

*At POET, we strive to be Never Satisfied. What are you Never Satisfied with in your community? In 700 words or fewer, describe your project, how it will improve your community, and how this grant will help you reach your goal.*

The Clarinda Community School district is on a pathway to inclusive and sustainable innovation by providing a curriculum that will not only invigorate students but improve community involvement through partnerships with our local businesses.

We are embarking on school-community partnerships and including our local community college on that journey. We are starting students off in the elementary with a STEM program that introduces the entrepreneurial/innovation mindset with activities including but not limited to coding, invention, experimentation, use of recyclable goods, etc. This program will then blend into the middle school program of entrepreneurial skills (focusing on the fundamental concepts of business and entrepreneurship), the journey of practices and methods of turning ideas into successful businesses, and applied understanding of techniques and tools used by innovators and entrepreneurs, and then engaging students in solving real-world problems through the application of Design Thinking Principles. This process then will lead to our high school CTE programs that are meshed with the business and economic needs of our community.

This process will create a huge impact on our small rural community. Our economy in this area is based on agriculture, manufacturing, and healthcare. Utilizing this grant money from POET to enhance our innovative curriculum will help our school district get students interested in the fields that make our community flourish and will help build our human infrastructure of talent. Students will be able to experience the processes that make our local businesses succeed.

We would like to bring the Entrepreneur Pathways curricula into our middle and high school-aged programming. Entrepreneur Pathway, Inc. will provide four curricula to be implemented over two years: Entrepreneur Skills, Entrepreneur Journey, Innovation Gym, and Innovation Studio. At the middle school level, all students will participate in this curriculum ensuring that we have impacted inclusion and diversity. Our district has an excellent track record of getting publicity out into the community for all of our programs in the district. We would be able to share out the projects developed in this program through community viewings at conference time and as well promote the businesses that have sponsored us and supported us along the way.

We believe that getting this grant would have a major impact on our STEM solution to innovation, impact, and sustainability. We are a STEM Best grant school and have been making great strides to incorporate STEM across the curriculums. The steps to encouraging growth in this area will be: evaluating the Entrepreneur Pathways, Inc. curricula to make sure it fits our needs, create our exploratory for the middle school to include the innovation curriculum, order the curriculum and set up the professional development training, introduce our curriculum and sponsors to the community through local and regional media and provide on-going media relationship, create and sustain an evaluation process of how the program is working and how

it aligns with our K-12 and local business needs in the innovation and career pathways program, create a needs assessment at the end of each school year to make sure that what we are doing is sustaining the innovation mindset, and continually monitoring the program for inclusion and diversity, not only within our student population but within the business community that we serve.

We thank you for this opportunity to apply for this grant. We know that POET supports the innovation that we are striving for including building relationships with the community, supporting the sustainability of our plant-based agricultural world, and supporting the entrepreneurial mindset. Your Pure Promise “leading-edge technology, resulting in unparalleled quality” should be a goal of all districts in their quest for excellence.