

August 10, 2017

Nye County Board of Education  
484 S. West Street  
Pahrump, NV 89048

Re: International Consortium for Multilingual Excellence in Education (ICMEE)  
Professional Development Research Grant: Grades 3, 4, 5

Dear Nye County Board of Education Members:

The ICMEE Professional Development project was awarded a National Professional Development Grant (2016-2021) from the U.S. Department of Education English Language Acquisition to provide cost-free interactive multimedia eWorkshops to support improved classroom practices for in-service teachers who provide content instruction (literacy, science, math, etc.) to students who are acquiring English as a second language. eWorkshops are online professional learning units designed by national experts and support teachers' ability to address children's English language acquisition needs during content instruction. Dr. Kara Viesca is the principal investigator (University of Nebraska-Lincoln). Recruitment for this project will take place in 5 states. Dr. Sharolyn Pollard-Durodola (University of Nevada Las Vegas) is the senior researcher who will oversee the project in the state of Nevada.

The ICMEE project is seeking participation by 3rd, 4th and 5th grade practicing general education classroom teachers in a quasi-experimental study investigating the impacts and outcomes of eWorkshop participation. In-service teachers will use their personal computers at home to complete an eWorkshop (approximately 18 hours over 12 weeks). In addition to the eWorkshop, participating intervention and control group teachers will receive a stipend for their participation. Upon successful completion of the eWorkshop, teachers may receive a certificate of completion documenting 18 professional development contact hours that are aligned with the Nevada Teacher Instructional Practice & Professional Responsibilities Standards and Indicators.

The ICMEE eWorkshops will be available to teachers who are employed in schools that meet selection criteria: (a) Schools must have at least 10% of their student body labeled "ELL" or still under monitoring after having been "ELL". (b) Schools identified by the district should also be schools that would likely be interested in participating in the free eWorkshops. Finally, we will need Wida ACCESS data from the district across three administrations of the test: (a) Year 2016 – 2017 (one year prior to the study), (b) 2017-2018 (Year of the study), and (c) 2018-2019 (year after the study). All data should be de-identified of student names and be connected to their participating eWorkshop teacher.

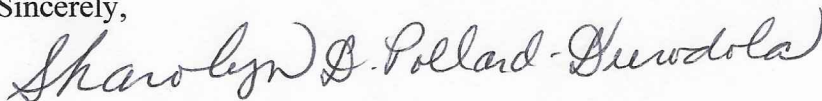
A small number of teachers in the Nye County School District will be invited to participate with consent in the eWorkshop professional learning communities with a minimum of 5 teachers at a school. They will also complete three pre/post surveys (beliefs about multilingualism in schools, culturally responsive teaching, linguistically responsive teaching) as part of their participation. Recruitment will take place in person via district personnel and via email. Teachers from schools that do not meet selection criteria may participate as “users” of the free eWorkshops to improve their professional practices.

The data for this study are collected via Online Qualtrics for all participating teachers and are password protected on a secure server. This project will only include normal education practices and will not involve children. To minimize risks to all participating teachers, we clearly state to participants that their data are not shared with the school district, school, or supervisor and that the use of their data will be done without any identities that could link work or statements back to individuals.

K-12 teachers are largely underprepared to work with the fastest growing subset of our student population: emergent bilinguals/bilingual learners. For this reason, we design and continue to design eWorkshops to support educator professional learning around effective practices with emergent bilingual learners. Funded by a previous grant, over 33 eWorkshops have been designed for teachers to engage in professional learning communities to learn about working well with emergent bilinguals in various content areas. The goal of this new project (ICMEE) is to research the effectiveness of eWorkshop participation.

We look forward to supporting the professional practices of teachers in Nye County School District and seek approval from the Nye County Board of Education for implementing this professional learning and research opportunity.

Sincerely,



Sharolyn D. Pollard-Durodola, Ed.D.  
College of Education  
Department of Educational and Clinical Studies  
English Language Learning Program  
University of Nevada Las Vegas

Further information can be obtained from:

Dr. Kara Viesca, University of Nebraska Lincoln - [kara.viesca@unl.edu](mailto:kara.viesca@unl.edu)

Dr. Sharolyn Pollard-Durodola, University of Nevada Las Vegas - [sharolyn.pollard-durodola@unlv.edu](mailto:sharolyn.pollard-durodola@unlv.edu)

Dax Miller, UNLV Social/Behavioral Internal Review Board, [dax.miller@unlv.edu](mailto:dax.miller@unlv.edu)