



October 24, 2013

Dr. Denise Shockley  
Gallia-Vinton Education Service Center  
P.O. Box 178  
Rio Grande, OH 45674

Dear Dr. Shockley,

CICERO Systems is happy to partner with Gallia-Vinton Education Service Center on this Straight A Fund grant, Crossing the Digital Divide. We have always enjoyed the diligent and dedicated commitment to excellence that we have experienced with teachers from your ESC.

We look forward to providing you with quality the professional development that you had come to know on earlier Liberty Fellowship Programs. CICERO Systems' professional development division offers schools workshops, seminars, colloquia, institutes, and discussions in various models and delivery systems. CICERO has coordinated more than 80 Teaching American History grants across the country and has conducted more than 4,000 days of professional development over the past seven years. Our professional development methods and strategies are custom-designed to meet Common Core standards.

We also look forward to sending our CICERO coordinator to assist teachers in your districts on a regular basis. Not only will the coordinator work directly with Liberty Fellowship teachers, she will also work with teachers not directly in the Fellowship. The CICERO coordinator will organize and run the monthly teacher-leader planning meetings and will also organize the monthly online "Talking Common Core" professional development open to all your teachers.

With your teachers, we will explore the ELA Common Core exemplar informational and literary texts, using proven classroom methods and strategies, live colloquia, online sessions, and on-demand sessions in the CICERO resources. Sessions will cover:

1. **C l o s e R e a d i n g o f I n f o r m a t i o n a l T e x t** : The strategies for close reading of informational texts focus on the skills needed to support students to uncover layers of meaning that lead to deep comprehension. These skills include directing attention to central ideas and supporting details, reflecting on meanings of individual words and sentences, extracting key concepts that form the basis for analysis and comparison within a text and across texts, shifting the focus from the reader's response to the text itself, and developing ideas over the course of the text.
2. **C o n t e x t u a l i z i n g I n f o r m a t i o n a l T e x t** : The strategies for contextualizing text focus on the skills needed to support students to establish the time, scope, and sequence in which the events of an era take place. These skills include establishing the location at which events happened, associating events with contemporary actions throughout the world, establishing the values and beliefs of the time as a lens to analyze the past, using the values of the time to analyze historical meaning, and comparing and contrasting the values of the past with those of the present.
3. **C o m p a r i n g I n f o r m a t i o n a l T e x t s** : The strategies for comparing informational texts focus on the skills needed to support students to compare different interpretations of the same event. These skills include analyzing multiple perspectives on the same event, distinguishing fact from opinion, analyzing information within a historical viewpoint, comparing competing versions of events to construct an accurate interpretation, testing interpretations against evidence, identifying bias, assessing reliability, and constructing historical arguments.



4. **Developing Historical Thinking:** The strategies for developing historical thinking focus on the skills needed to support students to construct a personal interpretation of the past. These skills include studying the differences between single-causation and multi-causation of the events of the past, assessing the impact of the consequences of events and decisions of the past, utilizing counterfactual arguments to deepen understanding of specific episodes of history, and analyzing the essential themes in different periods of history and across history.
5. **Writing in History:** The strategies for contextualizing text focus on the skills needed to support students to establish the time, scope, and sequence in which the events of an era take place. These skills include establishing the location at which events happened, associating events with contemporary actions throughout the world, establishing the values and beliefs of the time as a lens to analyze the past, using the values of the time to analyze historical meaning, and comparing and contrasting the values of the past with those of the present.
6. **Cross Disciplinary:** The strategies for cross disciplinary study focus on the skills needed to support students in establishing and exploring the connections among ideas, concepts, and content as they relate across history, literacy, math, and science.

It is also CICERO Systems' pleasure to provide all the teachers and students in the districts represented in the grant with our CODiE and American Education Publishers award-winning online resources: CICERO: History Beyond the Textbook,<sup>®</sup> CICERO ELA<sup>®</sup>, CICEROkids<sup>™</sup>, Sojourner: African American History<sup>™</sup>, Click N Kids<sup>™</sup> and Rand McNally online geography curriculum.

Our goal is to reach a new generation of students by matching substantive content with proven teaching methods and delivering it all within an interactive experience using the latest technology platforms. CICERO's philosophy and methodology help revolutionize the teaching of Social Studies not only by helping teachers become better teachers, but also by helping students learn history through engaging 21<sup>st</sup> technology, available online, anytime, virtually anywhere.

Again, Denise, we looking forward to helping you bring all the schools in southeastern Ohio into the digital age of education.

Cordially Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin T. Brady". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Kevin T. Brady, Ph.D.  
President



# Franklin's Opus

*Making content count in education*

October 24, 2013

Dr. Denise Shockley  
Gallia-Vinton Education Service Center  
P.O. Box 178  
Rio Grande, OH 45674

Dear Dr. Shockley:

I write to inform you that Franklin's Opus, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization under IRS guidelines, will partner with the Gallia-Vinton Education Service Center, on the Crossing the Digital Divide, Straight A grant program. Franklin's Opus will provide university scholars to work with CICERO Systems' education specialists on your two, 2-day Liberty Fellowships® colloquia for secondary teachers and on your single, 2-day elementary teacher colloquium. Franklin's Opus will also provide scholars for the planned field studies in June and scholars as needed for CICERO Systems' "Talking Common Core" program when needed.

We wish you the best of luck and know that you will have a resounding success with Crossing the Digital Divide, as has been the case with previous programs on which Franklin's Opus and the Gallia-Vinton Center have collaborated.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Klugewicz, Ph.D.  
President

## STRAIGHT A PROGRAM GRANT ASSURANCES

The parties referred to in this document are the Ohio Department of Education, herein referred to as “ODE,” the Straight A Program Governing Board, herein referred to as the “Governing Board,” and the applicant, herein referred to as the “GRANTEE.” ODE may make funds available to the GRANTEE for programs operated by the GRANTEE in accordance with requirements and regulations applicable to such programs. Consistent with state laws and regulations, the GRANTEE assures, if awarded a grant:

1. That the GRANTEE will accept funds in accordance with applicable state statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications, and administer the programs in compliance with all provisions of such statutes, regulations, applications, policies and amendments thereto.
2. That the control of funds provided to the GRANTEE under the Straight A Program and title to property acquired with those funds will be in a designated eligible recipient and that a designated eligible recipient will administer those funds and property.
3. That the GRANTEE has the necessary legal authority to apply for and receive the proposed grant and enter into the contract.
4. That the GRANTEE will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code Section 117.11 utilizing generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). That the GRANTEE will furthermore utilize competitive bidding practices in compliance with applicable procurement regulations.
5. That the GRANTEE will make reports to ODE and to the Governing Board as may reasonably be necessary to enable ODE and the Governing Board to perform their duties. The reports shall be completed and submitted in accordance with the standards and procedures designated by ODE and/or the Governing Board and shall be supported by appropriate documentation.
6. That the GRANTEE will maintain records, and provide access to those records as ODE or the Governing Board and authorized representatives in the conduct of audits authorized by state statute. This cooperation includes access without unreasonable restrictions to its records and personnel for the purpose of obtaining relevant information.
7. That the GRANTEE will provide reasonable opportunities for participation by teachers, parents, and other interested agencies, organizations and individuals in the planning for and operation of the program, as may be necessary according to statute.



8. That any application, evaluation, periodic program plan or report relating to the Straight A Program will be made readily available to parents and to other members of the general public.
9. That in the case of any project involving construction, the project is not inconsistent with overall State plans for the construction of school facilities, if applicable; and in developing plans for construction, due consideration will be given to excellence of architecture and design and to compliance with standards prescribed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, in order to ensure that facilities constructed with state funds are accessible to and usable by handicapped individuals.
10. That no person shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, handicap or sex be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the GRANTEE receives state financial assistance.
11. That the GRANTEE may not use its state funding to pay for any of the following:
  - A. Religious worship, instruction or proselytization.
  - B. Equipment or supplies to be used for any of the activities specified in paragraph 11A, herein.
  - C. Construction, remodeling, repair, operation or maintenance of any facility or part of a facility to be used for any of the activities specified in paragraph 11A, herein.
12. That the GRANTEE shall continue its coordination with ODE during the length of the project period.
13. The GRANTEE shall cooperate in any evaluation by ODE or the Governing Board.
14. That the GRANTEE will comply with all relevant laws relating to privacy and protection of individual rights including 34 C.F.R. Part 99 (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974).
15. That the GRANTEE will comply with any applicable federal, state and local health or safety requirements that apply to the facilities used for a project.
16. That it shall maintain records for five years following completion of the activities for which the GRANTEE uses the state funding and which show:
  - A. The amount of funds under the grant.
  - B. How the GRANTEE uses the funds.
  - C. The total cost of the project.
  - D. The share of that total cost provided from other sources.



17. That in the event of a sustained audit exception, and upon demand of ODE, the GRANTEE shall immediately reimburse ODE for that portion of the audit exception attributable under the audit to the GRANTEE. The GRANTEE agrees to hold ODE harmless for any audit exception arising from the GRANTEE's failure to comply with applicable regulations.
18. That the GRANTEE is aware all state funds granted to it are conditioned upon the availability and appropriation of such funds by the Ohio General Assembly. These funds are subject to reduction or elimination by the Ohio General Assembly at any time, even following award and disbursement of funds. Except as otherwise provided by law, the GRANTEE shall hold ODE harmless for any reduction or elimination of state funds granted to it. In the event of non-appropriation or reduction of appropriation and notice, the GRANTEE shall immediately cease further expenditures under the Straight A Program.
19. The GRANTEE will adopt and use the proper methods of administering the grant and any subgrants, including, but not limited to:
  - A. The enforcement of any obligations imposed by law.
  - B. The correction of deficiencies in program operations that are identified through program audits, monitoring or evaluation.
  - C. The adoption of written procedures for the receipt and resolution of complaints alleging violations of law in the administration of such programs.
20. The GRANTEE, by submission of a grant proposal, agrees that the ODE or the Governing Board have the authority to take administrative sanctions, including, but not limited to, suspension of cash payments for the project, suspension of program operations and/or, termination of project operations, as necessary to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations and assurances for any project. The GRANTEE acknowledges this authority under Ohio Revised Code Section 3301.07 (C), as applicable.
21. In the purchase of equipment and supplies, the GRANTEE will comply with local and state procurement policies.
22. That the GRANTEE will have effective financial management systems, which includes, but is not limited to, the ability to report financial data verifying compliance with program regulations and maintaining effective internal control over the operations of the approved grant.
23. That the GRANTEE will obligate funds within the approved project period as set forth in the approved application and will liquidate said obligations not later than 90 days after the end of the project period for the grant.



# STRAIGHT FUND

This assurance is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all grants, loans, contracts, property, discounts or other financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the GRANTEE by the Straight A Program Governing Board, through ODE, including installment payments, after such date on account of applications for financial assistance which were approved before such date. The GRANTEE recognizes and agrees that such financial assistance will be extended in reliance on the representations and agreements made in this assurance, and that the State of Ohio shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of this assurance. This assurance is binding on the GRANTEE, its successors, transferees and assigns. The person or persons whose signatures appear below are authorized to sign this assurance on behalf of the GRANTEE.

 _____ Superintendent/CEO	<u>10/18/13</u> Date	_____ Treasurer/CFO	<u>10/18/13</u> Date
<u>Dr. Denise Shockley</u> Printed Name		<u>Lily Blevins</u> Printed Name	

