



News Release

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MDE launching Marshall Plan for Talent's Innovative Educator Corps program

October 23, 2018

LANSING – Up to 100 Michigan educators could receive state grant funds to share their innovative practices with colleagues, the Michigan Department of Education announced today. This new teacher recognition program, the Innovative Educator Corps (IEC), is authorized under the recently-enacted Marshall Plan for Talent ([PA 227 of 2018](#)).

“The Marshall Plan is geared to help prepare students for high-demand job opportunities,” said Interim State Superintendent Sheila Alles. “Teachers play a key role in preparing Michigan’s students for successful futures, and developing innovative ways to deliver instruction ignites a passion in students to learn and be innovative themselves.

“To continue building Michigan to become a Top 10 education state in 10 years, we need to take innovative and effective teaching practices and share them with every teacher in the state,” Alles said.

Each year, up to 100 educators who have implemented innovative learning practices and strategies in their classroom to help their students become career ready in high-demand fields will be named to the Innovative Educator Corps (IEC). The educators will receive stipends for their work and allow them to engage in professional development with their colleagues within their intermediate school district’s service area and share those practices and strategies.

Genesee Intermediate School District has been awarded a \$4 million implementation grant to cover costs of the program through June 30, 2022. Following an application and scoring process that begins with a local school district nominating one of its innovative educators for consideration, each year’s cohort will be named on December 1.

“Teachers are our greatest opportunity to positively impact students across Michigan,” said Genesee Intermediate School District Superintendent Dr. Lisa Hagel. “We are excited to partner with, highlight, and share the innovative practices of some of the most inspiring and effective teachers in Michigan. This program will allow teachers to learn from their peers who are experiencing some of the same challenges in the classroom, but who have developed effective practices that can be shared and replicated in other classrooms across Michigan.”

Each IEC member is eligible to receive a \$5,000 grant that can be renewed for up to two additional years. The IEC member’s intermediate school district (ISD) is eligible to receive an additional \$5,000 grant, also renewable for two additional years, to cover expenses related to implementation of their innovative ideas within their ISD’s service area.

“The best way to prepare students for future success is to provide them with a highly-trained educator to facilitate learning,” said Leah Breen, director of the MDE’s Office of Educator Excellence, which oversees the state’s educator recognition programs. “Recognizing educators who are masters of their craft and encouraging those educators to share their knowledge and skills with peers through programs such as the Innovative Educator Corps benefits Michigan’s teachers and students.”

For more information on the Innovative Educator Corps, including the application timeline and review and scoring criteria, please visit the MDE Recognition Programs Page:

https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5683_13651---,00.html

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