

**Have you gained a better insight into how to help students better understand, remember and reuse the information they read? Would you like to remain part of the group of professionals who have been learning together this past year? Then you need to re-apply to be a part of ESU #1 Project LIFE: Literacy Is For Everyone, Part 2.**

Who is eligible: Any 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in the ESU 1 service area.

This Renewal Application packet explains the materials that must be part of your application. Questions may be sent to [ahill@esu1.org](mailto:ahill@esu1.org) or you may contact Amy Hill at Educational Service Unit #1 at 402-287-2061.

Project LIFE 2 is supported by a grant from the Improving Teacher Quality: State Grants Program. The core partners include Wayne State College, Winnebago Public School, and the K-12 school districts served by Educational Service Unit #1. Project LIFE 2 is a continuation of training that focuses on improving student achievement in reading by working with middle level (grades 5-8) teachers, specifically in the areas of analyzing nonfiction text, vocabulary, questioning and reading comprehension.

At least **two** 5-8th grade teachers, in any content area from the same district need to participate, and each teacher must have the support of her/his school administration. Documentation of this support is provided by completing the **Administrative Support Form**.

Participants are expected to attend training on June 5, 2008 with Dr. Cathy Collins Block and John Mangieri in Norfolk, NE in addition to reading and reflection of professional resources. Reflection will involve on-line discussion using a wiki and blog. Teachers will participate in small learning communities to provide support and expertise to one another. Each teacher will design reading strategy lessons, examine student work, videotape lessons, be observed and observe peer teaching, engage in self-reflection and create personal action plans. Teachers will be required to be observed by and observe a peer teaching at least once a semester (in their district and/or outside the district). \*See additional summary highlighting Participant Requirements for Project LIFE 2.

There is no cost to the individual to attend the summer and school year training and follow-up. Materials, meals, contracted payments and substitute teacher expense will be covered by the grant.

If you are interested in continuing in this exciting opportunity, please complete the attached forms and return promptly. **Registration is limited.**

The completed Renewal Application and Administrative Support forms are due by **March 14, 2008** to:

Amy Hill, ESU #1  
211 Tenth Street  
Wakefield, NE 68784

## **Participant Requirements for Project LIFE, Part 2**

*This list may not be inclusive of all training and teacher responsibilities as a member of Project LIFE 2.*

As a participant in Project LIFE 2, you agree to the following commitments:

- Work collaboratively with at least one other teacher from your district and with colleagues from other districts.
- Plan, teach, observe and provide feedback on classroom lessons.
- Attend training on June 5, 2008 in Norfolk with presenters Dr. Cathy Collins Block and John Mangieri on Vocabulary Instruction.
- Attend additional training in the area of analyzing nonfiction text, vocabulary, questioning and/or reading comprehension strategies.
- Participate in a group project where you research and present one strategy.

In addition:

### Monthly: (Individually and in small learning teams)

Read, reflect and respond electronically to professional resources.

Plan and implement one lesson using strategies learned.

Select 3 students to monitor for student learning growth.

### Each semester:

Videotape one lesson and complete a self- reflection.

Observe a colleague teaching a strategy lesson in your own district in addition to outside your district. Complete an observations document.

Have a colleague observe your classroom teaching of a lesson.

## Teacher Renewal Application Cover Page

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ School Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade Level/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Average # Students per Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Years at current school: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years teaching \_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

(institution, year, major)

Graduate Education: \_\_\_\_\_

(institution, major, hours earned, degrees awarded)

Nebraska Educator License Endorsements: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in graduate credit if it were available? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Applicant Agreement: I understand that I am making a **commitment** to attend summer & school year training and play a leadership role in the area of reading in my school, district and ESU. I will engage in classroom-based observation and school-year feedback sessions, and I will cooperate with evaluators who may need to observe my class, interview me, or have access to the achievement data of my students.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Due Date:** This application is due **March 14, 2008 to Amy Hill, ESU #1**

**Project LIFE: Literacy Is For Everyone, Part 2 – Administrative Support  
Form: Teacher Renewal**

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

District/School \_\_\_\_\_

**District Superintendent/Principal's Agreement:**

I have reviewed the above named teacher's application to continue participation in the Project Life Grant training and I am pleased to indicate my support for this application. I understand that if this teacher is chosen to participate, my school and district's obligations will include:

- i) Providing the teacher-participant with release time (approximately 2 days per semester) necessary to attend courses, follow-up sessions and other programs and/or transportation;
- ii) Cooperating with the Project LIFE 2 instructors and evaluators who may need to observe classes in my school, interview me or teachers in my schools or to have access to student achievement data; and
- iii) Supporting my school's teacher-participant(s) in their efforts to engage in research-based teaching methodologies to improve literacy instruction and learning in our school.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please submit with the Teacher Application Cover Page – Due March 14, 2008**