

**ACUERDOS BILATERALES/BILATERAL AGREEMENT/ACORDOS
BILATERAIS/ACCORDS BILATERAUX**

Clasificación:

Classification: 7-2021

Classifacation:

Classificação:

Fecha de Ingreso:

Entry Date: February 24, 2021

Date D'entrée:

Data de Admissão:

Nombre del Acuerdo:

Name of the Agreement: Cooperation Agreement for the execution of a seed grant sponsored by the Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN)

Nom de L'accord:

Nome do Acordo:

Materia:

Subject: Establish a regulatory framework with respect to the creation of a five-month professional development certification program titled: "Teacher Engagement, Advocacy, and Mentorship through STREAM" for teachers in the Fairfax County Public School system (hereinafter the "Project") by MASON, and funded by the Inter-American Teacher Education Network' Seed Grant.

Sujet:

Materia:

Partes:

Parties Involved: GS/George Mason University

Partes:

Referencia:

Reference: George Mason University

Référence:

Referência:

Fecha de Firma:
Signature Date: February 17, 2021
Date de la Signature:
Data de Assinatura:

Fecha de Inicio:
Start Date:
Date du Commencement:
Data de Início:

Fecha de Terminación:
End Date:
Date de Résiliation :
Data de Rescisão:

Lugar de Firma:
Place of Signature: Fairfax, Va.; Washington, DC
Lieu de la Signature:
Lugar de Assinatura:

Unidad Encargada:
Unit in Charge: Department of human development, education and
employment
Unité Responsable:
Unidade Encarregada:

Persona Encargada:
Person in Charge:
Personne Responsable:
Pessoa Encarregada:

Cierre del Proceso:
Closure of Proceedings:
Clôture des Procédures:
Fechamento do Processo:

Notas Adicionales/ Additional Notes/Notes Supplémentaires/Notas Adicionais:

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
AND
THE GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
FOR THE EXECUTION OF A SEED GRANT SPONSORED BY THE INTER-AMERICAN
TEACHER EDUCATION NETWORK (ITEN)**

THE PARTIES TO THIS COOPERATION AGREEMENT, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter “GS/OAS”) a public international organization, with headquarters at 1889 F Street NW, Washington, DC, 20006, through its Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (hereinafter “DHDEE”) of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, represented by Ms. Kim Osborne, Executive Secretary for Integral Development, and George Mason University (hereinafter “MASON”), an educational institution and agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, located at 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, represented by Michael Laskofski, Associate VP, Research Services.

CONSIDERING:

That the Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN) is an initiative of DHDEE, whose mission is to contribute to the improvement of the quality of education in the Americas through the promotion of the exchange of knowledge, capacity-building, and technical assistance for teachers, ministries of education, and teacher formation centers within the Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS);

That ITEN supports all of the objectives of the Inter-American Education Agenda (IEA), available at https://www.oas.org/en/media_center/press_release.asp?sCodigo=E-007/17, adopted in 2017 by the Ministers of Education of the OAS Member States, that proposes to strengthen education in the region in the following three priority areas: (1) quality, inclusive, and equitable education; (2) strengthening of the teaching profession; and (3) comprehensive early childhood care, (see OEA/Ser.K/V.12.1, CIDI/RME/doc.6/17 rev. 1), and that ITEN received the mandate to specifically address the second pillar of the IEA;

That there is a need to improve teacher education in the teaching of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in the region, and that the quality of teacher education in those areas should be integrated into a complete system that fosters collaborative problem-solving, the reason for which ITEN has created virtual tools and organizes in-person seminars that facilitate the exchange of ideas and strategies among professional specialists in STEM teacher education;

That one of the mechanisms used by ITEN for system change within and among educational systems are Seed Grants, funds awarded to ministries of education or other teacher education institutions that are committed to implementing changes in programs or policies in STEM teacher education that are derived from possible solutions developed within the ITEN community;

That MASON has expressed its interest to execute a project funded by ITEN’s Seed Grant within the United States to share findings and achievements from said project with the ITEN community; and

That the GS/OAS is the central permanent organ of the OAS and is authorized to carry out relations of cooperation in accordance with Article 112(h) of the Charter and OAS General Assembly Resolution AG/RES. 57 (I-O/71),

HAVE AGREED to enter into this Cooperation Agreement (hereinafter “Agreement”),

ARTICLE I PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a regulatory framework with respect to the creation of a five-month professional development certification program titled “Teacher Engagement, Advocacy, and Mentorship through STREAM” for teachers in the Fairfax County Public School system (hereinafter the “Project”) by MASON, and funded by ITEN’s Seed Grant, in accordance with the Project Proposal, which forms an integral part of this Agreement as Annex II.

ARTICLE II RESPONSIBILITIES OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

- 2.1 MASON shall be responsible for executing the Project with the Contribution received from the GS/OAS pursuant to article 3.2 of this Agreement, and in accordance with the Project Proposal and the timeline set forth therein.
- 2.2 MASON shall manage the Contribution in accordance with its own norms and procedures. MASON will maintain financial records of all expenditures of funds provided under this Agreement in accordance with its usual accounting practices. The GS/OAS reserves the right to audit all such financial records, which MASON must keep for at least six (6) years after the final disbursement of funds.
- 2.3 MASON will provide a final technical-financial report within thirty (30) days of the expiration or termination of this Agreement, in accordance with article 9.5, including a brief description of activities, primary outcomes (considering the results and products as described in the Project Proposal), lessons learned, a follow-up action plan, and an evaluation and recommendations for improvement.
- 2.4 MASON will publicly share what was developed during the execution of the Project, in the manner determined by the GS/OAS, which could be through the presentation of the outcomes at an ITEN Annual Seminar (such as a plenary presentation, poster, or round-table discussion), contribution to an ITEN Seminar publication, or through leading a public webinar hosted by ITEN.
- 2.5 MASON will complete a follow-up survey with the Seed Grant Coordinator approximately twelve (12) months after the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

- 2.6 MASON accepts that any reduction in the financial resources of the Contribution arising as a consequence from a devaluation of the currency in which the Contribution is made shall be assumed by the Project or shall be covered directly by MASON.
- 2.7 MASON warrants that neither it, its parent entities, nor subsidiaries or affiliated entities (if any) is engaged in any practice inconsistent with international human rights laws and standards that prevent child labor, sexual exploitation, and trafficking of human beings. MASON shall take all appropriate measures to prevent its personnel from engaging in sexual exploitation, child labor and trafficking of human beings.

ARTICLE III RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GS/OAS

- 3.1 The Seed Grant Coordinator appointed by the GS/OAS pursuant to article 4.1 is responsible for coordinating with MASON in all matters necessary for the optimal execution of the Project. For this purpose, the Seed Grant Coordinator shall communicate with the MASON team responsible for the Project on a monthly basis at least before the main Project activities take place.
- 3.2 The GS/OAS shall pay MASON the sum of ten thousand United States Dollars (USD 10,000) (hereinafter the “Contribution”) to be deposited to the account specified by the MASON Coordinator identified in article 4.2 of this Agreement and in the manner provided in the Disbursement Terms and Conditions, which forms an integral part of this Agreement as Annex I. The budget contained in the Project Proposal shall express the sums of the Contribution in the same currency in which the Contribution is paid.

ARTICLE IV COORDINATION AND NOTICE

- 4.1 Within the GS/OAS, the dependency responsible for coordinating GS/OAS activities under this Agreement is the Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE) and the Seed Grant Coordinator is Ms. Rebecca Vieyra, ITEN Specialist. Notifications and communications should be directed to the Coordinator at the following street address and electronic mail:

The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States
Rebecca Vieyra
ITEN Specialist
Department of Human Development, Education and Employment
1889 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: +1 202 370 4708
Electronic Mail: RVieyra@oas.org

- 4.2 The Coordinator responsible within MASON for coordinating MASON's activities under this Agreement is Dr Padmanabhan (Padhu) Seshaiyer, Professor, Mathematical Sciences, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Science and the legal Coordinator is Kim Jervey, Senior Contracts Administrator. Notifications and communications should be directed to the Dr. Seshaiyer and the legal Coordinator at the following street address, and electronic mail.

George Mason University
Kim Jervey
Senior Contracts Administrator
4400 University Dr MS 4C6
Fairfax, VA 22030
Electronic Mail: Kjervey@gmu.edu

With a copy to:

George Mason University
Padmanabhan (Padhu) Seshaiyer
Professor, Mathematical Sciences, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
4400, University Drive,
Fairfax, VA 20152
Tel: +1 (703) 993-9787
Electronic Mail: pseshaiy@gmu.edu

- 4.3 All communications and notifications under this Agreement will be validly made only when they are sent by mail or electronic mail and addressed to the Coordinators whose names are set out by the Parties to the addresses indicated in articles 4.1 and 4.2 of this Agreement. When communications and notifications are transmitted by e-mail, they shall be valid as long as they are made directly from the e-mail address of the Coordinator of one Party to the e-mail address of the Coordinator of the other Party.
- 4.4 Either Party may change the responsible unit, the designated coordinator, the indicated address, telephone, fax, or email, by notifying the other Party in writing.

ARTICLE V CIVIL RESPONSIBILITY

- 5.1 MASON assumes full legal responsibility for the Project, including all liability for any damages or claims arising from it, directly and proximately caused by actions or omissions of its corresponding representatives, officials, employees, contractors, and partner institutions.

ARTICLE VI INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- 6.1. MASON shall not use the OAS logo, for whatever purpose, without a previous written authorization by the GS/OAS. The GS/OAS shall have the right to revoke the permission of such use at any time.

- 6.2. The GS/OAS shall have intellectual proprietary rights, including copyright or patent, for all final deliverables provided by MASON under this Agreement. The Parties agree and understand that the GS/OAS shall have the right to use, copy, distribute, reproduce, and publish the work produced under this Agreement, and to create any derivative work from it (including, but not limited to, translations of the materials).

ARTICLE VII PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

- 7.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall constitute an express or implied waiver of the privileges and immunities of the OAS, the GS/OAS, its personnel and its assets pursuant to the following provisions and instruments ratified by the Government of the United States of America: International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S. Code §288 et seq.); the Headquarters Agreement between the Organization of American States and the Government of the United States of America, signed the 14th of May, 1992; and Articles 133, 134, and 136 of the OAS Charter, whose instrument of ratification was deposited by the Government of the United States of America on the 19th of June, 1951.

ARTICLE VIII DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 8.1 Any dispute or complaint that may arise in conjunction with the application or interpretation of this Agreement, or the execution of the Project, shall be settled by direct negotiations between the Parties. Without prejudice to the GS/OAS' privileges and immunities and Mason's legal limitations, if the Parties are unable to reach a mutually satisfactory solution, they shall submit the matter to a mutually agreed upon procedure of arbitration. The decision shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

ARTICLE IX GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 9.1 The Parties agree to observe the highest ethical standards and administrative transparency in all actions and activities relate to this Agreement. In addition, the GS/OAS, to the extent applicable and without prejudice to its privileges and immunities referred to in Article VII, and MASON agree to comply with the provisions of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption and with the applicable norms of the United States of America. Failure to comply with this provision shall constitute grounds for anticipatory termination of this Agreement, pursuant to article 9.5.
- 9.2 Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as creating between the Parties employment or commercial relations of any kind, nor does the GS/OAS assume any civil, contractual, or non-contractual liability in connection with this Agreement and the activities carried out hereunder. The GS/OAS is not responsible for providing social security, workmen's compensation, health, accident and life insurance, vacation leave, sick leave, or any other such benefits for MASON and its employees under this Agreement. MASON is solely responsible for providing those benefits, and the Parties have agreed upon the Contribution hereunder to enable MASON to satisfy that

responsibility. MASON does not legally represent GS/OAS, shall not hold itself out as having such powers of representation, and shall not sign commitments binding GS/OAS.


- 9.3 Modifications to this Agreement may only be made by mutual agreement in writing by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties. The instruments in which the modifications are set out shall be attached as annexes to this Agreement and shall form part of it.
- 9.4 This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties and shall remain in force until the **30th day of August of 2021**. However, the Parties may extend the duration of this Agreement by mutual written consent expressed by their duly authorized representatives.
- 9.5 This Agreement may be terminated by mutual consent or by either of the Parties by written notice from one to the other with not less than thirty (30) days' notice. Notwithstanding the termination of this Agreement, the activities planned that have been duly financed shall be continued to completion, unless the Parties mutually decide otherwise. Termination shall not give MASON any right to compensation.
- 9.6 GS/OAS may, at its sole discretion, immediately terminate this Agreement for cause. In that case, MASON shall reimburse the GS/OAS any Contribution amount paid up until that point in full. Cause for termination includes, but is not limited to, failure to complete the Project in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and its Annexes.
- 9.7 Articles V, VI, VII, and VIII shall survive the expiry or the termination of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Agreement in on the date and at the place indicated below:

FOR GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY:

FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES:

Michael Laskofski
Associate VP, Research Services


Kim Osborne
Executive Secretary for Integral Development (SEDI)

Place: Fairfax, Virginia

Place: Washington, D.C.

Date:

Date: 8/11/21

**SEED GRANT COOPERATION AGREEMENT
ANNEX I: DISBURSEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

This Annex establishes the terms and conditions under which the ITEN Seed Grant will be disbursed by the **General Secretariat of the Organization of American States** (hereinafter “GS/OAS”), to **George Mason University** (hereinafter “Mason”).

A) Payment

- i) Mason shall submit invoices of their Project expenses to GS/OAS at least once per quarter following final signature of the Agreement. Based on those invoices, GS/OAS shall transfer funds to Mason equivalent solely to the costs incurred on the Project and if Mason’s progress on the Project is commensurate with the invoice submitted.
- ii) Total transfer of funds related to Project expenses shall not exceed the Contribution amount established under paragraph 3.2 of the Agreement.
- iii) Invoices shall be in official Mason letterhead, be addressed and delivered via electronic mail to the Seed Grant Coordinator identified in article 4.1 of the Agreement.
- iv) Invoices shall reference the name of this Project, “Teacher Engagement, Advocacy, and Mentorship through STREAM (TEAMS) Certification Program”. Invoices shall also include a report on the progress and status of the Project, the approved budget as stated in Annex II, the expenditures for the period being invoiced, the total expenditures to date, and the remaining balance of the budget. Mason’s fiscal agent, Angie Railey, Associate Director, Financial Management (arailey@gmu.edu) shall certify invoices for accuracy and appropriateness.
- v) A final invoice is due within sixty (60) calendar days of the end date or termination date of this Agreement.
- vi) GS/OAS shall process the transfer of funds within thirty (30) calendar days of final approval of invoices and all required documentation as described in article iv of this Annex.
- vii) GS/OAS retains the right to review any and all transfer of funds made to Mason. If, upon review, any such fund transfer is found to be incorrect for any reason or disallowed under the Agreement, Mason shall return such funds upon demand to GS/OAS. GS/OAS may, at its sole discretion, deduct such funds from future transfers to be made to Mason, subject, however, to Mason’s right thereunder to establish the appropriateness and validity of any costs disallowed under this Agreement.

B) Execution and Final Product:

- i) When Mason delivers the final technical financial report identified in Article 2.3 of the Agreement, it shall simultaneously present to the Seed Grant Coordinator identified in article 4.1 of the Agreement a copy of the Project’s syllabus as well as a copy of each certificate

provided to the teachers upon their respective completion of the Project's certification program.

- ii) In the event that the execution of the Project and the delivery of its final products do not follow the plan and conditions stated in this Agreement and its Annexes, Mason may be prevented from participating in future ITEN and/or GS/OAS related activities.

ITEN Seed Grant Application Form

Dear Applicant,

Greetings from the ITEN team.

Please read the following instructions carefully before starting you application.

In order to be considered for an ITEN Seed Grant, we request that you complete this application form and submit it along with the required documents listed below. You should be able to upload the documents within this application. If, for some reason you are not able to upload the documents, please save the completed version of this application form as a PDF and submit it along with the other required documents to Patricia Moraes at pmoraes@oas.org with the subject line: [INSTITUTION NAME] - ITEN SEED GRANT APPLICATION & REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.

- a. APPLICATION FORM -- Fill out the entire form below.
- b. CURRICULUM VITAE -- (only for participants not currently in an ITEN Project Team)
- c. PROJECT TIMELINE & BUDGET PLAN – Please use the template in the link below. Download file as an Excel spreadsheet, save to your computer, and upload the completed document under section titled "Project Timeline & Budget Plan" of this application. [shorturl.at/DFGKZ]
- d. LOGIC MODEL -- Please use the template in the following link: [shorturl.at/uvM26]

This application and all documents related documents must be submitted no later than JUNE 30, 2020. If you experience any problems with the application, links or related files, OR, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the application process, contact ITEN Grants & Events Coordinator Patricia Moraes, at pmoraes@oas.org with the subject line: QUESTIONS – ITEN SEED GRANT APPLICATION.

Best of luck,
The ITEN Team

PROPOSAL SUMMARY: Provide a brief summary of your Seed Grant project proposal, including the problem it aims to address, activities to be executed, intended outcomes and potential partners (500 characters max). *

USA TEAMS aims to design, develop and deliver a program to enhance both the pedagogical practices and content knowledge of teachers in STREAM by (a) creating integrated approaches to teaching and learning by infusing STREAM into the school curricula through integrated lessons; (b) building capacity of teachers to engage students in STREAM across the curriculum and; (c) developing an online repository for materials produced as well as a virtual interface to help facilitate a dialogue among teachers about the teaching, learning and practice of integrated education through STREAM.

INSTITUTION: Please provide the name of the applying institution, official address and a brief description of the institution: mission, main stakeholders (teachers, students, policy makers, etc.), and primary activities. *

George Mason University
4400, University Drive,
Fairfax, VA 20152

George Mason University (GMU) is a public, comprehensive, research university established by the Commonwealth of Virginia, United States that provides about 40,000 students with a transformational learning experience that helps them grow as individuals, scholars and professionals. GMU is an innovative and inclusive academic community committed to preparing students both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The university's distinctive characteristics are embodied in the Mason IDEA: Innovative, Diverse, Entrepreneurial, and Accessible.

As Virginia's largest public research university, GMU sets the standard for a bold, progressive education that serves our students from 130 countries of origin. GMU offers 82 undergraduate degrees, with a variety of concentrations; 89 master's degrees; 39 doctoral degrees and also has a law school. The principal goal of all these degrees is to promote learning and development across the lifespan. Website: www.gmu.edu

COUNTRY: Country where institution is located *

United States of America

INSTITUTIONAL OFFICIAL: Name, Title, and E-mail Address of Institution Representative responsible for signing Seed Grant Cooperation Agreement

Padmanabhan Seshaiyer, Professor, Mathematical Sciences, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Email: pshaiy@gmu.edu

CONTACT INFORMATION OF APPLICANT: Name, Title, and E-mail Address of Institution Representative responsible for this application *

Padmanabhan Seshaiyer, Professor, Mathematical Sciences, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Email: pshaiy@gmu.edu

CV: Curriculum Vitae of Institution Representative responsible for this application

Seshaiyer_Curric...



ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS: Who else will be involved in this Seed Grant project from your institution or your country? Briefly identify them by name, title, and role on the project.

Abhilasha Tripathi
ESOL Teacher & Department Chair
Fairfax County Public Schools
Teacher coordinator

PARTNERS (if applicable): Please identify any additional partners who will be involved in the proposed activities of this Seed Grant and their respective roles on the project.

USA TEAMS project will work with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), which is one of the biggest school division's in the United States as well as the biggest in the commonwealth of Virginia serving about 190,000 students. In addition, USA TEAMS will collaborate with the partnering countries in their project TEAMS group including Antigua & Barbuda (Stacey Mascall), Jamaica (Joseph Thomas) and Suriname (Denise Kort). These groups have been communicating on the implementation of both their individual components within the TEAMS seed proposal activities as well as the collaborative components of the TEAMS seed proposal activities. Specifically, USA TEAMS will engage in several phases from Discovery phase to Evaluation Phase helping address all four goals including Engagement, Advocacy, Mentorship and STREAM integration for teachers through connected webinars and workshops along with an evaluation and assessment component that will track each phase of the project. The respective roles of these additional partners would include coordinating a TEAMS summit, co-facilitating webinars, participating in advisory board meetings, monitoring and exchanging best practices in the development of content for STREAM based integrated lesson plans, participate in a celebration of success event as well as collaborate on planning and administering evaluation and assessments.

Seed Grant Project Proposal

All questions in this section refer to the project proposal to be financed by the ITEN Seed Grant. If this proposal seeks to finance a portion of a larger project that is receiving financing from other institutions, please indicate so on your application and identify which activities will be financed by the Seed Grant directly and why additional funding is required.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: What problem or issue in STEM teacher education does this project propose to solve for the participating institutions? (500 characters max) *

There is great need to build a robust teaching and learning environment that supports an integrated multidisciplinary approach, which provides nurturing for ALL students to become life-long learners by using and sharing effective pedagogical practices. This integrated approach is needed to foster life-long learning skills and workforce competencies in developing the next generation of global citizens through hands-on learning, creative problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration and communication to address authentic real-world problems.

GOALS: What is the concrete objective/s of the project to be financed by this Seed Grant?
(500 characters max) *

Concrete goals includes (a) identifying key challenges and opportunities in teacher engagement, advocacy, mentorship and integration; (b) building capacity to create initiatives around each of these through a dedicated training program that includes webinars, lesson plan development, follow-up training the trainers activity, implementation of lesson study, all of which will contribute towards professional development certification of licensure renewal; (c) an evaluation component that will include administering surveys, analyzing results and producing reports and (d) creation of a website and online platform/repository for dissemination of lesson plans created.

MEASURING FOR SUCCESS: What measurement or metric will you use to determine if your Seed Grant has achieved its objective? (500 characters max) *

We will use measure to assess for the participating teachers their content knowledge, as well as levels of preparedness and confidence in teaching STREAM based on statistically significant changes pre- to post-administration on the teacher survey and content knowledge inventory. We will also assess their increasing use of STREAM concepts and practices in their classrooms through lesson study. Finally, we will assess percentage increase in performance of students of participating teachers performing at the mastery or higher level in their subjects.

TEACHER PERSPECTIVE: Please explain the proposed project plans to incorporate the perspectives of Teacher Educators and Classroom Teacher?

A cohort of five teacher educators from different schools in Fairfax County Public Schools, trained through this program will initiate the STREAM approach by having mentorship sessions with the classroom teachers, by completing questionnaires to determine the level of engagement and, by participating advocacy and mentorship. Through this dedicated mentorship program, each of the ten TEAMS teacher educators will mentor two-three teachers from a variety of schools in Fairfax County Public Schools and train them to incorporate STREAM in their subject and help them develop lesson plans and provide feedback to create an integrated STEM classroom. These classroom teachers mentored and supervised by the ten TEAMS teacher educators will incorporate strategies learnt from the webinars to make learning come alive. Reflections from both the teacher educators and the classroom teachers along with feedback will be an ongoing process to meet the objectives for the project to be successful.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING: Is this proposal a part of a larger project with financing from other institutions? If yes, please explain how this proposal fits within the larger project and identify which activities will be directly financed by this Seed Grant.

No

LONG TERM IMPACT: Explain how achieving the objectives of this Seed Grant will have a sustained impact over time for the participating institutions and their main stakeholders. (500 characters max) *

Achieving the objectives will help impact both the students and teachers. For students, we anticipate this grant to help foster STEM skills and competencies in developing the next generation of global citizens through hands-on learning, creative problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration and communication to address authentic real-world problems. For teachers, it will help to build a robust teaching and learning environment that supports an integrated multidisciplinary (STREAM) approach, which provides nurturing for ALL students to become life-long learners by using and sharing effective pedagogical practices.

SHARE OUT: Please explain how you plan to share-out outcome and learnings from this project with the network. Please refer to the call for proposals for examples. (500 characters max) *

A website will be used as the platform to share modules and recordings from webinars as well as share best practices from the project. We will also present the collaborative work at multiple meetings including the annual seminar following the completion of the Seed Grant and potentially a poster at NAFSA, where we have experience presenting before. We also hope to continue to participant in the OAS ITEN webinars where the members of this project have already presented and we can use this platform to present updates on our work. Finally, we hope to build an online repository of resources including STREAM integrated lesson plans for teachers to share and learn from each other.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

You can find templates for the Logic Model and Project Timeline & Budget in the links above. Please complete documents and upload files below.

PROJECT TIMELINE & BUDGET PLAN: Below, please upload a completed Project Timeline & Budget Plan using the ITEN template in the link below [shorturl.at/DFGKZ]

USA_GMU_TEAM...

LOGIC MODEL: Below, please upload a completed Logic Model using the ITEN template in the link below: [shorturl.at/uvM26]

USA_GMU_TEAM...

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Please provide any additional information about this Seed Grant proposal that you would like the reviewers to know. *

This project has been planned in collaboration with three other countries including Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica and Suriname that are working in a ITEN Project TEAMS group currently. While each of these countries have their respective goals and vision, Project TEAMS has helped identify a common vision for students and teachers, which has helped to build the idea for this proposal. The logistics and components of the proposed work will align with the implementation plan for these other three countries. Within each of the components, each country will identify structures and initiatives that will be adapted to fit the needs of their respective goals.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

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OAS ITEN

**ITEN Seed Grants
Project Work Plan and Budget**

APPLYING INSTITUTION NAME: George Mason University

PROJECT TITLE: TEAMS: Teacher Engagement, Advocacy, Mentorship through STREAM

EXPECTED PROJECT START DATE: Oct 1, 2020

EXPECTED PROJECT END DATE: Sept 30, 2021

Project Work Plan and Budget							
Expense	Activity related to expense	Activity Timeline/ Due Date	Person Responsible	Total Estimated Cost	Amount Requested to ITEN/OAS (max. US\$ 10,000)	In-Cash or In-Kind Contribution by Participating Institutions	Additional Notes
GMU TEAMS SUMMIT	Needs Assessment Webinar Summit with Breakouts for 5 Teacher Educators in the US and teachers from the following partnering countries (Antigua & Barbuda, Jamaica and Suriname). \$100 for 5 US participants are budgeted for this activity. Specifically, four breakout themes including Teacher Engagement, Teacher Advocacy, Teacher Mentorship and Integration will be coordinated. Each breakout will identify key challenges and opportunities under each theme and will help share best practices. The feedback from the meeting will be used to refine the proposed activities in the program.	Nov 30, 2020	Padhu, Thomas, Ko	\$ 750.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 250.00	
GMU Graduate Tuition Credit	TEAMS five Month Training Program: 8 webinars, Lesson plan development, Follow-up TEAMS Training the trainers activity, Implementing Lesson Study. Course will be implemented between Feb 1, 2020 - May 15, 2020. The course will provide 45 hours of professional development that translates to re-certification points to apply towards licensure renewal.	February 1, 2021	Padhu, Abilasha	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 500.00	
Premium Zoom Account	For TEAMS webinars, Advisory Board Collaborations and follow-up meetings and other project activities over the 12 months of the project period	Nov 1, 2020	Padhu, Abilasha	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	
TEAMS Survey	Administering the survey, Analyzing results and producing reports. Pre- and Post- surveys for Summit, Webinar and follow-up.		Padhu, Abilasha	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	
TEAMS Publication	Creating a formal report and a journal publication	July 1, 2021	Padhu, Abilasha	\$ 800.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00	
Final TEAMS Summit	Final Dissemination and what did we learn reflection	July 1, 2021	Padhu, Abilasha	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ 750.00	
Web-based platform	Website and online platform for dissemination of lesson plans	July 1, 2021	Padhu, Abilasha	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
TEAMS Resource Kit	A collection of materials and resources for the teacher participants	July 1, 2021	Padhu, Abilasha	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	
				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
GRAND TOTAL				\$14,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	If cell E82 (amount requested to ITEN/OAS) becomes red, please revise budget proposal and grant requested. This amount should not be greater than USD 10,000.00.

USA TEAMS: Teacher Engagement, Advocacy and Mentorship through STREAM

Problem Statement: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted both the instructional approaches and educational practices greatly all across the world. Coupled to this is the need to engage teachers to develop and incorporate integrated STEM tools to serve diverse populations. USA TEAMS will study the following problem which is to engage teachers serving diverse populations through (a) development of STEM tools and training for effective pedagogical practices addressing the learning characteristics of underrepresented populations, awareness of cultural differences and students with multiple learning styles; (b) the use of equitable and unbiased assessments and; (c) recognize their own biases, enlightening them about local communities, and recognizing how talents appear in various cultures.

Goal: To build a robust teaching and learning environment that supports an integrated multidisciplinary STEM approach in K-8, which provides nurturing for ALL students to become life-long learners by using and sharing effective pedagogical practices. This will also help to foster STEM skills and competencies in developing the next generation of global citizens through hands-on learning, creative problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration and communication to address authentic real-world problems.

Discovery Phase - Oct 1, 2020 (1 month)

- 5 US TEAMS teacher educators from US and other master teachers from the collaborating countries will complete a needs assessment and gap analysis survey that will help determine areas of strengths, challenges in instruction and student learning. Results from the survey will help to plan the logistics and specific content themes for the rest of the USA TEAMS program. A TEAMS Summit will be held where the US Teacher Educators and the collaborating international participants will identify key challenges and opportunities under each theme and share best practices in engagement, advocacy, mentorship and integration.

Design Phase - Nov 1, 2020 (2 months)

- US TEAMS project leaders along with the 5 US Teacher Educators will plan the content and delivery of eight webinars around the thematic areas proposed. Along with the content, pre- and post-surveys will also be prepared. The proposed plan will then be presented to the higher administration in each of the countries including ministries of education from the partnering countries. We will also work with GMU to set up the 8 webinar sessions along with follow-up lesson study component and final dissemination as a graduate course for 3 credits. A US TEAMS teacher mentorship program will also be planned.

- ❑ **Recruitment Phase** - Dec 15, 2020 (1 month)
 - In this phase we will advertise and select 20 teachers to implement our program with the assistance of the 5 US TEAMS teacher educators. We will work closely with our partnering countries who will also do similar recruitment.
- ❑ **Development Phase**- 1 February 2021 (1 month)
 - Working with the project leaders, the recruited 5 US TEAM teacher educators will help coordinate the planned webinar series which will be spread over 8 weeks. This webinar series will be taken by the 20 selected US teachers along with participating teachers from collaborating countries. Along with a variety of content and pedagogical practices, lesson plan templates along with lesson study protocols will be presented. Pre- and Post- self-evaluation will be conducted that will provide an insight of their growth as a teacher and also the effectiveness of the webinar series.
- ❑ **Follow-up Phase**- 1 April 2021 (1 month)
 - At the end of the webinar series of the 20 US Classroom Teachers will be grouped into five teams each of which will have a mentor that will be from the 5 US teacher educators. These mentor coaches will help work with their respective teams on an integrated lesson plan that will be implemented as a lesson study. Pre- and Post- self-evaluation will be conducted that will provide an insight of their mentorship and also the effectiveness of the webinar series.
- ❑ **Celebration of Success** - June, 2021 (1 month)
 - The final component of the graduate course includes a dissemination of the lesson study from each of the five groups in the form of a public presentation. Along with a second TEAMS summit will be held to share best practices learnt out of this project. Upon completion of this, all 25 teachers and teacher educators will receive graduate credits from GMU and TEAMS Resource Kit. A final self-evaluation will be conducted that will provide an insight of the impact of the overall program in terms of their engagement, advocacy, mentorship and integration that they have experienced through this program.
- ❑ **Evaluation Phase** - July, 2021 (1 month)
 - All 5 US teacher educators will participate in an open-ended interviews where they will have a chance to share their experiences. From participating in the program. It will also help to understand how it has impacted their own pedagogical practices.
- ❑ **Reporting Phase** - Aug 1, 2021 - Sept 30, 2021
 - All results, samples of teacher reflections, samples of student work along with lesson plans created and survey findings will be reported in details in the final reporting phase.

USA TEAMS: Teacher Engagement, Advocacy and Mentorship through STREAM

<p><u>Rationale:</u> Engage teachers serving diverse populations through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Development of STEM tools and training for effective pedagogical practices (face-to-face and/or virtual environments) addressing the learning characteristics of underrepresented populations, awareness of cultural differences and students with multiple learning styles; ❑ The use of equitable and unbiased assessments and; 	<p><u>Inputs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Integrated STEM Practices and Programs ❑ STEM Faculty and Teacher Coordinators ❑ K-8 Teacher Educators (Mentors) ❑ K-8 Teachers from high-needs district ❑ Zoom interface for webinars ❑ Website and online repository ❑ Time for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Professional Development; (b) Lesson-study; (c) Opening and Closing Summit; (d) Celebration of Success and; (e) assessment and evaluation 	<p><u>Activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Coordinate a Summit to bring participants to discuss challenges and opportunities in the areas of teacher engagement, advocacy, mentorship and integration ❑ Coordinate with the 5 US TEAMS teacher educators content for the webinars as well as recruitment of the 20 TEAMS teachers along with other teachers from partnering countries ❑ Deliver eight webinars that will focus on sharing content and pedagogical practices (face-to-face and/or virtual environments) ❑ Coordinate 5 Lesson studies following protocols and the integrated lesson created 	<p><u>Outputs/Products:</u></p> <p>1 month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Five US TEAMS teacher educators will be selected. ❑ An initial survey will be coordinated to identify areas of strengths, challenges in instruction and student learning. ❑ A TEAMS Summit will be held where the US Teacher Educators and the collaborating international participants will identify key challenges and opportunities under each theme and share best practices in engagement, advocacy, mentorship and integration. <p>3 month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ US TEAMS project leaders along with the 5 US Teacher Educators will plan the content and delivery of eight webinars around the thematic areas proposed. ❑ Along with the content, pre- and post-surveys will also be prepared. 	<p><u>Outcomes:</u></p> <p>Short Term: 1 year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Increased content knowledge and pedagogical practices (for both face-to-face and virtual environments) for the TEAMS teacher educators and participating teachers to be able to integrate STEM in the curriculum effectively ❑ Sharing best practices between partnering countries in project TEAMS and learning from each other. <p>Medium Term: 2 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Bring the culture of lesson study in many more schools following the success of the US TEAMS project year-1 cycle of Lesson Study ❑ Increased use of STEM teaching practices and learn to take risks and adapt effectively
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Recognizing their own biases, enlightening them about local communities, and recognizing how talents appear in various cultures. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Conduct a celebration of success event that will help in dissemination of the lesson study products ❑ A final summit which will provide an insight of the impact of the overall program in terms of their engagement, advocacy, mentorship and integration that the participants have experienced through this program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ We will also work with GMU to set up the 8 webinar sessions along with follow-up lesson study component and final dissemination as a graduate course for 3 credits. ❑ A US TEAMS teacher mentorship program will also be planned. ❑ Recruit 20 teachers to implement our program with the assistance of the 5 US TEAMS teacher educators. <p>6 month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Webinar series over 8 weeks will be conducted. ❑ Pre- and Post- for each component of the program will be conducted ❑ Five different lesson studies will be coordinated and the results will be disseminated through a celebration of success event. ❑ A second TEAMS summit will be held to share best practices learnt out of this project. ❑ A final report will be prepared and presented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Increased positive student attitudes and student contributions toward STEM ❑ Publish our findings in peer-reviewed journals and present at national and international conferences <p>Long Term: Beyond 2 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Enhanced STEM skills and competencies for students that engage in hands-on learning, risk-taking, creative problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration and communication to address authentic real-world problems. ❑ Share best practices from the success of these models to more stakeholders including school-district leaders, supervisors and state-level administrators.
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[EXT] RE: ITEN Seed Grants: Request for Additional Information

Padmanabhan Seshaiyer [pseshaiy@gmu.edu]

Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2020 11:42 AM**To:** Moraes, Patricia**Cc:** Vieyra, Rebecca; Owens, Alison; Suarez, Carmen; abtripathi@fcps.edu; Padmanabhan Seshaiyer [pseshaiy@gmu.edu]**CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER**

Greetings Patricia and Team!

Please find below our detailed responses to your queries from our seed grant application. I am happy to provide more details if you need.

Thank you once again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Padhu and Abilasha

- **Please confirm whether the selected teachers will have any costs associated with taking the course?**
Yes, that is correct. There will NOT be any costs associated with the participants taking this course.
- **Regarding the fee of \$7500 that is budgeted for GMU Graduate Tuition Credit: Is the fee for one semester or would it be charged each time the program is offered, if it were to be offered beyond the February-May 2021 semester?**
The fee of \$7500 is for one three credit graduate course through GMU for up to 30 teachers taken over one semester. This works out to about \$80 per credit per student, which is a specially discounted price for teachers. As per the Virginia Department of Education (this is similar in many other states), all teachers need to maintain 270 recertification points to have their teaching license renewed every 10 years. By completing one of these graduate classes at GMU successfully, the teachers earn 90 recertification points that counts towards more than three years of their license renewal. Moreover, teacher pay scales in Fairfax County Public Schools which is the 9th largest county in the United States go up as they enhance their portfolio from a) Bachelors b) Bachelor plus 15 credits c) Masters and d) Masters plus 30 credits. Given the situation with COVID-19, teachers are actively looking for such opportunities that will not only enhance their pedagogical practices and provide them professional development but also elevate them in their pay scale by earning more credits, which also leads to recertification.
- **What is the minimum number of teachers required to run such a program at GMU and how many teachers total do you intend to impact with this program?**
There is no minimum number required to run the graduate class at GMU but only a maximum limit of 30 teachers. Hence, our plan specifically will be to recruit 30 total participants that will officially go through the graduate course and complete the requirements. Ten of these teachers will be Master educators and 20 will be teachers at different levels selected from the various scales mentioned in item 2. Besides, since the course will be online, we will also allow our international

collaborating ministries and their teacher leaders from our Project TEAMS including Antigua & Barbuda, Jamaica and Suriname. We anticipate this number to be at least 30 international participants. This will allow participation of more members globally taking advantage of the course and be impacted. Finally, each of the 20 teachers from our course will also be asked to work with at least two other teachers in their respective schools to scaffold their lesson plan to apply to another grade level. This will help impact another 40 teachers. The total number of teachers we anticipate the project will have impact on would then be 30 teachers that take the class plus the 30 international participants that audit the class plus the 40 additional teachers that work with the main cohort on scaling the lesson plans for a total of at least 100 teachers in all. And as deliverables, we hope to create at least between 40 - 60 rich lesson plans that will be available and shared to all teachers through the OAS-ITEN website.

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From: Moraes, Patricia <PMoraes@oas.org>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 2:53 PM
To: Padmanabhan Seshaiyer <pseshaiy@gmu.edu>
Cc: Vieyra, Rebecca <RVieyra@oas.org>; Owens, Alison <AOwens@oas.org>; Suarez, Carmen <CSuarez@oas.org>
Subject: ITEN Seed Grants: Request for Additional Information

Dear Mr. Padmanabhan Seshaiyer,

Thank you for submitting your application for an ITEN Seed Grant. We have reviewed your proposal and are impressed by your commitment to the strengthening of the teaching profession.

Although your application was not selected for funding during the first round of reviews, the selection committee and the donor would like additional information about your proposal in order to make a final determination regarding an award. As such, we ask that you provide responses to the questions listed below by **Friday, August 7th**:

- Please confirm whether the selected teachers will have any costs associated with taking the course?
- Regarding the fee of \$7500 that is budgeted for GMU Graduate Tuition Credit: Is the fee for one semester or would it be charged each time the program is offered, if it were to be offered beyond the February-May 2021 semester?
- What is the minimum number of teachers required to run such a program at GMU and how many teachers total do you intend to impact with this program?

We hope to make determinations from the second round of reviews by August 14th.

We look forward to your responses and sincerely hope for a positive outcome.

Regards,



Patricia Moraes

Department of Human Development, Education and Employment
Executive Secretariat for Integral Development

Organization of American States

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