

Jennifer Groman, November 3, 2017.

Talent Development Program Adjunct Syncro-sium Meeting and Work Session

Due to changes in the Ohio Department of Education's Gifted Standards, districts throughout Ohio are expected to provide more High Quality Professional Development (at least 30 contact hours each year) to any teacher working directly with gifted students. We have already seen growth in the number of inquiries about our Talent Development/Gifted Education Endorsement, on campus and at cohort sites around the state. For that reason, I am recommending hiring at least 3 more adjuncts this year, with more to come.

For the last 15 years I have been an adjunct in this program, and now I am the Director. I know the other adjuncts, but have never had the opportunity to talk to them about how they interpret the syllabi, what activities they use, and how they hold face-to-face and online course sessions, in short, to synchronize (not mirror) our teaching to common goals.

This grant (and a request for matching funds from my College of Education) would allow me to hold a campus-based adjunct meetings and work sessions in January at the Ashland Campus. I call this meeting a "Synchro-sium" – a symposium to synchronize our practices.

This 5-hour work day would include:

- a) Introductions and sharing stories from the field (building connections);
- b) Discussing communication needs and possibly establishing a repository of course materials (this may involve Chris Stormer, Director of the Instructional Technology Program);
- c) A work session to discuss EDIS 650 (*Nature and Needs of the Talented*) and EDIS 651 (*Curriculum Methods for the Talented*), especially current practices, program alignment with new ODE competencies, technology integration, new research and materials, activities and strategies;
- d) Listening to and addressing concerns;
- e) Possible discussions on: following up with former graduates, a possible research and collaborative writing project I have in mind, identifying cross-course and ongoing desired outcomes and specific growth measures;
- f) Lunch or dinner at Lower Convo, and a trip through the bookstore so they can use their 10% off to buy AU swag.

If my College will match these funds, I will be able to hold a second Synchro-sium in May (at the Columbus campus) to discuss the next two courses in the sequence EDIS 652 and 653 and follow-up, in the same manner.

The Synchro-sium(s) will allow me to build capacity within my excellent team of adjuncts as we prepare for an increased need districts have for quality PD and coursework in understanding and working with gifted students. We have such a wealth of fantastic adjuncts who are working full time, every day, in the field, and I want to tap that resource for the:

- 1) Improvement of the program, (more consistency, stronger connections to practice, better use of technology);
- 2) Improvement of the team of adjuncts as a group and as individuals (fine-tuning communication, sharing best practices, making connections); and
- 3) Ultimately improving our student outcomes (by identifying and stating these outcomes and ways to measure progress), follow-up and satisfaction with the program.

We have 10 adjuncts in the program, and we have just begun paperwork for three more. I expect that out of those, 10 will be able/willing to participate. I base my budget on this number.

We have five adjuncts from Butler/Hamilton County, one in the Cleveland area, one in Stow, two in Columbus, three in Ashland. To attend, most adjuncts will spend at least an hour on the road, some up to three, to come to Ashland. The majority of my request is for honorariums and a travel stipend for them.

Travel and stipend for adjunct time and distance = \$380-400

Meal at Lower Convo = \$100-120