



DEPARTMENT OF
CAREER SERVICES

Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 25.257

☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
MassHire Career Center Directors
MassHire Fiscal Officers
MassHire DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Diane Hurley, Acting Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: October 27, 2023

Subject: **Funding Opportunity - Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers Resource Center**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators, and other local workforce development partners of the Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers Resource Center funding opportunity announced in Grants.gov on October 24, under opportunity NSF 24-500.

Background: The Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) program is an applied research and development program that seeks to actualize a diverse future STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and ICT (information and communication technologies) workforce that is prepared to meet pressing local, societal, and global challenges. Because STEM and ICT

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careers increasingly rely on technologies and computing, the ITEST program funds projects that engage youth, from pre-kindergarten through high school, and pre-K-12 educators in equitable, innovative technology learning and education experiences within and across STEM disciplines in formal or informal settings. These projects build youths' interest and knowledge in STEM careers, and they prioritize the full inclusion of all groups to include those that have been underrepresented, underserved, or excluded from STEM educational opportunities. This ensures that NSF is better postured to leverage the full spectrum of diverse talent across the country.

This solicitation calls for a Resource Center for the ITEST program. The Resource Center will support diverse, multi-sector stakeholders in actualizing the three pillars of ITEST: (1) strategies for equity in STEM education, (2) partnerships for career and workforce preparation, and (3) innovative use of technologies in teaching and learning. It is expected that this Resource Center will facilitate individual and collective dialogue, reflection, and action relative to these pillars, while supporting stakeholders in the conceptualization, actualization, and communication of ITEST projects.

Application Due Date: January 22, 2024

1. This solicitation is for ITEST Resource Center proposals only.
2. Full proposals involving multiple organizations may be submitted as separately submitted collaborative proposals, or as a single proposal from the lead organization with other collaborating organizations included as sub awardees.
3. The project description may be up to 20 pages.
4. One award will be made as a cooperative agreement.
5. \$5 million awarded with a 5 year duration.

[Link to the Funding Opportunity](#)

Action

Requested: Please share with staff and partners as appropriate.

Effective: Immediately