

Project Create Agenda Item 10a

Attached is the email that began the discussion.

A portion of the Executive Committee and Leslie Turner discussed the idea and all were supportive with the understanding that details will need to be documented.

At the end of the discussion I hope to have one of two things decided:

- We believe this is a good idea and proceed with a MOU
- We are not ready for this and Dan needs to set up his own organization.

Jim Horton
June 18, 2013

Horton, Jim A

From: Turner, Leslie [TurnerLA@cdmsmith.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2013 10:30 AM
To: Horton, Jim A; Glenn Forrest (GForrest@sjrwnd.com); Angelina.Fairchild@kimley-horn.com
Subject: Project Create

Good morning! The Central Florida Chapter of FES does an educational outreach program called Project Create. I'm not sure if you know all the specifics behind it, but you can get all the details from the website www.seewhatkidscando.com. A brief description is below:

It was started back in the late 1980's by Dan Morrival, who was president of the Central FL chapter at that time. He formed a committee called Project CREATE (Creative Responses from Elementary Age ThinkErs). The idea was to present a team of 4th or 5th graders with a real-life engineering challenge and ask them to show us their solution. The object is to give children a chance to have a hands-on experience that will help them understand what an engineer is and what they do. It is a non-competitive program where there are no right or wrong answers. Students are encouraged to brainstorm and be creative. In addition to learning team-building skills, participants gain a better understanding of what an engineer does. The hope is that this experience will encourage more students to consider engineering and sciences as their career path. Each team is assigned an engineer to help and encourage them as they work through their solution and build their project to take to the Expo at the Amway Center.

Dan Morrival has since retired from Orange County and has taken over again as the chair of that committee. He recently contacted me to ask some questions regarding the expansion of the program and fundraising. He is energized and excited about trying to expand the program to other chapters and throughout FL. He realizes this will take quite a bit of fundraising. He has done some research regarding grant funding and other similar opportunities for fundraising and through that has discovered that most applications require a 501(c)(3) status. We have used the Foundation for this purpose in the past (Mathcounts) and I believe this may be an option for Project Create as well. He has also looked into forming his own non-profit. He stated that if he formed his own non-profit corporation, he would be able to pay himself a salary prior to using the remaining funds for Project CREATE expansion. If this salary was in the form of a commission, say 20% of the funding that he is able to bring in, the flow of funds into the program would always be positive, vs. taking an annual salary where the corporation may have periods where money is paid to him prior to funding coming in the door. He feels this arrangement would give him an incentive to pursue these outside funding sources and defray some of the cost of time and expenses to make calls, prepare grant applications, and make presentations to solicit funding. He asked if this arrangement could be made through the Foundation or would he need to do his own independent non-profit?

I will need direction on how to respond to him. He definitely wants to expand the program and I think will do a great job. I'm not sure how FES/FEF would feel about him collecting part of the fundraising for a salary. I don't think that is typically done. I'm also not sure how folks would feel about him starting his own and then us supporting that cause which would provide him a salary. If I look at a larger picture – we do pay staff to help at the state level for Mathcounts to do the fundraising/organizing. But they are staff of FES. National Mathcounts also has paid staff for their program. Any thoughts on this? I know he wants to get this moving quickly. We have a chapter meeting tomorrow at lunch and I will see him there. If anyone has any quick ideas or would like me to set up a call with me/him, let me know.

Thanks,
Leslie

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