

Applicant: Marshalltown CSD – NC Region

Email address:

efinders@marshalltown.k12.ia.us

Name of Individual Submitting Application:

Erica Finders

Executive Summary

In 500 words or less, summarize the school district's, non-public school system's or accredited, stand-alone non-public school's vision for your Computer Science is Elementary initiative.

As indicated in the Strategic Action Plan, Marshalltown Community School District (MCSD) is “determined to accelerate achievement for all students and minimize disparities among all groups of students by delivering research-based, best-practice instructional strategies and programs consistently throughout the district.” One strategy to reach this goal is to “place renewed focus on further enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) educational opportunities & experiences for all students.” Marshalltown has positioned itself as a visionary leader in STEM programming and the award of the Computer Science is Elementary grant will allow for continued leading-edge work.

As the Computer Science Teachers Association states, “To be well-educated citizens in a computing-intensive world and to be prepared for careers in the 21st century, our students must have a clear understanding of the principles and practices of computer science.” To this end, MCSD has been introducing the fundamentals of computer science to elementary students for the past two years. Currently, MCSD provides computer science instruction to all K-4 students. The vision is to build upon this introductory instruction by continuing direct instruction of computer science at Lenihan Intermediate School with all of Marshalltown’s fifth and sixth grade students. The intention is to deepen learning by asking students to apply what they have learned with projects in their math, science, literacy, social studies, and fine arts classes. Through this structure, students will deepen their understanding of core content while building what PLTW Launch identifies as attitudes that are essential to computational thinking:

- Confidence dealing with complexity
- Persistence in working with difficult problems
- Tolerance for uncertainty
- Recovery from failure
- Ability to logically formulate solutions to open-ended problems
- Ability to communicate and collaborate with others to achieve common objectives

The plan of direct instruction with application to core content will help students to see that computer science is an integral part of all content areas as well as many careers. According to the website for NewBoCo, designated provider of Code.org Professional Learning Programs in Iowa, “The State of Iowa averages over 4,000 open computing jobs, but only 364 computer science graduates in 2015. Careers are available in chemical, insurance, agricultural, financial, and educational sectors, among

many more.” In addition, according to the Future Ready Iowa initiative, Information Technology is a High-Demand Occupation for 2019. As stated on the “Future Ready Iowa Fact Sheet,” “Iowa’s ability to overcome skill gaps depends on aligning the priorities of state agencies and providers of education and training services to the needs of Iowa employers.” Marshalltown has been working on this for several years, and implementation of this grant at Lenihan would allow for even more.

Marshalltown has a history of strong partnerships with the local business community and the application for this grant has already been met with support from the local PLTW Partnership Team. Lenihan plans to partner with Mechdyne for this grant. Mechdyne is a leader in the technology industry and Lenihan’s work with them through this grant process will be invaluable.

Demographics

Points Awarded: / 10

10 points

What is the name of the district, system or stand-alone non-public school making the application?
Marshalltown Community School District

What is the name of elementary school(s) that will participate in Computer Science is Elementary?
Lenihan Intermediate School

What grades does the participant building(s) serve?
5th and 6th Grades

Provide the name, email address and phone number of the primary lead for the application.
Lisa Stevenson, l Stevenson@marshalltown.k12.ia.us, 641-754-1000

Provide the name, email address and phone number of the fiscal agent or business manager who will handle reimbursement if awarded.
Paulette Newbold, pnewbold@marshalltown.k12.ia.us, 641-754-1000

In what STEM region is the district/system/stand-alone non-public school located? (<https://iowastem.gov/regions>)
North Central STEM Region

Based on Student Reporting in Iowa (SRI) Oct. 1, 2018, reporting, what percentage of students in the participating elementary school(s) are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch?
80.23%

Based on SRI Oct. 1, 2018, reporting, what percentage of students in participating elementary school(s) are underrepresented populations in the field of computer science (African-American, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander)?

Based on SRI October 1, 2018 reporting, 56.68% of the students at Lenihan are Hispanic, 3.64% of the students are African-American, 0.67% of the students are American Indian/Alaskan, and 0.13% are Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Overall, 61.12% of the students are from under-represented populations in the field of computer science.

Goals and Measurements

Points Awarded: / 20

20 points

What are the measurable goals for the Computer Science is Elementary initiative in the district/system/stand-alone non-public school?

One hundred percent of students at Lenihan will gain foundational computer science knowledge, skills, attitudes, and talents that will position them for future school, work, and life success beginning in September of 2019.

During the 2019-2020 school year, 100% of students at Lenihan will be provided with direct instruction in coding and experiences for coding application in math and science classes.

During the 2020-2021 school year, 100% of students at Lenihan will be provided with direct instruction in coding. Experiences for coding application will continue in math and science and be extended into literacy, social studies, and fine arts.

How do these goals tie to the larger district/system/stand-alone non-public school goals, mission, and vision?

The district's mission is to develop learners who have the knowledge, skills, and positive mindset to successfully pursue a meaningful future through personalized learning experiences. Computer science instruction is one way to prepare students for the future, knowing that most jobs will require knowledge of computer science skills. Additionally, the plan to provide opportunities for students to apply their learning in core content areas will allow for personalized learning experiences.

Our district's Strategic Action Plan also aligns to the focus of this grant. Goal 1 under Student Achievement (Culture of Excellence/Pride) reads, "MCSD will accelerate achievement for all students and minimize disparities among all groups of students by delivering research-based, best practice instructional strategies and programs consistently throughout the district." One specific strategy identified to meet this goal is: "Renewed focus on further enhancing (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) educational opportunities & experiences for all students." This is why the grant application includes a way for ALL 5th and 6th grade students to participate in computer science instruction and application opportunities. There is a carefully planned implementation to involve all students, aligned with the belief that equitable learning experiences must be provided at MCSD and MCSD strives to do so. MCSD's vision of "preparing ALL learners, through an unparalleled culture of excellence, to be productive and engaged citizens in a diverse world" makes this belief clear as well.

This project also ties tightly to the district's Digital Learning Plan (DLP). Indicated in the DLP are goals for future work. One of these goals directly relates to the work outlined in this grant application and to the work already in place in Marshalltown schools. The DLP states, "Computer science and coding will be a part of the educational experience of all students. Students in grades five through six will have time allocated in their schedule to learn about computer science and develop coding skills that can be connected to content-related activities. Students in grade eight will have this opportunity through required Project Lead the Way curriculum. Continued use of coding programming will occur in grades prekindergarten through four and in elective courses at the high school level. This will ensure that all students going through the MCSD educational system will have exposure to computer science and can further pursue those career paths in high school."

How will the district/system/stand-alone non-public school measure the success of the plan using student data, with an emphasis on achievement and engagement?

The most exciting plan to measure success is through an end-of-year Showcase Event. This event will take place during the school day and include parents and community members. At the Showcase, students will be able to demonstrate their talent by presenting a project of their choice from all the coding work they have done throughout the school year. This will enable the event to include a wide array of projects and give students choice in what they would like to share with others.

A second plan to monitor success is through the use of ongoing Instructional Practices Inventory (IPI) data collection. This data is collected three times per school year and focuses on how students are engaging cognitively in classroom activities. Several years ago, the district added the IPI-Technology Component to the data collection. This expands the basic IPI process, helping teachers understand student cognitive engagement for all students in the class and more specifically for students using technology in support of their learning. The goal is that the IPI data will show an increase in engagement when students are interacting with technology.

In addition, MCSD anticipates seeing an increase in students' aReading and aMath scores which are part of the Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST). Students take these tests three times per year. Computer science is engaging for students and builds computational thinking. Due to this, comparing our past years' data to data during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years should indicate a positive impact on our students' aReading and aMath scores.

MCSD plans to give Lenihan students a pre- and post-survey related to their attitudes toward coding and computational thinking. This will be yet one more way to quantify the impact that computer science instruction has on MCSD's students.

Finally, MCSD will see an increase in the number of students enrolling at Marshalltown High School in the PLTW Computer Science courses as well as the Advanced Place

Plan

Points Awarded: / 40

40 points

Describe how the plan will be launched or built upon an existing computer science education in the proposed participating elementary school(s).

The plan is to have computer science instruction implemented with every fifth and sixth grade student at Lenihan Intermediate. The inclusion of computer science instruction at Lenihan will complete the K-12 system of providing these opportunities for students. In all of the elementary schools, instruction in computer science begins in kindergarten and continues through fourth grade. The district utilizes the computer science module provided at each grade level through the PLTW Launch curriculum for

the instruction at the elementary level. Through these modules, kindergarten through second grade students use ScratchJr, while third and fourth graders use Tynker. At Miller Middle School, all students engage in the PLTW Gateway module titled App Creators, which allows them to build upon their K-4 instruction through app development and use of the MIT App Inventor development tool. Marshalltown High School offers computer science courses in which the primary platform used is Python. Currently, Marshalltown students have a two-year gap in their computer science instruction at fifth and sixth grade. Implementation of computer science through the Computer Science is Elementary grant at Lenihan will complete our K-12 system.

Impact

Sub-Section Points Awarded: / 10

What is the plan for computer science instruction by July 1, 2020?

Computer science instruction will be implemented with every fifth and sixth grade student at Lenihan Intermediate by July 1, 2020.

Does the plan build on existing computer science instruction or launch a first-time initiative?

The inclusion of computer science instruction at Lenihan will complete the K-12 system of providing these opportunities for all MCSD students. In all six of the elementary schools, instruction in computer science begins in kindergarten and continues through fourth grade. Teachers use the computer science module provided at each grade level through the PLTW Launch curriculum for the instruction at the elementary level. Through these modules, kindergarten through second grade students use ScratchJr, while 3rd and 4th graders use Tynker. When students reach Miller Middle School, they engage in the PLTW Gateway module titled App Creators, which allows them to build upon their K-4 instruction through app development and use of the MIT App Inventor development tool. Marshalltown High School offers computer science courses in which the primary platform used is Python. Currently, Marshalltown students have a two-year gap in their computer science instruction and implementation at Lenihan will complete the K-12 system.

Will computer science be integrated into other subjects or delivered as a stand-alone discipline?

The plan is to begin instruction with both grade levels at Lenihan in the first year. Direct instruction of computer science will occur once every six days as part of the "specials" rotation. Application of this knowledge will be integrated into core subjects through at least one project in each core subject, which include math, science, literacy, social studies, and fine arts. The goal for fifth and sixth graders at Lenihan is to integrate coding into the entire day. Additionally, the plan includes expansion of the current after-school intramural program to include a coding opportunity available to all students.

What grade level(s) of students and teachers will be included initially?

MCSD will be implementing with all students at Lenihan in the first year. This includes every fifth and sixth grader in the Marshalltown Community School District.

What is the plan for expansion to all students in all grades in your school?

The plan is to have every student participating from the genesis of the program. The expansion plan will focus on creating additional opportunities to tie the computer science instruction into application in core classes and also integrate this with fine arts programming. Additionally, MCSD plans to expand the current after-school intramural program to include a coding opportunity available to all students.

Curriculum

Sub-Section Points Awarded: / 10

What is the plan to identify, revise or write high-quality computer science curriculum aligned to the Iowa Computer Science Standards, 21st Century Skills, Universal Constructs and career exploration?

The district has already spent time considering computer science curriculum that would be a strong fit at Lenihan. Due to the prior computer science implementation at the elementary levels, the district has been working toward including this instruction at Lenihan for several years. Through research, MCSD has determined that the Computer Science Fundamentals: Express course offered through Code.org will provide the direct instruction the students at Lenihan will need. This course incorporates all the core concepts from the elementary school curriculum Computer Science Fundamentals, including computational thinking, problem-solving, programming concepts and digital citizenship, but at an accelerated pace designed for older students. The curriculum was created with the 2017 Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) standards (which are also the Iowa Computer Science Standards) in mind, but also includes opportunities to support national Math, English Language Arts, and Science standards. Students create their own games, art, and digital stories all while developing problem-solving, collaboration, persistence, and computational thinking skills.

Half of the lessons are "unplugged" activities that teach computational thinking and digital citizenship skills without computers. An additional benefit to this curriculum is that it includes videos within specific lessons that highlight careers that are available in the computer science field as potential future career opportunities. In addition, the Code.org website houses a tool that teachers can use to find volunteers who are willing to video chat with students about their career field. The plan is to utilize this course with both fifth and sixth graders during the first year of implementation as a required "specials" course so that all students can experience computer science learning and then apply that learning in math and science classes that same school year. In subsequent years, the district will include K-12 computer science curriculum in the regular curriculum adoption schedule per board policy to ensure identification of high-quality resources as well as needed revisions and edits.

During the second year of implementation, the plan includes use of the Code.org materials with fifth graders and implementing a PLTW Launch computer science module with sixth graders. In the PLTW module titled Infection: Modeling and Simulation, students discover how modeling and simulation provide powerful insight into complex systems. As they engage in building their own simple computer models, they come to understand the indispensable role computers play in helping scientists study systems through modeling and simulation. The module begins with a game in which students act as agents in an illness transmission simulation. Students then observe a computer model in action when they run a SIS (susceptible-infected-susceptible) simulation on tablets. Running multiple simulations with different parameters helps students to build understanding about how different conditions affect the system. Students next dive into computer programming while building a game on a tablet. They extend these new skills by building a predator-prey ecosystem model and simulation. The final problem challenges students to create their own SIS model to investigate how hand washing affects the spread of an illness in a classroom. Students learn that technology makes it possible for humans, and specifically scientists and public health professionals, to accomplish things that would be impossible, or at least very time consuming, without the help of computers. This module is aligned to the Iowa Core Computer Science, Math, and Science standards.

In all of the work with computer science at Lenihan, the focus will be on many of the fifth and sixth grade 21st century skills. In the area of technology literacy, students will use technology resources to create original products, identify patterns and problems, make predictions, and propose solutions and use interactive technologies in a collaborative group to produce digital presentations or products in a curricular area. This work also allows students to practice and demonstrate the five employability skills at the fifth and sixth grade level, including communicating and working productively with others and adapting and adjusting to roles and responsibilities.

The Iowa Core Universal Constructs of critical thinking, complex communication, creativity, collaboration, flexibility and adaptability, and productivity and accountability are also present in the daily learning students will be doing, and will be highlighted during our Annual Showcase Event where students will present a project they have worked on during the school year.

Professional Learning

Sub-Section Points Awarded: / 10

What is the plan for professional learning in years one (fiscal year 2020) and two (fiscal year 2021), including participants, providers, timeline, instructional pedagogy, curriculum connections, alignment to Iowa standards and school community/employer partner connections?

During the 2019-20 school year, the plan is to provide training aligned with the tenets of the Iowa Professional Development Model for all teachers at Lenihan on the Code.org curriculum. While the direct instruction in this curriculum will be provided by one person who will teach all the students, it is important for all teachers to have the knowledge necessary to support what the students will be learning, so they are better able to connect this learning to application activities within the core classrooms. This full-day training provided by an experienced computer science facilitator through Code.org will provide teachers with an introduction to computer science and pedagogy, an overview of the online curriculum, including its alignment to Iowa Core Computer Science, Math, Science, and Literacy standards, a printed curriculum guide containing course lesson plans, and strategies for teaching "unplugged" classroom activities. Ongoing professional learning around the fundamentals of computer science and its ties to the Iowa Core 21st Century Skills and Universal Constructs will also be provided during monthly full-day professional development sessions. In addition, teachers will spend professional development time learning more about the Creative Coding strand of BrainPop, which all Lenihan teachers have access to, as this is one of the tools for integration of the computer science work into core content areas.

During the 2020-21 school year, PLTW Launch Core Training will be provided for the computer science teacher, so he or she is certified to teach the computer science module from this curriculum. This two-day interactive training is provided by the MCSD team of three district employees who are all PLTW Launch Lead Teachers certified to provide the training. In-district professional learning will be provided to give all teachers a walk-through of the module so they will experience what students will be learning and will be asked to do. Continued learning for all teachers on the tools that can be used to provide application activities in their core classes and strategies to tie content learning with computer science will also be provided during year two.

External professional learning opportunities for Lenihan's classroom teachers, PLTW teacher, instructional coaches, and administrators have also been included in the plan. Over the course of two school years, teams of teachers will be able to expand their knowledge and skills as well as network with others through attendance at conferences like ITEC in the fall and Iowa 1:1 in the spring in Des Moines as well as the PLTW regional summit in Kansas City. Additionally, Lenihan teacher teams will be able to visit Sioux City to learn from their teachers as well as collaborate with the other five new computer immersion schools. All of these professional learning opportunities will give teachers time to review data, study best practices, implement new learning strategies and tools, and reflect which are all part of the greater Iowa Professional Development Model (IPDM).

MCSD has a strong track record for supporting teachers with professional development related to new initiatives, which in turn has led to strong fidelity of implementation. One of the many examples of this is the recent implementation of ST Math in all seven of the K-6 buildings. In an Executive Briefing from MIND Research/ST Math following the first year of implementation, it was stated,

“Marshalltown’s fidelity score is 1.5/2.0, which is very good. MIND Research DATA places that score around the top 12% of all MIND elementary K-6 schools in the nation.” MCSD is confident that the implementation of computer science at Lenihan will be just as successful.

Community Engagement

Sub-Section Points Awarded: / 10

How will the community be engaged?

The Marshalltown Business Education Alliance (MBEA) is one example of current engagement of the PK-14 education and business community. Mechdyne has agreed to have one of their business leaders serve on this committee as part of their commitment toward a stronger collaborative partnership with the school district. This alliance was originally formed in 2011 and its mission and goals are very closely aligned to the Governor’s Future Ready goals of:

1. Identify and scale effective early academic and career development and delivery approaches so all students are prepared for a changing world
2. Expand high-quality work-based learning experiences in high-demand fields and careers for all students, particularly traditionally underrepresented students.
3. Develop a grassroots strategy to engage the business community, sector boards, regional workforce boards, STEM regions, and other regional collaborations to align with Alliance recommendations

Currently there is also an active Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Partnership Team, chaired by Mike Pedersen of Iowa State University, which includes members from STEM-centered businesses in Marshalltown as well as district parents, teachers, school board members, instructional coaches, curriculum leaders, and administrators. Ideas from this grant application have been shared with this team and have received support for the inclusion of computer science instruction at Lenihan. Due to the existing relationship with Mechdyne employees serving on the Partnership Team, Mechdyne has agreed to be the community/employer collaborative partner for Lenihan’s implementation of computer science.

Mechdyne has also agreed to be part of the Computer Science and Communications day at MCSD’s 2nd Annual Teacher Externship Academy Program in August 2019. This program is designed to provide local teachers with a greater understanding of the knowledge, skills, talents, and attributes necessary to attain successful employment within the various job sectors and businesses in Marshall County. Following the externship, teachers are charged with taking what they have learned and integrating it within their existing curriculum to support MCSD’s Bobcat College and Career Ready! efforts.

Mechdyne will be collaboratively involved on a committee to focus on Lenihan’s implementation of the grant and will provide their guidance, expertise, and support toward the ongoing development and refinement of the District’s Digital Learning Plan.

How will parents and a broader stakeholder group be involved in planning and implementation of the Computer Science is Elementary initiative?

In addition to the PLTW Partnership Team and Marshalltown Business Education Alliance mentioned above, Lenihan also plans to form a Computer Science Leadership Team. This team will include teachers, administrators, and instructional coaches who will plan for the integration of coding into core content areas. Parents and community members, including Mechdyne employees, will be invited to join this team at minimum twice per year to provide input on the work done thus far and also on plans for future implementation. This group will also plan the annual Showcase Event, at which Mechdyne

employees will be present to discuss with students about their projects and provide other support for the event.

Who are or will be the community/employer partner(s) and what is the shared vision for engagement?

Mechdyne seemed a natural fit to partner with Lenihan for this project. As their website states, "We've grown to become the world's premier provider of advanced audiovisual and information technologies (AV/IT), software, and service while providing clients around the globe with hardware and software solutions that creatively and thoroughly meet their needs - delivering it all with an unsurpassed reputation for high-level customer service. We help drive innovation in industries ranging from oil and gas to biotechnology, education to the military. As we merge the best ideas in engineering, system design, and software and hardware integration, we create innovative solutions."

The shared vision for engagement currently is to have Mechdyne employees join the Lenihan Computer Science Leadership Team and attend the annual capstone student Showcase Event, knowing that throughout the planning year the goal is to determine more specific, meaningful, and mutually beneficial ways to collaboratively partner in this work. As evidenced by successful partnerships with the business community for many years, MCSD knows that Lenihan's partnership with Mechdyne will continue to evolve and grow in future years.

All applicants must have at least one community/business partner. Please include at least one signed letter of commitment (in PDF format) on employer letterhead from a community/business partner. Up to 10 employer letters may be added. This must be done in order for the application to be considered complete.

Budget

Points Awarded: / 20

20 points

Please include the amount and a brief explanation of the use of funds per cost category not to exceed \$50,000 over two years. Allowable expenditures may include the following categories:

| Budget Category | Total Request | Year 1 | Explanation of Funds | Year 2 | Explanation of Funds |
|---|---------------|--------------|---|--------------|---|
| Professional Learning | \$ 10,200.00 | \$ 10,200.00 | Funds will be used to send teachers to the annual Iowa Technology and Education Connection (ITEC) Fall Conference and the annual Iowa 1:1 Institute, both held in Des Moines. Funds will also be used to send staff members to the PLTW Summit in Kansas City | \$ - | |
| Curriculum Development | \$ 23,550.00 | \$ 10,400.00 | Funds will be used to pay teacher team to meet to create computer science projects that will integrate the learning students are doing with math and science content | \$ 13,150.00 | Funds will be used to pay teacher team to meet to create computer science projects that will integrate the learning students are doing with literacy, social studies, and fine arts content. Funds will also be used to pay for the \$750 annual PLTW Launch fee. |
| Site Visits | \$ 5,200.00 | \$ 2,600.00 | Funds will be used to send teacher teams, administrators, and instructional coaches to visit Loess Hills Elementary School in Sioux City. | \$ 2,600.00 | Funds will be used to send teacher teams, administrators, and instructional coaches to visit Loess Hills Elementary School in Sioux City. |
| District Costs | \$ 6,700.00 | \$ 6,700.00 | Funds will be used to purchase a laptop and cart for the computer science teacher. Funds will also support purchase of supplies for use in computer science classes. | \$ - | |
| Staffing Support | \$ 4,000.00 | \$ 2,000.00 | Funds will be used to pay a stipend for implementation of an after school coding intramural opportunity for students | \$ 2,000.00 | Funds will be used to pay a stipend for implementation of an after school coding intramural opportunity for students |
| Other | | | | | |
| TOTAL: | \$ 49,650.00 | \$ 31,900.00 | | \$ 17,750.00 | |
| TOTAL VERIFICATION: | \$ 49,650.00 | | | | |
| (Formula Written to Sum totals from Year 1 and 2) | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Cost Sharing (may include in-kind or cash from partners or other education funding streams)

Anticipated cost share over the two-year funding period.

Year 1 anticipated cost share (in dollars). Please provide a brief explanation.

Year 2 anticipated cost share (in dollars). Please provide a brief explanation.

The expectation for the Computer Science is Elementary award is that the plan uses primarily existing school revenue sources to execute a plan. After year two of the award, what is the plan for sustainability using existing or any additional funding sources?

One of the major categories for expenses will be for professional development for teachers in the form of attending conferences and visiting Loess Hills Elementary School in Sioux City. The rest of the training will be provided by the district as part of the existing system for professional development. Code.org training is provided free of charge and the plan is to train Lenihan teachers during an already-scheduled professional development day. The district also has a system in place to provide PLTW Launch training to teachers. There is a team of three teacher leaders who are all trained PLTW Launch Lead Teachers who are certified to train additional teachers to use this curriculum. That training will also occur on regular contract time. Once these training have been provided to teachers, the cost of onboarding new teachers will be minimal and will be built into the district professional development system.

The bulk of the spending will be on development of computer science standards-aligned curriculum that will tie students' computer science learning to core content areas. During the first year, teams of teachers will be meeting together to create projects that students will complete in math and science. The following year, teams will create projects linked to literacy, social studies, and fine arts. Once these projects are created, there will be built-in capacity for teachers to continue this work within the existing systems for curriculum enhancement and refinement.

One of the ongoing expenses listed above is the affiliation fee for Project Lead the Way. In future years, this will be paid for from the district K-12 PLTW budget. Also, there are supplies, a device, and a cart that are needed for this new staff member that will be paid for from the Lenihan school budget moving forward when those need to be replaced. Lastly, the stipend for the intramural coding sponsor position will also become part of the Lenihan staffing budget like other intramural sponsors.

Computer Science is Elementary Model Network

Points Awarded: / 10

10 points

To be eligible for the award, participation in the Computer Science is Elementary Model Network is necessary. By checking this box, the district/system/stand-alone non-public school is willing to participate in a Computer Science is Elementary Model Network including, but not limited to, hosting visits and sharing best practices, challenges, opportunities and successes with colleagues across the state.

I agree



March 22, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

The intent of this letter is to inform you that Mechdyne (Marshalltown, Iowa) is excited and proud to announce our desire to collaboratively partner with, support and highly endorse Lenihan Intermediate School (grades 5-6) and the Marshalltown Community School District's application for the "Computer Science is Elementary project" with the mission to transform Lenihan into an exemplary Iowa model of innovative computer science instruction.

We view this mutually beneficial partnership as a perfect fit for our company's community contribution and outreach program which is designed to enhance the quality of life by serving communities in which we live, which has a particular emphasis on supporting organizations that help people access resources to improve and enrich their lives. Two of our company priorities; in this regard, are to support education and youth, especially those who are disadvantaged in some way.

Mechdyne is a broad-based technology partner serving a global client base of some of the world's most famous organizations including leading university and research centers, energy, aerospace, manufacturing, and medical organizations as well as elite government agencies and the US military. We strive to stay in front of the audiovisual, information technology, visualization and virtual reality curves by developing the most effective and efficient technology solutions. Our company was built on one initial big idea that exploded into powerful momentum, becoming a leading innovator and supplier of technology on six continents.

The Marshalltown student body demographic profile is uniquely and beautifully diverse; for the State of Iowa, which also brings some difficult learning and living challenges. Additionally, our community was recently struck by an EF3 tornado which most significantly affected many of our families that could least afford more challenges and hurdles toward developing a successful life. It is our opinion that there has never been a more important time for our company and the Marshalltown Schools to come together to support and equip our students with the computer science knowledge, skills, talents and attributes that are critical to positioning themselves for future school, work and life success.

Mechdyne believes that the Marshalltown Community School District and Lenihan Intermediate School is an ideal candidate for the "Computer Science is Elementary project" grant and through partnering with our corporate support and computer science expertise will be well positioned to truly become an exemplary Iowa model of innovative computer science instruction, with the ultimate goal of eliminating student achievement and opportunity gaps. Thank you for seriously considering their application.

Sincerely,

James Gruening, Co-Founder and Senior Vice President

Reviewer Signature:

Total Points Awarded: /100