

Sample Technology Grant Proposal

Shining Star Public School

Ima Winner, Instructor

A. EVIDENCE OF PROGRAM QUALITY

The Shining Star Agricultural Education program is a single teacher program in a small rural school district in the south-central part of Oklahoma. There are currently 87 students enrolled in agricultural education courses with 100% of the students participating as members of the FFA student organization. Daily instruction includes a 50 minute period in each of the following courses: Agricultural Science I, Horticulture, Ag Power and Technology, Eighth Grade Introductory Agriculture, and Animal Science. The Animal Science class rotates every other year with Natural Resources. Current Career Pathways emphasized in the Shining Star program include Animal Sciences, Plant Sciences, and Agricultural Mechanics. Due to input from student interest surveys and input from the Agricultural Education Advisory Committee, changes will be made to incorporate the Ag Communications pathway into the curriculum in the next school year.

Students in each class learn extensive record keeping skills and also have opportunities to increase their learning through applied opportunities through Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) and Career Development Events (CDEs). Over the last three years, the Shining Star FFA Chapter has had participants in seven different CDE areas at multiple contests each year. Related to the Animal Science Plant Sciences, and Mechanics pathways, Shining Star currently has Livestock Judging, Land Judging, Environmental Sciences, Animal Science Quiz Bowl, Comprehensive Ag Mechanics, and Ag Issues teams in training for this spring's events. Last year, 7 graduating seniors received their Career Passports at the State FFA Convention for passing their end of instruction competency tests. The agricultural education department is also very focused on developing leadership in our students. To aid in this, we attend

multiple leadership events throughout the year, including National Convention, State Convention, FFA Alumni Leadership Camp, and Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT) Conference. We also complete in Public Speaking events with 10 FFA members competing with 14 speeches last year. This represents our overall philosophy of a well balanced program and curriculum and the three circle model of Agricultural Education.

The Shining Star Agricultural Education program is very grateful to have the state program assistance funds. We have utilized these funds in a variety of ways to help the education of students, adhering to the rules governing the funding. A large portion of these funds are used in the Agricultural Mechanics laboratory for upgrading equipment and for consumable supplies. The funds have also assisted with equipment for the Animal Science and Natural Resources classes. (See attached 412 FY 11 OCAS report.) These funds along with local funds aid in the expenses involved with all areas of the program including travel involved with SAEs and the FFA.

Over the past five years, the agricultural education department has taken steps in improving the quality of the program and facilities. We have utilized local funds to put new insulation in the entire Agricultural Education facility. We have also added two new MIG welders, a new cold cut saw, and a new plasma cutter. Great improvements have also been made in the classroom with a new projector and SMART Board being added two years ago. The administration is also very supportive of moving in a direction of technology and we are planning on utilizing the new Animal Science curriculum that CIMC is developing. As a result of input from our Advisory Committee, we are currently rebuilding an existing greenhouse to have it fully operation next school year. Each of these improvements will aid the Shining Star Agricultural Education department in teaching the necessary curriculum and skills to help ensure Career Passport recipients and program completers who are able to compete in the workforce and in continuing their education.

B. TECHNOLOGY TO BE PURCHASED WITH THE FUNDS

Mac Pro (Loaded with all necessary software) -----	\$2,300
Panasonic AG-DVC20 DV Digital Camcorder -----	\$1,400
5 iPads (Education price w/ possibility of additional iPad if projected price reduction occurs) ---	\$2,495
1x3 DVD duplicator -----	\$600
I-Pod Touch -----	\$300
Picture Window Hova-Bator Incubator -----	\$150
Four Veterinary Science PowerPoint Software Instructional Modules -----	\$296
Total current pricing (balance over grant to be funded with local monies) -----	\$7,541

C. HOW TECHNOLOGY WILL BE USED TO UPGRADE THE PROGRAM AND SUPPORT CAREER CLUSTERS

The variety of equipment listed above we believe is a reflection of the diversity of the Shining Star Agricultural Education program. The equipment will be used in a variety of ways to help prepare students for further education and careers. The Mac Book Pro computer will be the first Macintosh computer on the Shining Star campus. This is important because many industries are starting to use this type of computer more in this day and age. This will give agricultural students an opportunity to learn proper use of technology in industry. The computer will come pre-loaded with the necessary software to learn photo and video editing that is also used in today's industry. This will complement the photography equipment that we already have in use.

The digital camcorder will follow suit with the same purpose as the computer and will work well with the Mac Book Pro. We are planning on implementing an Agricultural Communications class into the schedule next school year. The reason for this is that we have an increasing number of students interested in pursuing degrees in Agricultural Communications and other areas of media broadcast. Video technology of this nature would give students the opportunity for exposure to videography and

edition before graduating from high school. We also plan to use this equipment for creating agricultural education videos that could be utilized for years to come in all agricultural classes. The plan is for the Ag Communications class to film and edit videos that will aid other students who are training on Career Development Events or preparing for end of instruction testing. The videos will be utilized in the classroom and on the iPod and iPads. In addition to this the Ag Communications class will maintain a program website and much of the information will be available to students and their parents at home as well. This will be an excellent learning opportunity for students interested in the Ag Communications pathway, as well as students in Animal Science and Plant Science pathways.

The iPod and iPads are something that will be a nice addition to the one iPod we already have in inventory. Students today learn better from personal technology. We utilize iPods to help create study materials for classroom instruction, testing, Career Development events, speech contests and more. The students can check out the iPod and iPads which are preloaded with the information they need to study. The great thing about this is that they can use a variety of methods right in the palm of their hand including video, pictures, audio, and text files. This also addresses a variety of learning styles.

The incubator is something that will be utilized mostly in our animal science class, but also in the Introduction to Agricultural Education and will served dual purpose of learning how to properly incubate and hatch eggs, but also for a better understanding of the process of eggs hatching and reproduction in general. The instructor will also be working with the science teacher for coordinating a unit of instruction in the high school biology class. Students will be able to observe the chicks hatching from the eggs through the viewing glass in the incubator without disturbing the process.

Finally the four software discs will be utilized in advancing the curriculum in the Animal Science pathway. Each one of these programs is geared toward studying the veterinary care to some extent. The four programs include Basic Livestock Surgery Skills, Common Animal Diseases, Immunizations, and

Parasites of Livestock. This will be useful not only to students who are considering a career in veterinary medicine, but also for those interested in livestock production.

Overall each item to be purchased with the grant will be a great benefit to our program and the entire school. We feel that it will help us better promote the program and recruit students to Agricultural Education and the FFA organization. Students will be better trained and prepared in areas that are currently lacking in our school.

ATTACHMENTS

Letter of Commitment and Support from Mr. Jim Shue, Superintendent

Copy of the OCAS 412 Program Expenditure Report for FY11