

February 14, 2022

Stephanie Nelson, Senior Account Manager
Indiana Department of Administration
Procurement Division
402 W. Washington St., Room W468
Indianapolis, IN 46204

RE: RFP 22-70334 STEM and Literacy Plan of Work

Dear Ms. Nelson,

The Center for Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) at the University of Indianapolis (UIndy) is excited to submit this proposal to support schools in their teaching of STEM and literacy content. Our innovative approach to this subject matter is leveraged through a comprehensive collaboration between CELL, the Education Service Centers of Indiana (ESC), the Hunt Institute, and Five Star Technology Solutions. CELL has, for the past 20 years, been a leader in organizing schools and supporting innovative educational practices. Our mission has been to partner with schools and communities to improve outcomes for students of all ages by leading to sustainable education innovation and transformation across Indiana. A history of success, along with our collaborative partners, make us confident that we are uniquely suited to carrying out this proposed project. Our plan will support two cohorts of coaches, implementing a new pedagogical philosophy around STEM and literacy teaching. As the project leader for this endeavor, CELL will be accountable for project oversight and deliverables. CELL has extensive experience and necessary resources required for this project, having successfully implemented and delivered multiple statewide projects, including STEM Teach. The STEM Teach project led to the establishment of relationships between CELL and the majority of colleges and universities across the state. CELL will leverage those relationships to recruit higher education leaders in STEM and literacy to participate in the proposed training.

Our collaboration is unique in the number of partners, as well as the potential scope of impact statewide, well beyond the two-year grant period. The Education Service Centers (ESC) of Indiana have extensive experience in coaching, developing, and supporting school districts. They have frequently been a partner on State initiatives, RISE teacher evaluation, standards adoption, curriculum review and adoption, migrant learning, online learning and classes, to name a few. There are no other organizations in the state with the connections, relationships, reputation and credibility within schools to train and support coaches. The ESC will utilize a cadre of well trained, experienced training support specialists to monitor progress, provide critical feedback, collect data, and co-teach with school-based coaches.

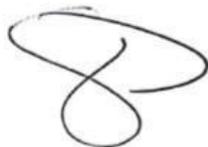
The ESCs regional structure allows them to understand the unique needs and culture of their schools, better enabling this project to succeed. This project will find greater, sustained success through trusted educational partnerships with the schools. Additionally, when it comes to the second cohort recruitment, there is no organization better positioned than one already in the regions around the state. The ESCs will be able to communicate, market, and recruit for the second cohort throughout the first year of the project.

Hunt Institute is a national leader in educational policy research and implementation. For over 20 years the Hunt Institute has been supporting governors around the country to craft innovative policies for schools. They have supported post-secondary institution leadership development and since 2018 Hunt has supported early childhood literacy implementation across the country. There is likely no other institution in this country that knows more about the early childhood literacy landscape. Hunt will be able to provide unparalleled content expertise and training support and development. Hunt knows the ins and outs of curriculum around the country and will cultivate the most researched based curricula and resources for STEM/Literacy teaching and learning.

Five Star Technology Solutions provides highly technical and tailored support, training, data analytics, and monitoring to a large number of school districts around the state. The level of detail in their data analytics will provide immense value in our research, evaluation, and monitoring of the program and ultimately as we build out and sustain the program beyond the two years. Additionally, Five Star will provide support to the coaches and schools around the Indiana Learning Lab. This is an excellent resource for professional development, sharing best practices, and a community of support for classroom teachers. The Indiana Learning Lab provides live, on-demand workshops for educators and a direct avenue to learning from IDOE staff.

Few opportunities allow organizations like CELL, the ESCs, Hunt, and Five Star to come together around a common mission and vision. This RFP has brought the expertise and experience of these four organizations together to provide training and support to the hundreds of coaches, administrators, and higher education faculty around the state. A robust collaboration of this type could expand statewide, and lead to one-of-a-kind educational progress for Hoosier students in years to come.. We look forward to the opportunity to support Indiana’s teachers with the Science of Reading and best practices in STEM.

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Respondent Organization:	University of Indianapolis
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