

**TIE Customized Learning Bush Grant Opportunity**

**Implementation Site Application**

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| **Section 1 – General Information** |

1. **Introduction/Purpose**

TIE invites your school/school district to apply for the designation of an Implementation Site funded through Bush Foundation Grant. Awarded to TIE in the fall of 2015, the goal of the grant is to engage more schools and learners with Customized Learning (CL) as a strategy for increasing the percentage of all students who attain postsecondary success. Toward that goal, TIE is partnering with K-12 schools for the purpose of building capacity and implementing the vision and practices associated with CL.

**2. Key Criteria for Selection of Implementation Sites**

As TIE considers applicants, the focus will be on the following criteria for applicants:

a. Understanding and commitment of key stakeholders to the vision of CL and how it would impact their school/district.

b. Proposed starting point (grade levels and subjects) for the site implementation based on perceived readiness and engagement of stakeholders.

c. Experience and success with prior initiatives designed to impact learning and learners.

d. Preparedness as reflected by specific activities to increase readiness for engaging with CL.

e. Evidence of one-to-one technology to support the implementation of CL.

f. Commitment to allocate time/days (during school year and summer) to build the capacity of key stakeholders as appropriate (such as days set aside for curriculum design or completion of Customizedu.net online courses).

g. Consideration for the commitment of additional fiscal resources for the successful implementation of CL, as appropriate.

**3. Overview of Process**

Interested applicants will complete a concise application form identified as Section 2 of this packet. Each application will be reviewed and those applicants deemed best positioned for success will participate in a follow-up interview process. Based on the application and interview process, awardees/implementation sites will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis until all available grant funds are allocated.

**4. Application Steps and Time Lines**

The following steps and time lines accompany the application process:

1. Complete the application (Section 2 of this document) and submit to: TIE, Attention: Dr. Julie Mathiesen, 1925 Plaza Boulevard, Rapid City, SD 57702.
2. Completed applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis.
3. Applications will be reviewed on a quarterly basis with the following dates as start-up dates for new implementation sites (October 1, January 1, April 1, and July 1).
4. Applications must be received at least 45 days prior to the intended quarterly start-up as noted in the following table:

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| **Deadline for Application Submission** | **Date of Quarterly Start-Up** |
| August 15, 2016 | October 1, 2016 |
| November 15, 2016 | January 1, 2017 |
| February 15, 2017 | April 1, 2017 |
| May 15, 2017 | July 1, 2017 |

1. If an applicant/application is deemed as best positioned for success as an implementation site based on the key criteria, a follow-up interview will be scheduled with the applicant prior to the quarterly date intended for start-up. If an applicant/application is deemed as incomplete or requires a stronger response to the criteria, the applicant will be informed of that status prior to quarterly date intended for start-up. Such applicants may be reconsidered upon re-application for a subsequent quarter if grant funds are still available.
2. For applicants participating in the follow-up interview process, the purpose is to clarify and confirm application information. A decision regarding designation as an implementation site will be communicated to the applicant following the interview and prior to the intended quarterly start-up date for the implementation. If upon the follow-up interview the applicant is not selected as an implementation site, such applicants may be re-considered upon re-application for a subsequent quarter if grant funds are still available.
3. If an applicant is designated as an implementation site, a formal agreement will be initiated for the approval/signature of an authorized designee of the applicant and the TIE Director, as appropriate.

**5. Related Information and Considerations Associated with Participation of the Implementation Sites**

To heighten the success of implementation sites, it is important to identify the supports which will be provided to sites as well as examples of expectations associated with active implementation during the agreement period. Following is that information as applicants consider this opportunity for their school/district.

1. **Supports Provided to Implementation Sites**

TIE will provide supports (a value of up to $20,000 annually) including:

* Support team member (s) to be accessible via distance and face-to-face, as appropriate, to assist with the development of an annual work plan, to provide technical assistance, and to collaboratively review and update work plan based on formative data.
* Professional development opportunities/events to build the capacity of staff and design curriculum for successful implementation of CL.
* Access to Customizedu.net and related resources.

TIE will provide fiscal resources to the school/district including:

* A travel stipend of up to $4,000/annually to assist the site with travel costs associated with participating in designated grant activities such as CL summits and curriculum design workshops.
* An activity stipend of up to $16,000/annually to assist the site with costs such as paying stipends to teachers for additional work and acquiring technology tools (LMS-like products) to support implementation.

(Note: Stipends may be renewed until the close of the Bush Grant period (September 30, 2019) pending evidence of appropriate progress with CL implementation.)

1. **Examples of Expectations for Implementation Sites During Grant Participation**

Implementation Sites will be expected to:

* Commit to active engagement in the implementation of CL by providing appropriate leadership which includes a leadership team, an annual implementation plan which engages a team of implementers, and participation in a state-wide network of grant sites.
* Engage in ongoing capacity building activities such as a book study of ***Inevitable***, visitation to other implementation sites, curriculum design workshops, CL summits/conferences, and site-based assessments.
* Adopt the TIE CL Model and utilize the components of Professional Learning, Curriculum Redesign, and Structural Rebuild (Customizedu.net), as appropriate.
* Participate in project evaluation activities/data collection as required in fulfilment of project evaluation.

**6.**   **Additional Conditions**

TIE reserves the right to decline applications based on professional judgment in relation to noted criteria and/or as the result of limited grant funding.

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| **Section 2 – Implementation Site Application Form** |
| **Data Element** | **Responses** |
| **School / District** |  |
| **Contact Name** |  |
| **Contact email address** |  |
| **Contact phone number** |  |
| **Application Submission Date** |  |
| **What does CL mean to the stakeholders in your school and community? What data support your perception? (250 word limit)** |  |
| **If your school receives this grant, what do you anticipate would be different about the experience of learners three years down the road? (250 word limit)** |  |
| **Where do you perceive initiating the CL implementation in your school/district (grade levels/subject areas/etc.)? Why there? (250 word limit)** |  |
| **What one-to-one technology is in place to support the CL implementation? (100 word limit)** |  |
| **What has your school done or has planned that positions you for this opportunity (*Inevitable* book study, online courses available through Customizedu.net, participation at the National Summit, etc.)? (250 word limit)** |  |
| **Note your school/district’s commitment to allocate time/days during the school year and summer for teachers to build their capacity and design curriculum to support CL. (150 word limit)** |  |
| **Note your school/district’s capacity or potential to commit additional fiscal resources for the success of the CL implementation. (150 word limit)** |  |
| **Describe a current or recent instructional initiative and evidence of impact in your school/district. (250 word limit)** |  |
| **Other: This space is available for other information that you believe is important to your school/district’s consideration as an implementation site. (250 work limit)** |  |