

ARI LEARNING INNOVATION GRANT APPLICATION



Applications Should be E-mailed to:

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(Faxed copies will not be considered. E-mail receipt will establish deadlines.)

APPLICATION DUE: August 22, 2016

Applications will be scored by an independent panel in a blind scoring process that uses the enclosed application review rubric.

in•no•vate - v. To begin something new: introduce.

-- Webster's II

Innovation is the spark of insight that leads an inventor or an artist to investigate an issue or phenomenon. That insight is usually shaped by an observation of what appears to be true or the creative jolt of a new idea. Innovation is driven by a commitment to excellence and continuous improvement. Innovation is based on curiosity, the willingness to take risks, and experimenting to test assumptions. Innovation is based on questioning and challenging the status quo. It is also based on recognizing opportunity and taking advantage of it.

In the world of education, innovation comes in many forms. There are innovations in the way education systems are organized and managed. There are innovations in instructional techniques or delivery systems. There are innovations in the way students are included in an active learning process. The list goes on and on.

An element of the ARI mission is to identify, support and promote innovative practices in education - and as importantly - support and promote those educators and their students who are daring to be great.

An ARI Learning Innovation Grant must:

1. *Address an important challenge in education.*
2. *Pass through a competitive review process focused on the project's design.*
3. *Demonstrate the promise of tangible improvement in teaching and/or learning and,*
4. *Award recipients agree to present their proposed innovation at the regional Promising Practices Summit and present their associated results at the regional Action Research Summit.*

How can we responsibly promote untested, unproven, but innovative practices and how can we encourage the inventors of innovations to start developing an evidence base so that over time these interventions can be held up to review and demonstrate their effectiveness?

First, we practice transparency. The Learning Innovation Grants awarded through the Appalachian Renaissance Initiative are not yet tried and true. They have not yet been subjected to rigorous scrutiny. Applicants/Recipients attempt to describe the intervention in an informative and compelling way, while not making claims about its effectiveness until results can be measured and compared.

Second, we provide ongoing support for Learning Innovation Grant recipients. Once awarded an innovation grant, educators are connected to a broad system of available supports that include regionally based staff, District Innovation Coordinators, colleagues and a growing virtual landscape focused through the lens of www.theholler.org.

Third, we encourage all grantees to use Action Research designs so that, over time, we can learn if these interventions are effective. We do not mandate a specific set of metrics or require a common model, believing that the dynamics in individual classrooms/initiatives require unique designs specific to need and outcome. We provide incentives for grant applicants to embed such studies into their project designs from the beginning as reflected in the scoring rubric.

Fourth, we showcase and highlight the work of Innovation grantees. Grantees are required to present their plan and their findings twice each year at regional Summits focused on Promising Practices and associated Action Research. As a critical mass of grantees develops--those that have shown positive impacts on student achievement or other positive outcomes--will enable us to promote innovations aggressively, through publications, web sites, and videos.

Fifth, we provide access to an online portal, www.theholler.org to review past grant recipients' work and videos. The video presentations can serve as a resource as you develop your own presentation about the action research you will be conducting during the 2016-17 school year.

A note about Action Research -

Action research is a practical approach to professional inquiry. As its name suggests, action research concerns actors – those people carrying out their professional actions (for our purposes, teaching and learning) from day to day - and its purpose is to understand and to improve those actions. It is about trying to understand professional action from the inside; as a result, it is research that is carried out by practitioners on their own practice, not (as in other forms of research), done by someone on somebody else's practice. Action research in education is grounded in the working lives of teachers and students, as they experience them.

Action Research is about:

- the improvement of practice,
- the improvement of the understanding of practice,
- the improvement of the situation in which the practice takes place.

Carr, W. & Kemmis, S. (1986) Becoming Critical: education, knowledge and action research.

ARI Learning Innovation Grants Application Procedures and Requirements:

The Appalachian Renaissance Initiative supports bold and locally directed improvements in leadership, teaching and learning that directly improve achievement. ARI and member districts serve as an innovation laboratory for public education with an emphasis on rural communities. The east Kentucky region is experiencing a renaissance that is being led by educators. The work underway is a catalytic model that will inform and support other communities working to dramatically improve educational outcomes for students in rural schools nationally.

Educators in the seventeen participating ARI school districts are eligible to apply for the competitive Learning Innovation Grants. Educators may apply for up to \$1000.00 to enhance classroom learning by implementing innovative strategies and approaches to learning. One hundred Learning Innovation Grants will be awarded.

Proposed innovations should be framed around specific teaching and/or learning goals.

All submissions will be evaluated by an external review team using the attached Scoring Guide.

A Summer Workshop on action research and how that process relates to innovation in learning will be available at the KVEC Summer Institute (Knott County High School July 27-28-optional training). On-going assistance will be available through the ARI District Liaisons, District Innovation Coordinators and on www.theholler.org.

Application requirements include:

1. A complete submission of application
2. **Commitment** to present your project and the projected impact at the Promises Practice Summit (Pikeville, KY on October 26, 2016-travel and substitute paid by ARI)
3. **Commitment** to present your project and the impact at the Action Research Summit (Pikeville, KY on April 12, 2017-travel and substitute paid by ARI)
4. **Commit** to participating for the entire day at the Promising Practices Summit and the Action Research Summit
5. **Commitment** to share project results on the ARI interactive WEB portal (www.theholler.org) throughout the year (Posting must occur on Promising Practices Holler by October 15th, January 15th, March 15th and May 15th).

Important Dates for ARI Learning Innovation Grants	
August 22, 2016	Deadline for Grant Submission
September 7, 2016	Notification of Grant Award
October 26, 2016	Present at Promising Practices Summit and participate in activities for the entire day. PP Summit will be at the East KY Expo Center in Pikeville.
April 12, 2017	Present at Action Research Summit and participate in activities for the entire day. PP Summit will be at the East KY Expo Center in Pikeville.
May 15, 2017	Final Report must be submitted to ARI.

APPLICATION COVER PAGE

(To be included with Application)

Applications must be submitted electronically with signatures. It is suggested that you request a read receipt with your submission.

Teacher's Name:		
Grade Level	# of Students Involved	
E-mail Address	Phone Number	
School Name	County	
School Address	City	Zip Code

Application must be submitted by the District Innovation Coordinator.

Grant Applicant Signature _____ **Date** _____

Principal's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Innovation Coordinator _____ **Date** _____

Superintendent _____ **Date** _____

Project Title (short, creative and on point) : _____

ARI Action Research Cycle for Learning Innovation Grant

Step 1: Identify area of focus and a research question-what is your problem of practice? (*Identified in the Application Process*)

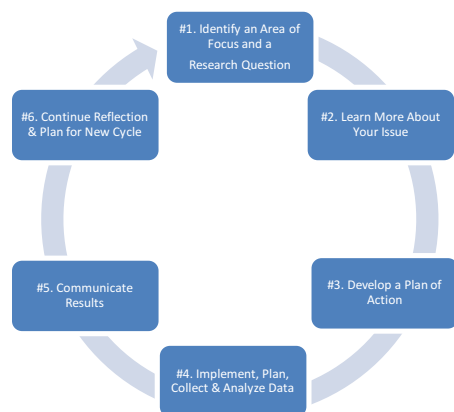
Step 2: Learn more about your issue. (*Individual and collegial examination independently and at the Learning Innovation Grant Acceptance Meeting.*)

Step 3: Develop your plan of Action- Explain how you are going to Systematically study the impact of a Specific strategy on a Specific problem. This is your promising practice. (*You will present your project overview at the Promising Practices Summit in October 2016.*) Visit www.theholler.org to see previous presentations, click on SUMMIT tab-top right of screen.

Step 4: Implement plan, Collect, and Analyze Data. (*This takes place between the Promising Practices Summit and The Action Research Summit.*)

Step 5: Communicate Results. (*This is the focus of the Action Research Summit in April 2017.*)

Step 6: Continue Reflection and plan for a new cycle.



Application Requirements:

1. Application Cover Page (page 5).
2. Area of Focus and/or Research Question- (What is your identified Problem of Practice?)
3. Action Plan: (250 word maximum) What will you implement to address the problem of practice? What resources are needed? Who is involved? How are your students actively involved –include examples of what students will actually do? What is the timeline? (Please remember you are Systematically studying the impact of a Specific strategy on a Specific problem).
4. How will you evaluate your project outcome? What data/evidence will be collected; how will it be evidenced?
5. Budget: Provide a budget narrative that defines grant expenditures (page 8).
6. Completed Project Summary and Digital Photo (pg. 7 of application).

Project Summary

Below are eight guiding questions that may serve to develop a summary of your proposal.

Based on your response to these questions, write a brief summary of your proposal (a tightly constructed paragraph that compellingly describes your proposed project to your peers and the national and international audience. A digital photograph of yourself should also be submitted.

If your proposal is selected for funding, the summary and picture you submit will be used in the Promising Practices Program Guide.

1. What is your problem of practice?
2. How do you know this is a problem?
3. What strategy will you implement this year to address the problem?
4. What resources and personnel do you need to implement your strategy?
5. What research question will guide your study of this innovation?
6. What outcomes will prove that your innovation has succeeded?
7. How will you measure those outcomes?
8. How can you be sure that any positive outcomes on these measures are actually due to your innovation and not something else?

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Budget Narrative: Please attach a sheet(s) describing how the items you have identified in your budget relate to your problem of practice and activities purposed in the application. All items must have a direct impact on student success.

Projected Budget Detail:

Description of Item/Activity	Projected Amount

Total Amount Requested: _____

1. Project funds must be spent during the school year (2016-17).
2. A final expense report will be required – due May 15th.

Scoring Guide
ARI Learning Innovation Grant

Points Possible	Topic	Description
10 Points	Relevant Problem of Practice	Identifies an area of focus (Problem of Practice) and serves as a guide for your research.
30 Points	Quality of Action Plan	Addresses how you will implement an innovation and gather data on the implementation plan's effectiveness. Your plan addresses how you will <u>Systematically</u> study the impact of a <u>Specific strategy</u> on a <u>Specific problem</u>.
20 Points	Overall Plan Evaluation	The extent to which the evaluation plan is thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the <u>proposed project</u>.
20 Points	Plan to Communicate Results	The extent to which the applicant will share information about results and outcomes of the proposed project in ways that will enable others to use the information or strategies.
20 Points	Potential for Impact on Teaching and Learning	The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the funding.
100 Points Possible		

I acknowledge that I will:

- _____ make a commitment to engage in Action Research
- _____ watch video presentation on www.theholler.org of the *Overview of ARI Learning Innovation Grant* protocols
- _____ attend the Promising Practices Summit and the Action Research Summit (participation in the entire day is a requirement)
- _____ develop a poster that tells the story of the work you are doing with your grant proposal and deliver a presentation at the Promising Practices Summit and participate in the entire day.
- _____ develop and deliver a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation at Action Research Summit and participate in the entire day
- _____ be part of an on-going support network on www.theholler.org, making posts at least four times during the school year – by October 15th, January 15th, March 15th and the final post by May 15th
- _____ complete the appropriate paper work for reimbursements and expenditures by following established KVEC/USDOE procedures
- _____ completing all requirements in a timely manner

Signature

Date