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To: Perkins Consortia Leadership

Re: Invitation to participate in STEM Equity Pipeline Project

This past fall, we were notified that our application to join the STEM Equity Pipeline Project had been accepted by the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity Education Foundation (NAPE). We are excited to be involved in this initiative – and we invite you to apply to join us! We will be conducting a statewide pilot project through September, 2010.

Is your consortium concerned with the participation rate of females in nontraditional programs? Are you focused on STEM and STEM-related Career Clusters (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Information Technology, Manufacturing, and Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources)? Do you want to learn more about programs and classroom modifications that encourage female participation? *If so, please consider this invitation to participate as a consortium in the STEM Equity Pipeline Project.* Applications for participation in our pilot are due March 25, 2009 to Dan Smith of the Minnesota Department of Education.

The project is led by a State Leadership Team with staff from both the Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. A larger State Team will be working with the pilot consortia during the process. Teams at the local level can then implement projects appropriate to their programs and schools.

The goals of the STEM Equity Pipeline are to: 1) build the capacity of the formal education community to implement research-based approaches proven to increase the participation and completion of females, including those with disabilities, in STEM education, 2) institutionalize the implemented strategies by connecting the outcomes to existing accountability systems; and 3) broaden the commitment to gender equity in STEM education.

Our overall goal is to learn from the national team a 5-step process that NAPE has adopted to decrease the gender gap in career and technical programs. Then we will train faculty developers within the pilot consortia, and provide support as they implement and evaluate the process at the local level.

We have been awarded \$10,000 per year, mostly to defray travel costs, as our total joint budget for this project. Therefore, we do not have funds to offer for your participation, but we do believe that we can provide the kinds of training, collaboration, and support that can help you and your faculty reach your Perkins plan goals for professional development and for better outcomes related to female participation in nontraditional fields.

Please see the enclosed guidelines and application. You may contact either one of us if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Brenda Lyseng  
STEM Project Specialist

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