The Innovative Educator Conference. The Innovative Educator Conference will be the most dynamic educator conference of the year! This one-day event promises to equip educators with cutting edge skillsets to innovate, inspire and engage student talent. The event will take place on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at the Ball State Center for Academic and Economic Innovation in Fishers, IN. Click here for more information and registration.

The “100” Financial Literacy Program. Please extend this information to your students and parents in regard to this 15th annual “Dollars & Sense Investment Competition on March 25, 2017 at the IU Health-Richard Fairbanks Hall (3410 W. 10th Ave, Indpls, 46202). High school student participants will compete for scholarship awards. PowerPoint presentations are used to convince a panel of judges of their level of knowledge in investment strategies, asset allocation, and diversification, through the selection of stocks, bonds and REITs. The competition is open to the public. High school students in grades 9 through 12 and parents are welcome to spectate this year’s competition. Program information, registration sign-up and Q&A discussion will be available the day of local competition. If you would to attend this event, please click here.

STEM Events at Conner Prairie. “Passport To Hi-Tech” coming on March 18, 2017 from 10:00am-5:00pm. For more information, visit www.connerprairie.org. Coming Thursday, April 13, 2017: “Free Teacher Workshop: Exploring STEM at Conner Prairie. To register online, click here. You can also access registration from this website page: http://www.connerprairie.org/education-research/educators/educator-workshops. If you have questions, contact Nancy Stark at stark@connerprairie.org

Leadership Development Program Opportunity: The purpose of the Leadership Development Program (LDP) is to provide leadership development training to personnel (career and technical education, special education, rehabilitation, employment and training, subject content areas, and other related personnel) for improving and expanding career, technical, training, and employment opportunities and support services for youth and adults and non-traditional learners. The attached files (letter and abstract/nomination form) provide information regarding current grant funding for educators in the LDP in Advanced Manufacturing Education. The LDP staff is planning and hosting a leadership workshop on the Purdue University, West Lafayette campus on Thursday and Friday, April 13th and 14th. The theme is “Transition.” The workshop is open to teachers, supervisors, administrators, and other staff members. The registration form and agenda are provided.

Volunteer Opportunity

The Indiana Historical Society has a volunteer opportunity that may be of interest to National Honor Society students. On March 25th they are celebrating Indiana’s Circus tradition by turning IHS into a Circus! They are in need a lot of volunteers to run games, concessions, prize and craft tables. Two shifts are available: 9am-1:30pm and 1pm-5:30pm. During each shift, they will provide breaks, snacks, breakfast and lunch (11am-1pm). Large groups can be accommodated as well. Email Lori Murray at lmurray@indianahistory.org if you are interested.

School Culture: The Foundation for School Excellence. Ball State University Teachers College will host Dr. Anthony Muhammad on Monday, March 27 for a free lecture that is open to the public. Click here for more information.
Secretaries Conference. Don’t miss this opportunity to treat your Secretary to a special day out of the building. Three keynotes, plus opportunities to connect with others. Register before March 24 to get the early bird fee of $99! Click this link to register.

DATE CHANGE: Our State Board of Accounts workshop had been moved on the calendar. NEW DATE is April 19. Please mark your calendars! You can register here.

Indiana New Administrator Leadership Academy: The INALI is designed to help beginning administrators become effective instructional leaders and to quickly and comfortably assume the responsibilities of building administration. We are now accepting applications for cohort #4. Look inside for details.

Aspiring Principals Conference: This is a unique opportunity for anyone considering a career in building level leadership. Facilitated by principal-practitioners, this two-day conference will expose participants to the special challenges and opportunities in this fast-paced role. See inside for details.

IPLI Applications Open: The Indiana Principal Leadership Institute (IPLI) is accepting nominations for its fifth cohort. The nomination deadline is March 15, 2017. The IPLI experience lasts two years for each cohort, with 50 principals targeted to participate in the fifth cohort. The cohort is divided into regional groups, and trained mentors help guide principals’ work throughout the two-year experience. In addition to a two-day summer seminar and four, day-long seminars each year, principals also develop and implement personal (year one) and school improvement plans (year two), facilitate action research projects at their schools, and build a network with other principals to gain support during and beyond the institute experience. In the second year, principals include two teachers from their schools in IPLI seminars to ensure teachers are a part of the school improvement process. Principals interested in applying for the fifth cohort should apply online at www.indianapl.io. A one-time financial contribution of $1,000 from the school corporation is required for participation, as it cements both the commitment of the principal and superintendent to the program. Additionally, IPLI participants receive complementary membership in IASP and registration for the Fall Conference in both years of the institute.

NASSP/NAESP National Principals Conference 2017. You've made your professional resolutions—to network, acquire new skills, and learn about education innovation. Now, fulfill your resolutions by attending the 2017 National Principals Conference, the first-ever joint national conference for Pre-K–12 school leaders.

generationOn Indiana Updates:
- In Indiana, March is Disability Awareness Month – Learning to Give Disability Awareness Toolkit and Lessons – Teach lessons that build empathy for people with physical and mental differences. Lesson plans help students understand abilities and strengths of people who are differently abled. View types of service projects, project ideas, potential community partners, and other resources for investigation and communication.
- One of our Indiana generationOn Schools, Ryan Park Elementary in Angola and their teacher leader, Julie Clary, was highlighted in the March generationOn national e-newsletter for their “Changing the World” service-learning project!! Way to go Julie and her 2nd grade students!!! Register on www.generationOn.org and you can receive these e-newsletters that highlight Educators in Action. You can read other Service Stories on the generationOn website from schools all over the country or just ones from Indiana here.

Mini-Grant Opportunities:
- genOn IN $250 mini-grants. (There is a limit of 2-3 per school per year depending on the demand) You must be a registered genOn user to apply. genOn IN 2016.2017 Mini-Grant Information
- Learning to Give mini-grants - Click here for more information about these $250 -$1000 mini-grants.

generationOn Website Updates:
- March is Homelessness & Poverty Month - Fight homelessness and poverty in your community! Check out this page for fact sheets, activity books, project ideas, and LTG featured lesson plans. Curriculum partner, LTG, Featured Lessons: A Billion Hungry People (K-2); Helping Hands Across the World (3-5); Comparing Your Diet to the Rest of the World’s (6-8); Addressing Poverty (9-12)

Learning to Give Website
- Check out and share this New 3 min. video “This is Philanthropy and Service” on the LTG main page! Share this with your staff for some GREAT inspiration to include philanthropy education and service-learning in your school!!
- March Moments of Service:
  - Reading Month – Help students understand the importance of literacy and how reading and reflection offer an opportunity to explore universal themes of kindness and the common good. Literacy and Literature lessons.
  - Literacy Service-Learning Toolkit
  - Women’s History Month – Learn from the courage, passion, and conviction of women philanthropists to inspire and motivate your students to serve. Women in Philanthropy lessons.
  - World Water Day - March 22 - Water Quality, Community Action, and the Flint Crisis Toolkit

More information can be found on the genOn IN page on the IASP website and the genOn IN page on the IMLEA website. Thanks for sharing these updates with your staff. Any questions Contact Joan Belschwender, genOn IN Director, generationOn@iasp.org Office at the IASP Building, 317- 891-9900 x201
ESSA Community Meetings: The Indiana Department of Education is hosting ESSA Community Meetings throughout Indiana and you are invited to attend and help shape the plan Indiana will submit in September, 2017. These events are conversations - parents, local educators and community leaders will have an opportunity to discuss specific elements of ESSA and how decisions might impact local communities. Superintendent McCormick and/or our Chief of Staff Lee Ann Kwiatkowski will participate in every single meeting. Each meeting will be held in the evening from 6:30-8:00 pm local time. So that the DOE can plan for those attending, please RSVP at the link - http://www.doe.in.gov/essa/essa-community-meetings.

March 16 - Evansville
March 29 - Merrillville
April 3 - Kokomo
April 4 - Indianapolis
April 6 - New Albany
April 11 - Goshen
April 12 - Richmond
April 19 - West Lafayette
April 20 - Fort Wayne

IREAD-3 opens March 13-17. The PowerPoint featured in the IREAD-3 Pre-Test Workshop recording is here. Materials arrived in corporations last week. Additional materials may be ordered by CTCs through the Pearson Help Desk.

Title IV. The government is currently being funded by a continuing resolution (CR), passed in December 2016, through April 28, 2017. As such, IDOE has not received allocations for the new Title IV block grant or other federal grants under ESSA. Furthermore, we were told to expect cuts in federal funds in the SY 17-18 budget. IDOE will continue engaging with ED and will keep you updated. Questions regarding this information can be sent to Nathan Williamson at nwilliamson@doe.in.gov

Customer Service Survey. The Department of Education launched a customer satisfaction survey today to provide a standing opportunity to gather feedback. The survey will remain open indefinitely. We encourage everyone to fill out this survey each time they interact with the department. We will be monitoring these responses and establishing improvement targets based on the results. we thank you for your candid feedback.

Perkins Grant Awareness. The Department of Education is pleased to announce the Area CTE Districts that have been awarded to a total of over $1.7 million in grants provided through federal Carl D. Perkins funding.

Annual Performance Review. As required by Indiana law, the Department of Education is preparing for the 2016 Annual Performance Reports (APR). The APR is required to include information regarding performance of schools and school corporations, as well as details on the progress being made to help students become college- and career-ready. Please click here for important information concerning the APR.
The 2017 Indiana General Assembly convened on January 3, 2017 (Senate) and January 4, 2017 (House) and must conclude by April 29, 2017. Below are listed the members of the two education committees:

### Senate Education & Career Development
- Dennis Kruse (Chair) (R-Auburn)
- Jeff Raatz (R-Aurora)
- Eric Bassler (R-Middletown)
- John Crane (R-Avon)
- Aaron Freeman (R-Indianapolis)
- Luke Kenley (R-Noblesville)
- Jean Leising (R-Rushville)
- Andy Zay (R-Huntington)
- Eddie Melton (R-Merrilville)
- Frank Mrvan (R-Hammond)
- Mark Stoops (R-Bloomington)

### House Education
- Robert Behning (Chair) (R-Indianapolis)
- Anthony Cook (RM) (R-Noblesville)
- Woody Burton (R-Whiteland)
- Edward Cleere (R-New Albany)
- Dale DeVon (R-Granger)
- Jack Jordan (R-Bremen)
- Jim Lucas (R-Seymour)
- Jeffrey Thompson (R-Lizton)
- Timothy Wesco (R-Osceola)
- Edward DeLaney (D-Gary)
- Sue Errington (D-Muncie)
- Sheila Klinker (D-Lafayette)

### Committee Updates:
- The House Education Committee met on Tuesday, March 7 and Thursday, March 9, 2017. The committee heard and voted on these bills:
  - SB 412: 529 Education Savings Plans Matters. Passed out of committee 12-0
  - SB 392: Emergency Medication. Passed out of committee 12-0

- The Senate Education and Career Development Committee met on Wednesday, March 8 from 1:30-7:00pm. It was a long docket. They only heard testimony as no action was taken on these bills:
  - HB 1004: Pre-K Education
  - HB 1024: School Prayer
  - HB 1079: School Safety
  - HB 1136: Latch Key programs
  - HB 1281: Various Higher Ed matters
  - HB 1396: Teacher Licensing for Military Spouses
  - HB 1430: Staff Training concerning youth suicide

### Next Week’s Committee agendas:
- House Education Committee meeting for Tuesday, March 14:
  - SB 248: Consolidation of School Corporations
  - SB 475: Developmental Delay

- Senate Education and Career Development Committee meeting for Wednesday, March 15:
  - They will take votes on the 7 bills listed above form the March 8 meeting, plus:
    - HB 1003: Student Assessment. ISTEP replacement bill
    - HB 1007: Education Course Access program
    - HB 1130: Protections for Student Journalism
    - HB 1384: Various Education Matters. High School Graduation Cohort assignment

**Link for all Bills being tracked by IASP**
FREE LIVE EVENT MARCH 22 10AM CDT
Are Your Students on Pace to Thrive?
Through a collaborative process of development, learn how the Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework and the On PaCE to Thrive guide can be used to impact your students and community. Tools will be shared which can be adapted to meet your individual district needs. Superintendent Dr. Travis McGuire will share how these documents have been used to develop a plan for student readiness and influencing community culture.
PRESENTED BY:
Dr. Travis McGuire, Superintendent, Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429
Edith Njuguna, Policy and Programs Director, Education Systems Center, NIU
Debbie Pixton, Assistant Director, Center for P-20 Engagement, NIU

NEW
Demonstrating Excellence in the Teaching Domains: Questioning
Proficiency in questioning and discussion are critical components of teaching excellence. Strong techniques in these areas promote active, inquiry-based learning, which is required if one's teaching is aligned with 21st century learning standards.

Restorative Practices Webinar Recording
This webinar recording will provide attendees with a brief overview of restorative practices for schools as well as specific examples of how to enhance school climate while creating respect, cooperation and responsibility both in and out of the classroom.

Classroom Voices: Learning Standards in Action
This video features teacher Aimee Park and her students at Lisle Junior High School demonstrating the Next Generation Science Standards by exploring how light scatters.

CONTENT PARTNER
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
Observe National Board Certified teachers exhibiting best practices in the classroom. The clips are set up with pre- and post-observations and include a participant handout, facilitator guide and a plan of action template.
A Tale of Two Pre-K Bills: What is the Future of Early Ed?

StateImpact, March 7, 2017 by Claire McInerny

The second half of the legislative session begins this week, and the House and Senate have two very different bills to expand state-funded pre-K. Both bills passed out of their original chambers and are now being considered by the opposite chamber of the statehouse. Before the session, both Republicans and Democrats supported expanding the pilot program and allocating more money for preschool scholarships for low-income children.

The House version of the pre-K bill, House Bill 1004, makes a few tweaks to the state’s current pre-K pilot program. On My Way Pre-K. One of those tweaks is creating a grant for preschool providers already expanding their programs to include more children with the state’s special education needs. The bill also expands the application process to five from 10 counties. All of these changes help bipartisan support before the session, but Rep. Bob Behning (R-Indianapolis) added another change, and it is controversial: It adds an additional $2 million to the program to allow more preschool providers to apply for grants.

Unlike the House bill, the Senate’s version includes a specific funding increase. Currently, the state gives $10 million a year for state-funded pre-K scholarships. Before the session, both Republicans and Democrats supported expanding the pilot program and allocating more money for state-funded pre-K scholarships for low-income children.

In the Senate, Sen. Todd Young (R-Indianapolis) added a $10 million increase to the bill. The Senate bill, Senate Bill 1004, also includes a provision that would allow preschool providers to expand their programs to include more children with the state’s special education needs. The bill also expands the application process to five from 10 counties. All of these changes help bipartisan support before the session, but Sen. Todd Young (R-Indianapolis) added another change, and it is controversial: It adds an additional $2 million to the program to allow more preschool providers to apply for grants.

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Now that Indiana lawmakers are halfway through the 2017 legislative session, things will start to heat up. Bills on vouchers, preschool and ISTEP Live to See the Second Half of the Indiana 2017 Legislative Session Chalkbeat, March 6, 2017 by Shaina Cavazos

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A New Look at School Vouchers’ Costs

Under the new Republican leadership of Jennifer McCormick, the Indiana Department of Education quietly released its annual report on the state’s school voucher program that includes new data “to provide transparency and reduce misconceptions and false statements,” a spokesman said. For example, a new calculation compares this year’s estimated $146 million cost of school vouchers — also known as choice scholarships — to the hypothetical cost if all choice students attended public schools, which the report places at $214 million. That shows the savings to the state, IDOE spokesman Adam Baker said, while also illustrating the dollars that public schools lose to the choice program.

The report also broke out how, overall, vouchers don’t cover the entire price of private school tuition. Slightly fewer than half of choice students have their tuition and fees fully covered by vouchers. But there’s a gap of $44 million that families are left to pay, averaging about $2,300 per student. It’s a contrast to previous years, when former Democratic state schools chief Glenda Ritz was vocal about her opposition to school vouchers, which provide public money to help cover private school tuition for low- and middle-income students. Ritz often emphasized that since Indiana launched its voucher program in 2011, it has increasingly served students who never attended public schools.

School Events Could Become Public Prayer Sessions

NWI Times, March 6, 2017 by Dan Carden

Every school event that features a student speaker also would have to include time for students to offer public prayers, under legislation recently approved 83-12 by the Indiana House. House Bill 1024, which now goes to the Senate, does not limit the number of potential student prayer givers at school events. Moreover, it mandates that adherents of any religion, whether Christianity, Islam, Mormonism, Satanism or Scientology, receive an equal opportunity to openly communicate with their deity in accordance with their traditions. Officials at public and charter schools would have to announce prior to the student prayers at each event that they are not a school endorsement of religion. They’d also be obligated to give students who don’t want to attend any prayer, or a specific prayer, an opportunity to leave that portion of the event, be it a school assembly, sporting match or graduation ceremony.

State Rep. John Bartlett, D-Indianapolis, the bill’s sponsor, believes more prayer in Hoosier elementary and high schools will help reduce crime and other social ills as students come to recognize the authority of a higher power. Critics of the measure, including state Rep. Ed Delaney, D-Indianapolis, said it’s more likely that irreligious students will be ostracized. “This isn’t needed. It will add nothing to anyone’s prayer life. All it will do is cause tension and controversy and litigation,” Delaney said. The proposal additionally would codify in state law a series of federal court decisions guaranteeing a student’s right to pray individually, wear religious clothing, express religious beliefs in schoolwork and providing religious groups equal access to public school facilities.

Learn at Your Own Pace

Chalkbeat, February 28, 2017 by Shaina Cavazos

The poster-covered classroom walls at Warren Township’s Hawthorne Elementary School could resemble those anywhere. But mixed in with the inspirational messages and themed bulletin boards are displays of reading levels, test scores and progress reports. That’s because there’s a clear expectation that students be aware of how much they’re learning at any given time. This awareness, coupled with a “learn-at-your-own-pace” philosophy, comprise what educators call competency-based or mastery-based learning. Students move through material at their own pace, and once they’ve shown they understand a concept, they can go on to another or explore it more deeply — time spent on a subject is no longer the marker for how much a kid learns.

“In education, the only thing we held sacred was time,” said Ryan Russell, the assistant superintendent in Warren Township. Now, Indiana lawmakers are looking to schools like Hawthorne as they propose a pilot program in House Bill 1386 that could offer schools across the state grants to bring the model to their own classrooms. Although the bill passed with support from Republicans and Democrats, some worried that a small pilot program could exclude urban schools, where larger class sizes and more diverse students could provide a better test of whether the model can work large-scale. “In order for us to make sure this pilot is doing what it should do, it’s imperative we look at some of the variables,” said Rep. Vernon Smith, a Democrat from South Bend. “When you look at the research on competency-based education you find that it has some gaps in it with students of a lower socioeconomic status.”
Here's How One Memphis School is Changing The Way it Disciplines Girls of Color
Chalkbeat Tennessee, March 3, 2017 by Caroline Bauman

When a 12-year-old girl entered her fifth elementary school in five years, she arrived with a lengthy suspension record — and a past filled with sexual violence and neglect. Chronic conflict at home had made it hard for her to listen in class and avoid fights with peers. But at Aspire Coleman, a state-run charter school in Memphis, she felt heard by her teachers for the first time. The seventh-grader is poised to finish her first full school year suspension-free. “I used to get into more drama and fights at school,” said the girl, whose name is withheld to protect her identity. “I was just really angry, and then I’d get embarrassed when teachers yelled at me. But here, I don’t get yelled at like that. We just talk.”

Leaders at Aspire Coleman, whose 525 students are mostly black and poor, have been revamping their disciplinary practices based on gender, with a special focus on girls of color who have experienced trauma. They now offer separate advisory classes to support girls and boys, and have trained staff on how to work with students who have been abused or neglected.

After three years, suspensions are down by two-thirds school-wide, and are well below the national rate for girls of color.

“Education can never be a one-size-fits-all approach,” said Principal Owen Ricciardi, “so why would we treat discipline any different?”

Dual-Language Program to Reach Youngest Learners
Los Angeles Times, March 8, 2017, by Sonali Kohli

Most of the children in Hillary Erlich’s prekindergarten class speak to her in English. “I’m done,” one boy in a white sweatshirt announced as he raised his hands from his sponge painting project on a recent morning. But when she replied in Spanish, he followed her directions. “OK, ve a lavar[te] las manos,” Erlich said. He ran to the sink to wash his hands.

The children in Erlich’s expanded transitional kindergarten class at Grand View Boulevard Elementary School in Mar Vista are almost all 4 years old. They are the youngest in the Los Angeles Unified School District to be enrolled in a dual-language program. The district plans to open six or seven more dual-language programs for its youngest students in the fall, said Hilda Maldonado, executive director of L.A. Unified’s multilingual and multicultural education department. They’ll be taught half in Spanish, half in English. The district currently has 87 K-12 dual-language programs, and about 16 more are in the works. The new preschool classes will open in schools that already have K-5 programs.

Break These Speech Habits
Fast Company, March 1, 2017 by Judith Humphrey

Like it or not, everybody is selling something. Job seekers, employees, and entrepreneurs all need to pitch themselves to somebody. For whatever else they are, social platforms are undeniably powerful self-promotion tools. Personal branding may come with certain pitfalls, but it’s also something of an imperative. Superlatives are like paper currency: Issue too many and the value falls.

The result? Widespread fluency in the language of exaggeration. It’s one thing to pitch yourself honestly and authentically, but it’s another (much easier) thing to overdo it. By trying to project competence and self-confidence, we leave listeners unconvinced or turned off instead. Getting it right doesn’t always require scrapping your whole strategy, though. It just means scrapping some of the words and phrases that are most likely to trip you up—like these four.

“Nudge” Letters Yield Better Attendance
The Seattle Times, March 2, 2017 by Neal Morton

For the past two decades, scientists have found a number of easy ways to make significant changes in people’s behavior. To get voters to the polls, for example, researchers found that sending them copies of their voting histories along with their neighbors’ records was 10 times better at increasing turnout. Energy companies have increased conservation by sending a report on homeowners’ electricity use compared with nearby households.

Now schools are trying something similar. In Tacoma and 16 other cities across the nation, school districts are boosting student attendance by sending home what they call “nudge” letters when students miss too many days of school. Like the voting and energy efforts, the nudge letters include a tally of a student’s absences — a number that research shows parents usually underestimate. Under that, the letters also provide the absence average for the school and for the child’s grade level across the district.

14 States Work to Close Cursive-Writing Gap
Associated Press, March 5, 2017 by Karen Matthews

Cursive writing is looping back into style in schools across the country after a generation of students who know only keyboarding, texting and printing out their words longhand. Alabama and Louisiana passed laws in 2016 mandating cursive proficiency in public schools, the latest of 14 states that require cursive. And last fall, the 1.1 million-student New York City schools, the nation’s largest public school system, encouraged the teaching of cursive to students, generally in the third grade.

“It’s definitely not necessary but I think it’s, like, cool to have it,” said Emily Ma, a 17-year-old senior at New York City’s academically rigorous Stuyvesant High School who was never taught cursive in school and had to learn it on her own. Penmanship proponents say writing words in an unbroken line of swooshing l’s and three-humped m’s is just a faster, easier way of taking notes. Others say students should be able to understand documents written in cursive, such as, say, a letter from Grandma. And still more say it’s just a good life skill to have, especially when it comes to signing your name.
Win $5,000 with the Science Everywhere Innovation Challenge!
The Overdeck Family Foundation and the Simons Foundation just announced the launch of Science Everywhere, an initiative to catalyze math and science learning beyond school walls, in partnership with DonorsChoose.org. The foundations are providing nearly half a million dollars to match donations from the public to support creative, hands-on project ideas submitted by educators to the DonorsChoose.org platform. At the end of the challenge, a panel of judges led by astronaut Leland Melvin will award five $5,000 prizes to the best ideas. More info HERE.

Karma for Cara Foundation encourages kids 18 and under to apply for funds between $250 and $1,000 to complete service projects in their communities. Whether it is turning a vacant lot into a community garden, rebuilding a school playground or helping senior citizens, Karma For Care Foundation wants to hear what kids are passionate about. http://karmaforcara.org/get-involved/apply-for-a-microgrant/

The Clif Bar Family Foundation is accepting applications for its Small Grants program
Through the program, general operating support grants of up to $7,000 will be awarded along with funding for specific projects that align with one or more of the foundation’s focus areas: promoting Earth’s beauty and bounty; creating a robust, healthy food system; increasing opportunities for outdoor activity; reducing environmental health hazards; and building stronger communities http://www.clifbarfamilyfoundation.org/

Archived Grant Opportunities