

Fellowship Purpose: What is your genuine professional goal/problem of practice? Why is it important to address that goal/problem of practice?

The majority of my fourth-grade students have mentally disengaged from school as a result of the pandemic and having to learn solely online for over a year with very little peer interaction. With a 14.1 percent grade level proficiency (pooled average in reading and mathematics), these students are academically very far behind their peers from wealthier areas in the city.

Now, I also see little joy or energy for learning from my students. Sadly, when students are this far behind, there is more of a push and focus only on skills and the more boring minutiae of mathematics and reading education. There is little room allowed for exciting types of learning. I want to change this and bring the joy of learning back into my students' lives through Project Based Learning (PBL). I want to make learning more meaningful and spark a love for life-long learning. I also plan to build support for parents to be a part of this process in order to enhance the students' learning.

I have not had any professional development in PBL. It currently is not being implemented in our public charter school although my principal is very supportive of trying it. Though I know very little about PBL, I think that integrating goals in science, math, and literacy, while making learning relevant might bring more joy back to student learning. I want to spark curiosity in the students through active questioning and student choice.

Learning Plan: What is your learning plan?

This June I would like to attend two professional development experiences. The first, PBL Splash: An Introduction to PBL Design, is a 15-hour asynchronous, introductory course in designing and implementing PBL into the classroom. I will complete this course before June 23 when the second course occurs. The second, Parent Partnerships for PBL Success, is a one-day synchronous course. This course would help me build my knowledge and support my current prototype, Partnering with Parents, I am working on through the Nevada InspirED Global Fellowship.

I selected four educational books on PBL and on working with parents to support their child in education that I will read in June and July. I plan to select one of those books and purchase five additional copies for a book study within my school. (I would love to get a teacher from each grade level, K-5, to become a part of the book group.) I already have the permission and the desire of my principal to begin educating and implementing my Partnering with Parents prototype with the other educators at my school. How wonderful would it be to be able to implement PBL within our school and include families in a meaningful and effective way? By introducing PBL into our classrooms schoolwide, we could bring back an enthusiasm and a love for learning that is currently missing

Innovation Mindset: What strengths/assets will you bring to the Circle that will help you and your peers be successful in this Innovation Circle?

I came back into education through Teach for America (TFA) after staying home to raise my three children. Through TFA, I began collaborating with educators as I never had before. Interesting conversations, critical thinking, and questioning became a regular part of my educational life. I began using two of my favorite phrases ("What do you notice. . ." and "What do you wonder . . .") In the past, I hadn't considered questioning how or why we had done certain things. That was just how we had always done it. Now I am willing to think deeply about how and what I am teaching and am willing to question my techniques and processes. I am willing to make changes as necessary.

I am finishing up my year as an inaugural fellow in the Nevada InspirED Global Fellowship. As one of 14 InspirED fellows, we researched, collaborated, and designed different prototypes to improve problems we found in education. My prototype focused on family engagement. I worked with the other fellows designing, creating, and critiquing the various prototypes they designed. It is excellent to have "outside" eyes to look at our individual prototypes, ask questions, offer ideas, and provide support going through the entire process. I feel this opportunity has provided me with excellent experience in collaborating and working with other educators.

The Innovation Circle is a great fit for my work. I am passionate about making sure every child has an excellent opportunity to succeed through education. Both my PBL learning and possible work with families will help me create a classroom where all students can succeed.

Budget Narrative: Provide a brief narrative showing evidence of thoughtful planning and research supporting your specific itinerary.

Pricing for both online workshops was found on PBLMatters.org. The asynchronous course, PBL Splash: An Introduction to PBL Design, costs \$149 and the synchronous course on June 23, Parent Partnerships for PBL 3 / 5 Application Number: ICG21-142 Current Grade Level: Pre-K - 5th Grade, Current Teaching Assignment: History/Social Studies, Math, Science, ELL Success, costs \$99. In order to implement PBL into my classroom effectively, I would like to include two, one half hour PBL On Demand Coaching Sessions for \$50 per half-hour session. School starts at the beginning of August in our area. I envision having one coaching session in August and one in September.

Throughout June and July I plan on reading four books and selecting one of those books to do an in-depth book study with a teacher from each grade level, K-5, in our school. I would need to purchase five additional books to cover the cost for those teachers in the book study (approximately \$134.75 if the most expensive book is selected). The books I intend to purchase include Project Based Teaching: How to Create Rigorous and Engaging Learning Experience (\$24.69), Setting the Standard for Project Based Learning (\$19.21), PBL in the Elementary Grades (\$18.94), and Partnering With Parents in Elementary School Math: A Guide for Teachers and Leaders (\$26.95). This is a sub-total of \$572.54.

The total amount I am requesting from Fund for Teachers is \$572.54.