

Q9285

Vendor Questions

1. What is the specific role of UNI in the Work-Based Learning (WBL) Policy Academy?

ANSWER: UNI is the institutional home of the operations center for the Governor's STEM Advisory Council. As such, business forms and documents such as invoices, payments, receipts, and so on are routed through UNI's business office. But the direct responsibility and accountability for this project will be to and with the operations staff of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council.

2. Who will be the assigned point person(s) working directly with the selected agency?

ANSWER: Executive Director of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council, Dr. Jeff Weld.

3. Do you consider the Future Ready Iowa initiative to have met its stated objectives? Why or why not?

ANSWER: The Future Ready Iowa initiative springs from a previous grant from the National Governor's Association to Iowa, a Talent Pipeline Policy Academy grant that runs through 2016. By the grants conclusion, its objectives are likely to be met.

4. Can you share any specific insights or data gained by UNI through its role in the Future Ready Iowa initiative that will be important to the WBL initiative?

ANSWER: UNI is not directly involved in the Future Ready Iowa Initiative. Thus there is not data or insight from that perspective to provide. The Governor's STEM Advisory Council is heavily involved with the Future Ready Iowa initiative and expects that the awarded agency for this WBL RFP will conduct background research sufficient for integrating WBL work with goals and processes set forth by the NGA's Talent Pipeline Policy Academy.

5. Will Future Ready Iowa still conclude in June 2016, even though it appears that it only launched in Aug. 2015 with several roundtable events?

ANSWER: Yes, formal work on setting goals, policies, and mechanisms for realizing the objectives of Future Ready Iowa will be complete in summer, 2016, though the work required for achieving those objectives will be ongoing.

6. Will UNI's Ben Gillig continue to play a role in the WBL initiative? If yes, what will that role be?

ANSWER: Roles for individual Iowans to serve the WBL initiative have yet to be defined.

7. Is there an agency with incumbent experience supporting Future Ready Iowa? Or supporting UNI on work-based initiatives?

ANSWER: Agencies involved in supporting Future Ready Iowa include the Iowa Economic Development Authority, the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Workforce Development, the Governor's STEM Advisory Council, and others. Issuers of this RFP are not aware of agencies with incumbent experience supporting UNI on work-based initiatives.

8. Is there any preference given to Minority or Women Owned Businesses?

ANSWER: There is no preference given. Please see the University of Northern Iowa's Purchasing Guidelines.

9. What is the fee budget allocated to this assignment?

ANSWER: Consider a range of upward to \$50,000 or perhaps as low as \$10,000, depending on the plan.

10. How will the selected agency coordinate (if at all) with related Iowa initiatives such as Elevate Iowa and the EDGE 75x25 campaign?

ANSWER: Coordination with other, overlapping initiatives will be an expectancy and responsibility of the selected agency, working closely with the executive director, Governor's STEM Advisory Council.