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Special Education Consultant, STEM Curriculum Adaptation REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

BACKGROUND:

America On Tech (AOT) and STEM Preparatory Schools (STEM Prep) announced a strategic alliance that will support 21st century learning for students with disabilities at STEM Prep in 9th and 11th grade through STEM learning labs. This work is supported by the [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Charter Students with Disabilities Pilot Community Initiative](#). Ninety-one percent of the students served in this pilot community of 10 CMOs are Black or Latinx, and 83% live in low-income households.

According to the foundation, 1 in 5 children in the U.S. have learning and attention issues and only 20% of students with disabilities nationally score at proficient levels on state assessments. Further, on average, fewer than 70% earn a high school diploma within four years.

The strategic alliance between AOT and STEM Prep will continue over the course of three years and will take AOT's current digital media and web development curriculum and adapt it to the needs of students enrolled in STEM Prep's special education program. The year-long digital media course will be adapted for 9th grade students and the year-long web development course will be adapted for 11th grade students. Each course will have a strong focus on targeting an increase in ELA and Math skills and will provide accommodations to ensure the success of student learning.

WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

AOT and STEM Prep are seeking an independent consultant that can help us deeply embed and utilize special education practices in the adaptation of both year-long curriculums. The consultant will:

- Develop and adapt:
 - 2 STEM Learning Lab curriculums for 9th and 11th grade students
 - Accommodations and supplemental materials to ensure basic digital literacy
- Create a detailed Y2 Timeline for development of curriculum and materials
- Create a detailed plan for the approach of executing the Digital Media Lab and Web Development and Design Lab curriculum and supplemental materials for students with Disabilities
- Draft a pilot plan for the Digital Media Lab and the Web Development and Design Lab
- Draft a pilot plan for accommodations and supplemental materials in IED
- Conduct school visit to STEM Prep (pending social distancing guidelines due to COVID-19)
- Meet with the curriculum working group quarterly to present and receive feedback on the curriculum and supplemental material development
- Work with STEM Prep to execute school visits that support the development of curriculum and materials
- Facilitate ongoing check-ins with STEM Prep / AOT to plan for next steps, provide status updates, and receive feedback
- Obtain feedback from pilot activities (teacher data, observation feedback)

PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

In your proposal we would like you to address the following elements:

- Background
 - Describe your experience and areas of strength.
 - Provide the names, titles and experience of the staff we would be working with.
 - What you most look forward from working with our students
 - If you/ your firm were a song title, what would it be and why?
- Strategic Approach
 - Describe your approach in:
 - Adapting curriculum for students with special needs
 - Utilizing practices around equity and inclusion in curriculum development
 - Measurement and Impact
 - Please explain your approach to measuring the impact and effectiveness of the strategies you have implemented with past clients.
 - A case study or examples would be appreciated, even if items need to be generalized to protect confidentiality.
 - Compensation
 - Please submit a proposed fee that reflects the scope of work of your proposal.
 - An hourly rate would be welcomed
 - Client References
 - Please submit at least three references among current or past clients including, name, company, phone number and email address.

Application deadline: Friday, September 18, 2020.

Targeted start date: October 2020.

Submit your proposal here: <https://www.americaontech.org/spedconsultantrfp.html>