

## LABOR/HHS/EDUCATION REQUESTS

- ***Abstinence-Centered Education – Group Letter***
  - **Amount Requested:** \$28,000,000
  - **Purpose:** This letter asks for funds for community-based abstinence from existing discretionary funds within the Teen Pregnancy Prevention program. This will ensure that local communities have a choice in how they approach the issue of teen pregnancy prevention and that youth receive the tools necessary to abstain from sexual activity.
  - **Justification:** A groundbreaking study released in February of this year by the Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine proves abstinence education is effective. The Community Based Abstinence Education program and abstinence education demonstration grants through the Adolescent Family Life program was eliminated in FY2010 and the administration is once again proposing that Congress no longer fund these programs that provide local communities with a choice to teach abstinence. In addition, the recently released guidelines for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention program, which replaced community-based programs for abstinence education, provide no priority for the risk avoidance message, nor any assurance that any abstinence-centered programs will receive funding.
  
- ***Bioscience Equipment***
  - **Organization:** Oklahoma State University - Center for Health Sciences (OSU-CHS)
  - **Amount Requested:** \$1,000,000
  - **Purpose:** This project requests funds for the purchase of equipment. OSU-CHS has the largest biomedical faculty in eastern Oklahoma. It is the founding institution of the Tulsa Area Bioscience Education Research Consortium (TABERC). The need for bioscience growth in the Tulsa area is cited by the Tulsa Metro Chamber, Innovation to Entrepreneurship (i2E), OKBio, and others. Currently, OSU-CHS is training approximately 40 biomedical scientists at the masters and doctoral levels. A new research building is scheduled for completion on the campus in late 2010, which will add nearly 72,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of wet lab research space to the existing facility (nearly tripling in size). With this growth, comes the need to bring the equipment to the same state of the art level as the facility. Major pieces of equipment are needed in order to continue the growth of research and allow OSU-CHS to fully meet potential.
  - **Justification:** This project will allow research groups to progress more rapidly in several translational research areas such as cardiovascular disease, autism, neurological disorders, and HIV. The translational groups at OSU-CHS work toward moving bench research to the clinical setting through research teams including both biomedical scientists and clinicians. Some of the benefits of this project are: improved educational and training opportunities for students, increased competitiveness of grant/contract submissions by scientists, increased collaborations between academia and business, increased visibility and recognition of OSU-CHS and the research that is being performed, and the provision of highly qualified personnel to work in bio-related fields. This model

allows medical solutions to move more quickly to market in order to improve human health, create jobs, and further stimulate the Oklahoma economy through development of intellectual property.

- **Authorization:** HRSA, Health Facilities and Services – Activities authorized by the Public Health Service Act.

- ***Diabetes Translational Research Building***

- **Organization:** University of Oklahoma
- **Amount Requested:** \$2,000,000
- **Purpose:** Funding for this project would support the construction of a new translational laboratory research building for the non-clinical research functions of the Harold Hamm Oklahoma Diabetes Center (HHODC). The proposed research building would not only consolidate non-clinical research groups into a single building, but will also leverage its proximity to the adjacent University Health Club and the HHODC. Having those physical connections to the University's research, educational and administrative cores will only serve to facilitate further growth for the diabetes program. Construction of this project is expected to generate 350 jobs in the building trades. In addition, with the research space created by the Diabetes Translational Research Building, HHODC researchers would be able to add 30 to 50 additional research faculty and staff over the next five years.
- **Justification:** In addition to adding immediate benefit to the economy through job creation, enhancing the HHODC's capacity to conduct translational research will have a tremendous long-term impact. The estimated cost of diabetes to the state of Oklahoma, including both direct medical costs and lost productivity is in excess of \$3.3 billion annually and will double in the next five years unless effective action is taken. Establishing a quality infrastructure will speed the path from research discovery to intervention strategies, helping to both prevent and treat diabetes in Oklahomans. There is clear evidence that an epidemic of diabetes is occurring in the United States, and Oklahoma ranks among the most severely affected states per capita. Almost 278,000 adult Oklahomans have diabetes, another 113,400 are estimated to have undiagnosed diabetes, and approximately 678,000 have some form of impaired glucose intolerance (pre-diabetes). Nearly 400,000 American Indians live in Oklahoma; they are more than twice as likely to have diabetes as non-Hispanic whites of similar age. Thus, the education and research efforts taking place at the Center are of unique and particular importance to the state's general population.
- **Authorization:** HRSA, Health Facilities and Services – Activities authorized by the Public Health Service Act.

- ***Disabled Veterans Entrepreneurship Program***

- **Organization:** Oklahoma State University
- **Amount Requested:** \$2,000,000
- **Purpose:** The funding for this project would be used by the Disabled Veterans Entrepreneurship Program (DVEP) to provide a unique approach to assisting disabled veterans from all service branches as they make the transition from the

military into the private sector as entrepreneurs. It will do so by providing innovative, experiential entrepreneurial training and opening the doors to business opportunities. DVEP is intense, rigorous, and challenging, focusing on the competencies associated with creating and sustaining an entrepreneurial venture, while concurrently coordinating efforts with the veteran's programs and services and with career assistance. DVEP is implemented in three phases, including: development of business concepts; basics of business ownership; and mentorship from entrepreneurship experts. The program covers all costs to the veteran, including transport, accommodation, meals, instruction, materials, and related expenses.

- **Justification:** The evidence suggests a strong positive association between military service and successful entrepreneurship, and veterans tend to be more likely than non-veterans to start businesses. Many veterans gain skills from active duty service that are directly relevant to business ownership, and together with the discovery that veteran business owners tend to create businesses that hire employees, there is high economic development value in supporting veteran owned businesses. There is also evidence to suggest that the barriers to entry are higher and access to quality entrepreneurial training programs more limited for veterans with service-related disabilities. Research suggests that service-disabled veterans need more business ownership skills in general, and that this group tends to have less business experience than non service-disabled veterans. Many disabled veterans do not know about small business training programs for veterans or for the general population, and would use them if made more readily available. The DVEP is designed to empower service disabled veterans. The DVEP helps make the transition from military life to the entrepreneurial world a successful one. It is intended for those veterans who are interested in starting a venture as a means to financial independence or have an existing business that he or she would like to grow profitability.
- **Authorization:** FIPSE - Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, Title VII, Part B; 20 U.S.C. 1138–1138d (Pub. L. 89-329, title VII, Sec. 741, as added Pub. L. 105-244, title VII, Sec. 701, Oct. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1796.) The Comprehensive Program is the main grant competition for FIPSE, and is designed to support innovative reform projects that hold promise as models for the resolution of important issues and problems in postsecondary education FIPSE works to reform and develop the post-secondary education system by encouraging innovative reform projects that would increase the quality of post-secondary education, and increase student access to post-secondary education.

- ***Energy Management Initiatives***

- **Organization:** Jenks Public Schools
- **Amount Requested:** \$2,000,000
- **Purpose:** Jenks Public Schools is seeking funding for additional digital control systems software and thermostats to automate and track usage for 23 buildings throughout the district. Currently, 10 out of 34 buildings use the digital control software.

- **Justification:** With the installation of this software and equipment in the district's remaining buildings, utility savings would be generated immediately. This would allow Jenks schools to remotely control the energy functionality and usage across the entire district. As a result of greater energy savings, the district will be able to provide more programs, which in turn creates more positions to prepare students to be productive citizens. With the district only having 10 of the 34 buildings currently using the direct control system software, the district has saved \$8,241,160 over the past 11 years.
  - **Authorization:** FIE - *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)*, as amended, Title V, Part D, Subpart 1, Secs.5411–5414; 20 *U.S.C.* 7243–7243c (Pub. L. 89-10, title V, Sec. 5414, as added Pub. L. 107-110, title V, Sec. 501, Jan. 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 1813.) FIE provides authority for the secretary of education to support nationally significant programs to improve the quality of elementary and secondary education at the state and local levels and to help all students meet challenging state academic content standards and student achievement standards. The types of projects that may be supported include: activities to promote systemic education reform at the state and local levels; programs at the state and local levels that are designed to yield significant results, including programs to explore approaches to public school choice and school-based decision-making; recognition programs; and scientifically based studies and evaluations of education reform strategies and innovations.
- **Improved Rural Nursing Education**
    - **Organization:** Redlands Community College
    - **Amount Requested:** \$550,000
    - **Purpose:** Funding for this project would be used for training equipment for the Bill S. Cole Nursing and Allied Health Building, including simulation technology. Redlands Community College (RCC) will serve as an educational resource and economic development engine to prepare quality healthcare providers in rural and community settings. This technology will increase access to multi-disciplinary teams at the rural hospital and clinic setting.
    - **Justification:** Rural hospitals are facing difficult issues in staffing, continuing education and financial constraints. Healthcare for rural Oklahomans is being impacted by a rapidly aging population combined with the closing of rural hospitals and clinics. Almost every hospital in Western Oklahoma will have difficulty in finding and retaining Registered Nurses and allied health professionals. The economic viability of rural Oklahoma depends on the ability to provide quality healthcare to its citizens. Redlands Community College strongly believes that the use of clinical simulation technology can increase access to nursing education and professional development in its services area and beyond. This project will allow RCC to enhance the clinical skills of rural healthcare workers, improve quality of care and patient safety through the use of Smart Nursing, and preserve rural clinics and hospitals by providing on-site professional development and increasing rural access to technology-based education. Improving the quality of the healthcare workforce in rural areas is vital to

economic development in rural Oklahoma and essential to the quality of life for its citizens.

- **Authorization:** FIPSE - Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, Title VII, Part B; 20 U.S.C. 1138–1138d (Pub. L. 89-329, title VII, Sec. 741, as added Pub. L. 105-244, title VII, Sec. 701, Oct. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1796.) The Comprehensive Program is the main grant competition for FIPSE, and is designed to support innovative reform projects that hold promise as models for the resolution of important issues and problems in postsecondary education FIPSE works to reform and develop the post-secondary education system by encouraging innovative reform projects that would increase the quality of post-secondary education, and increase student access to post-secondary education.

- ***North Tulsa Education Outreach Center***

- **Organization:** Tulsa Community College
- **Amount Requested:** \$525,000
- **Purpose:** Funding for this project would be used to move into an existing center in a racially diverse and economically challenged neighborhood in north Tulsa to serve individuals who seek to improve their education levels and job opportunities through higher education. The Tulsa Community College (TCC) Education Outreach Center will target populations underrepresented in higher education by providing immediate access to enrollment, academic and financial aid counseling in neighborhood areas to reduce traditional barriers posed by large education institutions. In addition, the Center provides 1) career counseling 2) financial aid resources 3) access to free computers for job seeking 4) an academic testing center 5) limited classroom space for ESL classes and basic computer classes 6) high school and community outreach and 7) mentors and links for individuals to the four major Tulsa Community College campuses.
- **Justification:** The standard of living increases as a state's per capita education level increases according to information compiled by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Oklahoma benefits both economically and socially as all sectors of our society advance to higher education with commensurate increases in economic levels and improved health, social and incarceration rates. This project is intended to increase access for first-generation college students (those whose parents did not attend college) and as a result is expected to increase the employability of individuals who use the Center. By placing small, efficient outreach centers in neighborhoods with a lower socioeconomic profile, there is an opportunity to enhance community outreach and provide access for individuals who may not have encouragement for college attendance. This successful model has already resulted in 527 credit enrollments for the 2009 academic year in the two short years the current center (in east Tulsa) has been in place.
- **Authorization:** FIPSE - Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, Title VII, Part B; 20 U.S.C. 1138–1138d (Pub. L. 89-329, title VII, Sec. 741, as added Pub. L. 105-244, title VII, Sec. 701, Oct. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1796.) The Comprehensive Program is the main grant competition for FIPSE, and is designed to support innovative reform projects that hold promise as models for the resolution of important issues and problems in postsecondary education FIPSE

works to reform and develop the post-secondary education system by encouraging innovative reform projects that would increase the quality of post-secondary education, and increase student access to post-secondary education.

- ***Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation Imaging Research Package***
  - **Organization:** Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF)
  - **Amount Requested:** \$1,000,000
  - **Purpose:** Funding for this project would be used to purchase imaging equipment to be utilized not only by OMRF, but by Oklahoma researchers studying a variety of diseases. The primary uses of this research package are (1) cardiovascular researchers seeking to understand the root causes of heart disease (2) protein experts developing new approaches to Alzheimer's disease and (3) immunologists exploring why, under certain circumstances, the body fails to make proper immune responses.
  - **Justification:** This equipment would solve a deficit at OMRF and in Oklahoma's research community. In the last few years, live cell imaging has become the primary focus of researchers. The ability to observe dynamic cellular events in real-time, as they occur, has allowed OMRF to begin answering questions thought to be unsolvable just a few years ago. With the number of seminars showing data obtained using live cell systems, investigators have realized the value such a system adds to their research. Advancements at OMRF and other Oklahoma research centers in the study of cancer, Alzheimer's, heart disease and autoimmune disorders such as lupus and rheumatoid arthritis depend upon Oklahoma's investment in state of the art equipment. This project will also create approximately 300 new permanent positions and an estimated 620 construction jobs.
  - **Authorization:** HRSA, Health Facilities and Services – Activities authorized by the Public Health Service Act.
  
- ***Porter Avenue Renovation Project - Cancer Management Center***
  - **Organization:** Norman Regional Health System
  - **Amount Requested:** \$2,000,000
  - **Purpose:** Norman Regional Health System (NRHS), a full service not-for-profit community health system in south central Oklahoma, would use the funding for this project for the continued renovation of the Porter Street Campus in Norman, Oklahoma. The funding received will be used to upgrade the cancer management center in order to create more space and advance the available patient treatment options which will improve patient outcomes and – with the addition of new technology - allow for a 60% increase in the number of patients the center can treat in any given year at lower cost.
  - **Justification:** The Cancer Management Center provides radiation oncology services to patients throughout south central Oklahoma, including many in rural areas. The current economic climate and pressures has the NRHS dedicating scarce resources to direct patient care. Given this situation, it is critical to the community that all patient care settings are operating at top capacity and that all services continue to be offered to our patients. In addition, as new and expanded

services come on line as a result of this funding request, and as NRHS' economic condition improves, NRHS will seek to fill non-essential positions that have been left vacant. The NRHS radiation oncology team is striving to be as accurate and precise as is possible. This request in part will fund the imaging technology capability to do real time CT, with the patient in the treatment position, which will greatly improve treatment accuracy and ultimately improves patient outcomes.

- **Authorization:** HRSA, Health Facilities and Services – Activities authorized by the Public Health Service Act.

- ***Proton Cancer Therapy Research and Education Center***

- **Organization:** Oklahoma State University (OSU)
- **Amount Requested:** \$2,000,000
- **Purpose:** Funding for this project would be used to help place Oklahoma at the forefront of proton cancer treatment by establishing a world-class, research and education center at OSU, in partnership with ProCure, in order to train accredited personnel in this next-generation cancer treatment modality. Scientists at the world-renowned Radiation Physics Laboratory at OSU have been conducting research in the characterization and monitoring of proton beams used in cancer therapy for over fifteen years. The OSU group has recently teamed with ProCure to establish a research and training program at OSU. The requested federal funding will build from the existing private funding to establish a leading national center of excellence.
- **Justification:** Establishing a proton therapy center in the middle of Oklahoma will be of major benefit to the citizens of this state and surrounding states. There are estimated to be over 250,000 cancer patients nationwide, and over 3,000 each year in a 250 mile radius of Oklahoma City. Many, if not most of these can benefit from proton radiation therapy. Studies have shown that almost 50% of people diagnosed with cancer lose their jobs within the first 12 months of the diagnosis. With a per capita annual income of \$25,000 in Oklahoma, this equates to an immediate negative impact of \$37,500,000 annually on Oklahoma families. Early and efficient treatment of cancers therefore has an important economic impact and long-term benefit to families and the wider community.
- **Authorization:** HRSA, Health Facilities and Services – Activities authorized by the Public Health Service Act.

- ***Rural Health Initiatives – Group Letter***

- **Purpose:** This letter asks for supports of the following national programs that play a critical role in the delivery of health care in rural settings but does not specify a dollar amount: National Health Service Corps (NHSC); Rural Health Outreach, Network Development and Telemedicine Grant Program; Rural Health Research Grant Program; Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program; Small Rural Hospital Performance Improvement Act; Rural Access to Emergency Devices Act; Office for the Advancement of Telehealth; State Offices of Rural Health; Consolidated Health Centers Programs; Rural EMS Grant Program; and Health Professions.

- **Justification:** Rural communities have a fragile health care infrastructure and these programs: place providers in rural, underserved areas; promote the use of telemedicine and other creative strategies to get health care to those in remote areas; provide research for ways to improve the facilities and delivery of services in rural areas; support Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) and State Offices of Rural Health; assist with technology to meet mandates and improve efficiencies; provide emergency devices; train health professionals; and help provide emergency services in rural areas.
- **STEM Advantage: Eastern Oklahoma**
  - **Organization:** Northeastern State University (NSU)
  - **Amount Requested:** \$1,000,000
  - **Purpose:** Funding is requested to enable the addition of STEM curricula to programming on the Broken Arrow Campus. The funds will be used for the initial acquisition of faculty, instructional support staff, and laboratory equipment to implement undergraduate programs in Chemistry, Computer Science, Biomedical Physics, Molecular Biology/Microbiology, Biotechnology, and Mathematics. Implementation of these programs will: address articulated degree programming commitments made to Tulsa Community College (TCC); help meet economic development and workforce needs of STEM industry within the greater Tulsa area; strengthen undergraduate pre-professional health programming in BA; and allow for developing post-baccalaureate pre-professional health and Masters-level science programs.
  - **Justification:** The two primary industries within the State of Oklahoma and the Tulsa/Broken Arrow area are the Aerospace industry and the Healthcare industry. Collectively, these industry clusters account or approximately 10% of the total employment within the state and contribute in excess of \$20 billion annually to the state's economy. Both industries require a highly skilled workforce emanating from education in STEM disciplines. An existing baccalaureate workforce shortage in physics, the biosciences, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, and engineering is not only of major concern, but at a 14 per cent annual growth rate is projected to be at crisis levels by 2014. In responding to this crisis, NSU has developed comprehensive articulation agreements with Tulsa Community College (TCC) and other two-year campuses within the region. Such "Smart Choice," collaborative, four-year degree programs have been designed to provide enhanced educational opportunities for developing the highly skilled workforce necessary to support the region's and state's primary industry clusters. The implementation of programming identified in this directed funding request will directly address that need and enable the University and region to support the continued economic development of the state. In addition, STEM Advantage: Eastern Oklahoma will generate approximately 200 graduates a year in STEM disciplines by 2015 to address the skill-level requirements of the Aerospace, Healthcare and other high-tech, science-based industries.
  - **Authorization:** FIPSE - Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, Title VII, Part B; 20 U.S.C. 1138–1138d (Pub. L. 89-329, title VII, Sec. 741, as added Pub. L. 105-244, title VII, Sec. 701, Oct. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1796.) The

Comprehensive Program is the main grant competition for FIPSE, and is designed to support innovative reform projects that hold promise as models for the resolution of important issues and problems in postsecondary education FIPSE works to reform and develop the post-secondary education system by encouraging innovative reform projects that would increase the quality of post-secondary education, and increase student access to post-secondary education.

- ***Seminole State College Health Sciences Training***

- **Organization:** Seminole State College (SSC)
- **Amount Requested:** \$500,000
- **Purpose:** Funding for this project would be used to expand existing nursing and health sciences department to provide mandated medical information technology training and to partner with area tribal entities on diabetes screening.
- **Justification:** Health care related fields are in dire need of trained professionals. New federal mandates on having medical office personnel trained to better utilize technology has created the need for additional types of training. SSC could be instrumental in training people for jobs in this area. Additionally, through training partnerships with area tribes, more training can be done in this field throughout the College's five-county service area. SSC has a proven history of providing excellent skilled nurses and medical laboratory technicians through its programs.
- **Authorization:** FIPSE - Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, Title VII, Part B; 20 U.S.C. 1138–1138d (Pub. L. 89-329, title VII, Sec. 741, as added Pub. L. 105-244, title VII, Sec. 701, Oct. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1796.) The Comprehensive Program is the main grant competition for FIPSE, and is designed to support innovative reform projects that hold promise as models for the resolution of important issues and problems in postsecondary education FIPSE works to reform and develop the post-secondary education system by encouraging innovative reform projects that would increase the quality of post-secondary education, and increase student access to post-secondary education.

- ***Saint Anthony Hospital Education Center***

- **Organization:** Saint Anthony Hospital
- **Amount Requested:** \$350,000
- **Purpose:** Funding for this project would be used for the construction of the St. Anthony Hospital Education Center. The new Education Center will have 15,000 square feet, and contain a variety of meeting spaces with new and appropriate audio-visual components. It will be used by patients, patients' families, St. Anthony employees, physicians and the community.
- **Justification:** Currently, St. Anthony Hospital's few existing education rooms are scattered throughout the campus. They are small, difficult for the public to access and pose extreme challenges for seating and audio-visual presentations. As a result, many of the community education offerings must be scheduled off campus. Specific uses of the new Education Center will include: Patients – Support groups, education and coping classes on medical conditions and diseases; Patients families – support groups, education and coping classes on medical conditions and diseases such as KIDLINK, a class for children who have a loved

one diagnosed with a life threatening-illness; Community Education – Stroke of Courage, Healthy Heart, etc. Lectureship Series; Community Use – space would be available for community meetings with minimal user fees; Physicians and Medical Staff – to keep the staff of St. Anthony Hospital current on the newest medical information.

- **Authorization:** HRSA, Health Facilities and Services – Activities authorized by the Public Health Service Act.

- ***SWOSU Nursing School Medical Equipment Funding***

- **Organization:** Southwestern Oklahoma State University
- **Amount Requested:** \$532,000
- **Purpose:** Funding for this project would help purchase nursing equipment needs for the SWOSU School of Nursing, including: simulation mannequins, task trainers and laboratory furnishings. SWOSU has already committed \$2.5 million for the renovation of an existing, unused campus building as the new home for the nursing program. Graduating majors would go to work for local hospitals, long-term care facilities, physicians offices, public health and home health agencies. The expansion of this program will allow about a 50% increase in additional students each year to be admitted to the program.
- **Justification:** The use of simulators brings many necessary factors to nursing education. It can offer a means of skill level assessment, improvement of competency, provision of training, increases learner confidence, and enables critical decision-making. Simulation can allow students to work in a team setting, building the foundation for collegial relationships. Each nursing student at SWOSU School of Nursing will be exposed to the equipment which, in turn, will strengthen the program as a whole and carry out the objectives of the curriculum. Most graduates of this program will remain in western Oklahoma where they are desperately needed. This new equipment will ensure the quality of education in the program and will also strengthen Oklahoma's nursing workforce. One of the greatest problems faced by nursing education in rural settings is adequate patient populations from which to gain nursing knowledge and skills during the two years of the professional program. The use of simulators can help alleviate the problem and bridge the educational gap for rural students.
- **Authorization:** FIPSE - Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, Title VII, Part B; 20 U.S.C. 1138–1138d (Pub. L. 89-329, title VII, Sec. 741, as added Pub. L. 105-244, title VII, Sec. 701, Oct. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1796.) The Comprehensive Program is the main grant competition for FIPSE, and is designed to support innovative reform projects that hold promise as models for the resolution of important issues and problems in postsecondary education FIPSE works to reform and develop the post-secondary education system by encouraging innovative reform projects that would increase the quality of post-secondary education, and increase student access to post-secondary education.

- ***Tulsa Public Schools Leadership***

- **Organization:** Tulsa Public Schools
- **Amount Requested:** \$1,000,000

- **Purpose:** Funding for this project would be used to provide leadership training to administrators and school leaders in the largest school district in the state of Oklahoma. This program will: increase student achievement and learning; create a leadership learning community which will attract, train, place, and evaluate a broader pool of highly qualified leader candidates; strengthen the abilities, skills and knowledge base of leaders/candidates; build on ideals ; provide continuous learning opportunities for school leaders; improve knowledge generation and sharing and; encourage and strengthen critical systematic thinking, flexibility, and experimentation.
- **Justification:** This project will include providing a safe, student centered learning environment which will encourage and promote student retention in high school, provide for more opportunities for students to enroll in postsecondary education, and ultimately, have a positive impact on the state's economy with students employed in the workforce.
- **Authorization:** FIE - *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)*, as amended, Title V, Part D, Subpart 1, Secs.5411–5414; 20 *U.S.C. 7243–7243c* (Pub. L. 89-10, title V, Sec. 5414, as added Pub. L. 107-110, title V, Sec. 501, Jan. 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 1813.) FIE provides authority for the secretary of education to support nationally significant programs to improve the quality of elementary and secondary education at the state and local levels and to help all students meet challenging state academic content standards and student achievement standards. The types of projects that may be supported include: activities to promote systemic education reform at the state and local levels; programs at the state and local levels that are designed to yield significant results, including programs to explore approaches to public school choice and school-based decision-making; recognition programs; and scientifically based studies and evaluations of education reform strategies and innovations.

- ***Vivarium Modernization***

- **Organization:** Dean McGee Eye Institute
- **Amount Requested:** \$1,000,000
- **Purpose:** Funding for this project would be used by the Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) to support continued vision and eye research, as the vivarium renovation and modernization is the last remaining portion of a Vision Sciences Building currently under construction. The new building includes 29,000 square feet of additional research space. Much of the research must progress to animal tests for next stage human application. The renovation of the vivarium will double the facility size, provide state-of-the-art specialized and humane housing for animals, and provide optimum efficiency for the scientists by placing them all in a single building. Other renovations to the existing facility are necessary to increase animal housing space, improve animal care and accommodate the necessary modern equipment to further DMEI's current research programs. These improvements are a critical part of a larger separately funded campaign to modernize and expand existing research facilities at the Institute.
- **Justification:** The Institute faces financial challenges in funding this project due to its unique position in Oklahoma. The Institute is both the principal trauma care

provider for eye trauma and the principal eye care provider for uninsured patients. DMEI is one of the largest ophthalmology institutes in the United States with 145,000 patient visits each year and provides a substantial amount of uncompensated care to indigent Oklahomans across the state, but does not receive state funding. The new facility, with the addition of the modern vivarium, will allow Oklahoma to continue to attract the talented research leaders who have made DMEI a highly regarded leader in this field. The vivarium modernization will help sustain research jobs and will provide the infrastructure necessary to support current investments and attract additional capital to the region. DMEI has been ranked among the leading vision research institutions in funding by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and has been the beneficiary of twelve (12) uninterrupted years of Unrestricted Grant support from Research to Prevent Blindness (the world's largest vision research foundation).

- **Authorization:** HRSA, Health Facilities and Services – Activities authorized by the Public Health Service Act.