

DATE: November 19, 2009

SUBJECT: UTeach Grant

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) and the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) released a joint Request for Proposals (RFP) to award two grants for up to \$1.825 million each over a five-year period to establish UTeach replication sites in the awarded institutions. The UTeach replication sites will be funded through two federal programs, THEC’s Improving Teacher Quality grant program and TDOE’s Math and Science Partnership Grants.

The UTeach program began at the University of Texas, Austin with the goal of increasing the number of mathematics and science teachers with a strong content knowledge. Since 1997, the program has gained national recognition and expanded throughout the country. The UTeach Institute partnered with the National Math and Science Initiative to fund replication sites through a competitive grant process. Institutions such as the University of Florida, the University of Colorado, the University of California, Berkeley, and Louisiana State University were awarded grants to replicate the UTeach program. Over the next five-years, two Tennessee institutions will have the opportunity to create a UTeach program and collaborate with these and many other institutions in the process.

The UTeach program has proven effective in dramatically increasing the number of highly qualified math and science teachers in high-need schools. THEC and TDOE are eager to improve math and science education in the state through this unprecedented collaboration.

After a lengthy application process including a kick-off meeting, preliminary proposals, final proposals, the UTeach conference, and interviews with institutions, the UTeach Institute has made a recommendation for the Tennessee UTeach awards. The UTeach Institute recommended awarding **Middle Tennessee State University** and **The University of Tennessee, Knoxville** the two UTeach replication grants currently available. Attached is more information about the proposals.

**Institutions Selected for the
Tennessee UTeach Replication**

Middle Tennessee State University

Project Directors: Dr. Amy Phelps, Professor of Chemistry
 Dr. Linda Gilbert, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership

Award Amount:

Award Year	Grant Amount	Institutional Match
Planning Year: 2010	\$184,990	\$327,916
Year 1: 2011	\$334,996	\$425,640
Year 2: 2012	\$434,619	\$467,031
Year 3: 2013	\$434,997	\$567,910
Year 4: 2014	\$434,342	\$674,850
Total	\$1,823,944	\$2,470,300

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Project Directors: Dr. Susan Benner, Professor of Theory and Practice of Teacher
 Education
 Dr. Susan Reichert, Distinguished Service Professor of Ecology
 and Evolutionary Biology

Award Amount:

Award Year	Grant Amount	Institutional Match
Planning Year: 2010	\$185,000	\$351,561
Year 1: 2011	\$335,000	\$611,788
Year 2: 2012	\$435,000	\$552,439
Year 3: 2013	\$435,000	\$951,807
Year 4: 2014	\$435,000	\$1,046,889
Total	\$1,825,000	\$3,514,484