

Type: prof
Status: approved
Total Amount: \$1,610

Part I. Applicant and Project Information

Title of project: American Choral Directors National Conference
Project manager: Joel Buford
School: McCall
Email: jbuford@winchester.k12.ma.us
Confirm email: jbuford@winchester.k12.ma.us
Telephone:  781.721.7026  ext 1304

Additional applicant:

Name:		Name:	
School:	High School	School:	High School
Telephone:		Telephone:	

Type of grant: individual
Curriculum: Music
Date of training: March 9-12, 2011 Location: Chicago, IL

Part II: Grant proposal

Summary: The ACDA National Conference is a bi-annual event for choral music educators from around the nation and world to meet together and collaborate on how to produce and achieve the highest quality choral music program in their school, town, and community. Workshops and interest sessions are offered and specific to each educator's particular choral program. Example workshops might include: how to integrate the 21st century technology into the choral classroom, how to build life-long skills by singing in a choral ensemble, and how to keep students motivated and understand the importance of music on a global level. It is a great opportunity to meet with other teachers in your own field and discuss what does and doesn't work in the choral classroom (Warm-up's for the changing voice, repertoire selection, concert programming, etc).

B. Describe your project in detail by including the following information:

Educational issue: The ACDA National Conference addresses all issues related to the content area of chorus. For example and as briefly described above, at the middle school age, the child's voice is undergoing significant change during the adolescent period. It is very important, especially when it comes to singing, to be knowledgeable about the "changing voice" and how to nurture and encourage it during this very fragile time. This would include vocal techniques that are considered healthy and appropriate by physicians and vocal pedagogical professors from around the world. As related to Winchester's curriculum goals, this would directly correspond with effective instruction and promote high standards of excellence and student achievement. Not only will the conference address the technical aspect of the singing voice, but provide the latest new music available that we can share with the students and community of Winchester that otherwise may never be heard or seen. This aligns directly with Winchester's curriculum in that it promotes diversity and equity. The conference will offer me through in depth discussions with colleagues and masters of the choral education classroom, the best and most efficient way to manage and rehearse an average 45 minute classroom period that promotes, individuality, creativity, enhances motivational skills, and increases the students love and enjoyment of music.

Goals & outcomes: The ultimate goal of this program, I know, will be the collaboration and connection I am able to make with other middle school, high school, and collegial teachers in the nation who have similar issues/ concerns in their programs. We will discover innovative ideas and concepts of how to address these important topics and then apply them directly to our own teaching. In short, the conference is inspiring and I wish all people/ teachers could participate. I say inspiring because not only is it an educational experience, but the best choirs/ ensembles represented by all ages and nationalities give unbelievable, phenomenal performances that truly change your life. The performances give the teacher an opportunity to hear ideal high quality music that all of us try and want to achieve in our classroom. At the same time, it will give me several resources for new music to share with the students, teachers, and families in the Winchester community. Lastly, the best choral directors/ music educators in the nation give interest sessions and or performances at this conference. As an educator we are given the opportunity to watch them work and soak up their knowledge that we can then try with our own students, promoting only excellence!

Activities: I will describe a typical day at the ACDA National Conference:

At 8:30-10:00AM I might attend an interest session called, "Transforming Conducting: Conducting for Transformation." This will give me ideas of how to transform my singers into the best choir that they can for their age in a very healthy and fun way. Or, I might intend a session called, "It's a Good Thing! Embracing Technology in the Choral Classroom." OR, another option might be attending, "Beyond Singing: Blueprint for the Exceptional Choral Program!"

From 10:30-12:30PM I might attend a concert that includes choirs from Luther College in Iowa, Texas, Illinois, and Michigan.

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From 1:00-2:00PM I might then attend a "reading" session that focuses on new music specific to my school and students (Music for children and youth choirs is an example).
From 2:15-4:15PM I will attend an International Concert, including renowned choirs from Taiwan, Canada, Latvia and California!
And finally from 4:30-6:00PM I can attend the extensive exhibit hall that will provide me with many materials that might be useful in the choral classroom.
Then for days 2-4 of the conference, each day offers something else exciting and new... really, there is too much to do, but the conference is so well organized that the possibilities are endless!

Innovation & Collaboration:

-  An innovative approach to addressing an aspect of your own professional growth. By observing other world renowned conductors/ educators, I can use their essential tools to benefit my own teaching and instruction.
-  A creative way to address an educational issue in the classroom or system through professional development. Through collaboration with other teachers in the nation we will use each other's ideas and knowledge to apply to our own individual classroom setting.
-  A collaborative way of addressing an educational problem or need. The great thing about this conference, the entire week is collaborative!

Reputation:

The information below is taken directly from the web-site. Please refer to the web-site for more information: www.acdaonline.org

Founded in 1959, the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) is a nonprofit music-education organization whose central purpose is to promote excellence in choral music through performance, composition, publication, research, and teaching. In addition, ACDA strives through arts advocacy to elevate choral music's position in American society.

Organizational Structure

ACDA is divided into seven geographic regions/divisions, as well as fifty state chapters, each with its own conferences, newsletters, festivals, clinics, and workshops. Whether at the National, Division, or State level, ACDA is structured so that its members can easily involve themselves in the organization's activities.

Conferences

ACDA offers conferences at the State, Division, and National levels. National conferences are offered in March of odd-numbered years; the seven Division conferences take place in February and March of even-numbered years. Through concert performances by accomplished choirs, educational clinics by leading experts, and exhibits by music-industry representatives, ACDA offers its members a diverse and practical forum in which to develop their skills and professional knowledge.

The official publication of the American Choral Directors Association is Choral Journal . This national publication, issued monthly, contains articles and columns of a scholarly and practical nature in addition to reviews of newly released CD recordings, books, and printed music. Choral Journal is a benefit of membership in the American Choral Directors Association. Subscriptions are available to libraries. Advertising space is available as well.

Committees

ACDA has numerous national committees engaged in advancing the choral profession in its many facets. The committees work in several areas of the choral profession, whether through establishing high performance standards, recommending quality choral literature, encouraging research in choral studies, or advocating the importance of choral music in our society.

Repertoire and Standards

ACDA establishes and maintains the highest of choral standards and recommends quality choral literature through the thirteen Repertoire and Standards (R&S) Committees. This national structure is replicated in every Division and State chapter through the organization.

Publications

ACDA has several publications including Choral Journal, Division newsletters, State newsletters, and the monograph series. All of these publications are intended to educate and inform the members of the association.

Timeline: Please see above under activities.

Evaluation: The goals and objectives will be met by directly applying what I have learned from the conference into my classroom teaching. There is no downtime in order for this to happen, it is immediate! I will take copious notes from the conference about methods/ styles that I find personally appealing and anxiously await to try them in my classroom. Evidence will be evaluated on the students response! A survey can be administered, determining the overall success of the new ideas learned and if whether they need to be modified or kept the same!

Part III: Budget and Explanation - please be specific

1. Tuition and fees

Description 1:	Registration	Cost 1:	290
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Description 2:	Graduate Credit (2)	Cost 2:	520
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Description 3:		Cost 3:	
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Tuition:	810		
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2. Travel and lodging (not too exceed \$500 per applicant).

Description 1:	Hotel and Air	Cost 1:	500
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Description 2:		Cost 2:	
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Description 3:		Cost 3:	
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Travel: 500

3. Personnel

Personnel 1: n/a Hourly rate:
of hours Cost 1:

Personnel 2: Hourly rate:
of hours Cost 2:

Personnel 3: Hourly rate:
of hours Cost 3:

Personnel:

4. Other costs

Other 1: Budget (educational materials: new music, cd's, teaching aides) Cost 1: 300

Other 2: Cost 2:

Other 3: Cost 3:

Other: 300

Total costs: 1610.00

Please provide a description justifying the costs of the project. Provide an explanation for requests for equipment, supplies, and funds to support personnel.

Budget explanation: Simply, the registration fee for the conference is \$290. In order to stay at professional status as a teacher in Winchester, I am required to take graduate courses for professional development and for credit. The ACDA conference allows me to do both. The graduation tuition is: \$520. Because of time, it is preferred that I fly to Chicago rather than drive. In order to access the convention efficiently and to minimize transportation costs it is beneficial to select a hotel that is in the convention area and accessible to local transportation. I understand that as indicated above, I have exceeded the amount recommended for travel and lodging; however, my flight alone will cost \$225, and then four nights of hotel at \$135 per night on average would be, \$765. I understand if this is not doable and only \$500 can be designated toward this category. By providing me with a budget, I will be

designated toward this category. By providing me with a budget, I will be able to purchase educational materials for the Music Library that will benefit all teachers and students for many years to come.

Description: In this instance, I would reduce the educational budget that I have proposed to \$100 rather than \$300, or less if desired, perhaps even \$0. I would make sure I stay within the recommended budget allotted for travel and lodging too \$500.

Part IV: Qualification of Applicants

Qualifications: I have been a choral teacher in Winchester for four years. Please see my attached resume for further information.

JOEL D. BUFORD

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EDUCATION

2004-2006 Boston University

M.M., Master of Music.

1999-2003 University of Nevada, Las Vegas

 B.M.E., Bachelor of Music Education

1995-1999 Las Vegas Academy of Performing Arts

 Honors Diploma - Vocal/Choral emphasis.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sep. 2007 - current Winchester, MA

Music/ Chorus Teacher (Elem and H.S. 2007-2008)

McCall Middle School (2008-current)

Sep. 2004 - May 2006 Boston, MA

Professor of Voice for Non-Majors (T.A.)

Boston University

Instruct students in the basics of vocal singing by demonstrating and

providing discussion of song literature, performance/vocal techniques, audience etiquette, listening skills, excellent/poor vocal habits, and promotion of good vocal health.

 Provide students with coaching's outside of class time

 Organize and plan my own class syllabus and grading/attendance procedure.

Feb. 2004 - June 2004 Las Vegas, NV

Choral Teacher

Cimarron-Memorial High School (grades 9-12).

 Completed and was successful in participating in the Clark County Choral Festival.

 Initiated and completed all fundraiser activities which included: yard sales, Krispy Kreme sales, candy sale, writing letters to several businesses, advertising contracts (making a template), etc...

 Prepared and initiated information and material for our annual tour to Anaheim, California to participate in the Heritage Festival.

 Instructed one section of a music appreciation class.