



For Immediate Release

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Clark County School District selected to receive highly sought U.S. Department of Education grant

Investing in Innovation Grant will put much needed funds into six schools, impact approximately 5,600 students

Las Vegas - The Clark County School District (CCSD) was selected by the U.S. Department of Education to receive a \$3 million Investing in Innovation (i3) Grant. The grant, comparable to Race to the Top (RTTT) and School Improvement Grants (SIG), is a highly competitive grant aimed at improving student achievement. The District was one of the 20 highest-rated applications selected from more than 700 submissions nationwide, and one of only two school districts to receive the grant.

The i3 grant aims to expand the use of innovative classroom practices that improve student achievement and growth, help close achievement gaps, decrease dropout rates, increase high school graduation rates and increase college enrollment and completion rates. The money provided by the grant will be used to invest in a Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) program. The program will serve approximately 5,600 students at four middle schools and two high schools. Schools selected for services are Frank F. Garside, Robert O. Gibson, Clifford O. Findlay and Carroll M. Johnston Middle Schools, along with Mojave and Western High Schools. The schools were selected because they have a high percentage of students who have not traditionally participated in STEM programs.

Community partnerships were a key factor in the District's successful grant application. As a condition of the grant application process, a matching requirement of \$450,000 was needed. Community partners who stepped up to support students included the Cleveland Clinic, UNLV, TJK Consulting Engineers, First NV, Nevada State Parks, Professional Design Associates, Pugsley.Simpson.Coulter Architects, DCC Architects, Tate Snyder Kimsey, Springs Preserve, Natural History Museum, Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association and Southern Nevada Agency Partnership.

"CCSD appreciates this opportunity to work with great community partners to deepen learning for students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics by providing them with relevant activities, clubs, internships, and summer camps," said Superintendent Dwight D. Jones. "Our community has stepped up and invested in our kids. They are fully committed to seeing CCSD

go from the fastest growing to the fastest improving school district in the nation."

To help increase student interest in the STEM program, the District will ensure students have exciting opportunities that pique their interests and have them thinking about potential career paths. Efforts include the involvement of industry mentors to help students and showcase how STEM helped them pursue their dreams and providing teachers with professional development and networking opportunities that help lead to discovering exciting educational opportunities for students.

The STEM program will utilize Project Lead the Way Gateway to Technology curriculum in science classes at the selected middle schools, opening up a world of 21st century possibilities for students. Project Lead the Way Biomedical and Engineering courses will be offered at the high school level and tie into the District's goal of having every student Ready by Exit for college and career. The programs offered will not only expose all students to rigorous, hands-on curriculum during the school day, but will also provide exciting after school activities such as weekly meetings with STEM professionals, STEM Club, STEM summer camp and STEM internships. These efforts present a world of possibilities for students and allows them to pursue and compete for highly sought after employment and educational opportunities from around the world.

"There is a local, state, and national need for a trained workforce in the STEM area," said Jones. "Thanks to this unique collaboration between CCSD and community partners, we will provide rigorous and engaging science coursework for students and ignite STEM interest for many youth who may not have considered such a path otherwise."

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