



M·J·Murdock
Charitable Trust

*"PARTNERING WITH THOSE WHO SERVE THE
COMMON GOOD"*

P. O. Box 1618
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K-12 Christian Schools Capacity Building Initiative

Background

Throughout its history the Murdock Charitable Trust has sought to strengthen and support the work of K-12 private and Christian schools, a vital subsector of the region's dynamic and complex system of education. After a 2007 study was conducted to determine how the Trust might have a greater impact on these schools, a number of conversations and roundtables were held to identify priorities of need in this area of the education sector.

From the study and input, three critical areas of need emerged that currently confront many K-12 Christian schools:

1. Development of a financially sustainable business model and a fund-raising program
2. Professional development for faculty and staff
3. Assistance in obtaining school accreditation

The Trust sent a Request for Proposal (RFP) to a number of associations, universities, and related groups. A small number of grants were made to two school associations and three universities in an effort to provide capacity building in this K-12 sector. Institutions receiving the grants and a description of their projects are listed below.

Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)

Fund Development Training

The main objective of this project is to provide professional training using the "Benevon Model" for mission-driven fund development for operating support. Benevon requires a committed team of seven—staff, administration, board, and volunteers—to participate in the training and then to run the model for a year. To participate, schools must meet readiness criteria established by both Benevon and ACSI. This training will also include additional support



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throughout the first year of implementation of these development strategies. Successful implementation of this program should result in a significant and growing increase in contributed support for the participating schools and a greater understanding of the importance of sustained development efforts to the organizations' success.

School Accreditation Preparation

Schools that are not accredited may be eligible to participate in ACSI's Steps Toward Achieving Recognition (STAR) accreditation readiness preparation program, a self-paced, guided process intended to help schools prepare to become accredited.

Contact:

Janet Stump, Director of Public Relations

P.O. Box 65130

Colorado Springs, CO 80962-5130

Office 719.867-0124

www.acsi.org

Northwest District - Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS)

Sustainable Funding Training

Two-day workshops will be provided in each of six major cities in the region each year. School teams of three people (school administrator, board chairperson, and one other leader in the school) will attend the training and work to implement the concepts in their own schools. The workshops will present basic concepts on developing financially sustainable business, fund-raising, and admission plans. LCMS will provide follow-up support in the form of school visits, monthly webinars, emails, phone contacts, and other support to help school teams expand and implement the concepts presented.

Staff Development

Personal life coaching and mentoring for school leaders will be provided over a three-year period. The first year will focus on personal areas of the leaders' lives, and the second and third years will expand to include topics related to current issues in school leadership, including staff support and development. Thus, the school leaders will have reviewed and worked to improve their own lives, the operations of the school, and staff development.



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School Accreditation Preparation

Schools will be provided with a "how-to" manual to help them work through the accreditation process. LCMS will also visit and provide additional help for schools that are struggling to complete this process.

Contact:

Richard L. Weniger, Director of Education Services
1700 NE Knott Street
Portland, Oregon 97212
Office 503.288.8383
www.nowlcms.org

Northwest Nazarene University, Inc. (NNU)

Financial Sustainability Training

Each year NNU's School of Business will host a three-day Financial Sustainability conference on campus for school teams of three participants (head school administrator, business administrator, and a board member) to present topics relating to financial management and fund development. As these schools develop their own sustainable business plan, follow-up sessions will be held during the year to mentor each school, answer questions, and provide assistance as needed. NNU business professors will meet online or via teleconference with each school's leaders about every other month. In the second year, the professor will make a site visit to each school to evaluate progress and provide on-site mentoring and assistance.

Staff Development

During the first year a team of three people from each school (head school administrator, faculty leader, or a board member) will attend a training session in school improvement planning delivered by faculty from NNU's School of Education. This conference will provide the teams with training to assess each school's needs and to build a plan to improve those areas. To address these needs, NNU faculty will then develop customized courses and offer them via distant delivery over the course of the next two years. Four rounds of courses will be delivered with about four courses each round. Following each round of courses, an NNU School of Education faculty member will visit each participating school to mentor and evaluate course and project effectiveness.



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Contact:

Dr. Larry McMillin, Dean - Extended University Services

623 Holly Street

Nampa, Idaho 83686-5897

Office 208.467.8493

www.nnu.edu/academics/schools/school-of-business/

George Fox University (GFU)

Professional Development for School Administrators and Teachers

GFU will work with Christian school associations and participating schools to determine the mentoring and professional development needs of potential participants. Mentors will be identified, trained, and matched with interested mentees; mentoring and professional developmental activities will be provided over a two-year period. Professional development content will be determined by a thorough needs assessment and may include training on elementary and middle school science and math; working with special needs students; information technologies used for leading and teaching; Biblical worldview integration in academic subjects, literacy, and reading instruction; and other issues.

Contact:

Dr. Scot Headley, Professor of Education

414 North Meridian Street

Newberg, Oregon 97132

Office: 503.554.2836

www.georgefox.edu/soe/

Seattle Pacific University (SPU)

Professional Development

SPU will work with schools to establish Professional Learning Communities (PLC), which will help them build a sustainable structure to initiate and support ongoing professional development that is focused on student learning and tailored to the individualized needs of the Christian school educators. Based on each PLC's needs assessment, SPU will develop professional development content modules and make them available on the web to help the



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educators gain the knowledge and skills in those identified areas of need. Potential modules could include the following: Understanding Evidence for Student Learning; Using Assessment Data to Improve the Teaching/Learning Process; The Alignment of Learning Objectives, Assessment, and Learner Experiences; Brain Research on How Kids Learn; and Support for New Teachers. Developed across the three-year project, the modules will create the initial resources for a digital library to which PLC groups will have continued access and which may be available to a wider number of schools and professional learning communities.

Contact:

Dr. Dan Bishop, Director, Center for Professional Education

3307 Third Avenue West, Suite 304

Seattle, Washington 98119

Office: 206.281.2593

www.spu.edu/depts/soe/