



Curriculum Development Demonstration Project Request for Concept Proposals March 2008

The Regional Industry Skills Education (RISE) initiative is a joint effort by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and the Wisconsin Technical College System to develop career pathways benefitting low income adults who lack college credentials or have limited English proficiency. The WTCS and DWD are making approximately \$240,000 from funds provided by the Joyce Foundation for a RISE curriculum development demonstration project. Technical colleges, working with workforce development and industry partners, may apply for grants related to one or both of the following areas:

- **Postsecondary career pathway curricula** that modularize WTCS diploma or degree programs and link each module to career advancement opportunities.
- **Bridge curricula** employing contextualized learning to improve the transitions of ABE/ELL learners to postsecondary occupational education or career pathway learning.

This demonstration project is intended both to stimulate career pathway and bridge program development that can be replicated in or adapted to other parts of the state and to assist the state in identifying policy and program innovations needed to support the career pathway model. These curricula will provide an important piece of the Skills Jump Start (SJS) program that Governor Doyle announced in GROW Wisconsin-The Next Steps. In his next biennial budget, the Governor will pursue new state funding to pilot new curricula in a select number of regions.

Partnerships among technical colleges, employers and workforce development boards (WDBs) are important to this demonstration project. To design education modules that deliver skill sets that result in career advancement for employees, the participation and support of employers is vital. We believe that substantial joint discussion and analysis with committed employers will be necessary before actual curriculum writing can begin. WDB roles may include coordinating with current GROW efforts, recruiting business partners and convening industry groups, analyzing labor market information, and assessing gaps in support services.

Instructions for Submitting Concept Proposals

Description of proposed work:

In a narrative of no more than three pages, applicants should describe their plans to develop an industry- or sector-based postsecondary career pathway or bridge curriculum, as described in Section V of *Wisconsin's RISE Guidelines* (<http://www.risepartnership.org/guidelines.htm>). Pay particular attention to the type of industry collaboration that is expected, as described in part A, "Industry Engagement," and to the instructional design features described in part B, "Career Pathway Instructional Design," elements 1 through 7, and part C, "ABE/ELL Instructional Design."

To be favorably evaluated, proposals should:

- Target an industry or industry sector that is important to the regional economy and is willing to support a career pathway approach to filling significant skilled labor needs.
- Describe a plan and a level of commitment that has a high potential for producing career pathway or bridge curricula conforming to the RISE Guidelines by December 2008.
- Describe partnerships that will establish a sustainable basis for pathway development and eventual implementation.

Please note that proposals must involve multiple employers in an industry or industry sector.

Conditions for funded proposals:

- Grantees will be required to use WIDS (Worldwide Instructional Design System) for curriculum development. WIDS services will be provided by the WTCS and do not need to be included in grant proposal budgets. All curricula resulting from funded grants will be made available systemwide.
- Representatives of funded proposals will be expected to participate as members of a statewide demonstration project work group to discuss program development and policy issues related to sustaining career pathway development across the state.

How, where and when to submit a concept proposal:

- Each concept proposal must address career pathways or bridge programs related to a single industry or industry sector. More than one concept proposal may be submitted.
- Each concept proposal shall consist of a completed cover sheet (see attached), a narrative of no more than three pages, and a preliminary budget sheet.
- These formatting rules apply to the narrative: one inch margins on all edges; minimum of 11-point font size; normal single-spaced lines with double-spacing between paragraphs.
- Concept proposals must be received by e-mail no later than 4:00 PM, Wednesday, May 7, 2008. Send to: grants@wtcsystem.edu . (If you do not use electronic signatures, mail the signed cover sheet to the WTCS contact address below.)

Review of concept proposals:

Proposals will be rated by a team of state reviewers, and the state will conduct interviews with applicants who submitted higher rated concept proposals prior to selecting grant competition finalists. Finalists will be asked to submit a full grant application. We will work with finalists to ensure fundable full grant applications.

Timeline

Fri., March 28, 2008	Request for Concept Proposals issued
Wed., April 9, 2:00 PM	Q&A/Information WisLine for potential applicants
Wed., May 7, 2008	Deadline for submitting concept proposals
May 19 and 20 (tentative)	Interviews for semifinalists
Fri., May 23, 2008	Finalists announced; full grant applications requested
Mon., June 16, 2008	Last day for finalists to submit full grant applications
	Projects may begin as soon as application are approved
Dec. 31, 2008	Grant projects completed

Contacts:

Jayson Chung, Wisconsin Technical College System; (608)266-5517;
jayson.chung@wtcsystem.edu
Sue Gleason, Department of Workforce Development, (608)266-0522,
susan.gleason@dwd.state.wi.us





Curriculum Development Demonstration Project Concept Proposal Cover Sheet

Application Title:

Type of Curriculum ABE/ELL Bridge Postsecondary pathway Both

Applicant College:

Applicant Contact *Name:*
 Title:
 Phone:
 E-mail:

Applicant Partners

Additional Technical College(s):

Workforce Development Board(s):

Employers or Employer Groups:

RISE Funds To Be Requested \$

Anticipated Total Project Cost \$

President Signature (Applicant College):

_____ **Date** _____

WDB Director Signature:

_____ **Date** _____