due April 13, 2017**

The core aim of the EIR program is to improve public K-12 education for our neediest students, and to enable other educators to learn from these successful efforts. EIR is designed to build upon the Investing in Innovation's (i3's) success and offer new opportunities for states districts, schools, and educators to develop innovations and scale effective practices that address their most pressing challenges.

The Rural Kentucky Education, Innovation, and Research grant program—or RKEIR—will promote the importance of science and mathematics education to our CIE districts. RKEIR will provide innovative strategies for working with rural, poor students via training of middle and high school math and science teachers—as well as administrators—ensuring that appropriate concepts and standards are reinforced consistently. Additionally, classrooms will be appropriately networked and equipped with the latest high-tech tools, as well as teachers who are properly trained to utilize this technology.

The project aims to increase: administrator and teacher understanding of appropriate strategies to use with rural, poor students; student exposure to and understanding of math and science concepts; student knowledge about math- and science-based careers; the number of high school graduates pursuing postsecondary math and science degrees or certification; teacher confidence in teaching math and science concepts and standards; classroom technology and its use in supporting the teaching of appropriate concepts and standards; and regional proclivity toward math and science education and careers.