Smart Start Program Narrative Overview

Program Title: WFL BOCES/U of R Smart Start: Digital Fluency & Engineering for the Future

Project Director: Gordon Baxter

Professional Development Focus Area: Computer Science and Engineering. Instructional technology will be integrated into both focus areas.

Model of Program: The project will be a hybrid model of the cohort and train-the-trainer models, providing a common foundation for all participating teachers in one of two pathways (Computer Science or Engineering), while also offering additional training and mentor-supported field experiences to a subset of the participants (Tier 2), with the goal of creating in-house support to build district capacity in each participating school.

Scale of the Program: The project is a Large-Scale Project which will serve 13 School Districts and WFL BOCES Educational Centers. The project will include 35 schools, serving a total of 19,999 students. A total of 600 teachers (120 each year) will engage in high-quality, job-embedded professional learning.

Target Populations: The project will directly serve 600 K-8 teachers from 13 districts, 6 High Need Rural and 7 Average Need Rural districts, which will ultimately impact their students.

Description of the District or Consortium Member Districts/BOCES: The project includes Clyde Savannah Central School District (CSD), Lyons CSD, North Rose-Wolcott CSD, Penn Yan CSD, Sodus CSD, and Waterloo CSD. The project also includes 7 Rural Average Needs districts: East Bloomfield CSD, Canandaigua CSD, Gorham-Middlesex CSD, Manchester-Shortsville CSD, Naples CSD, Seneca Falls CSD, and Victor CSD. The project will also serve 4 special education centers operated by WFL BOCES.

Description of Program: The goal of this program is to create a cadre of K-8 teachers in each participating school that will support the implementation of the new NYS Computer Science and Digital Fluency Standards, as well as Engineering Practices and Cross-Cutting Concepts with the NYS Science Learning Standards, while also reinforcing the use of instructional technology. To maximize the benefits of the program, each year we will recruit a group of 60 teachers that will focus on Computer Science (CS) and another group of 60 teachers that will focus on Engineering; instructional technology will be a common element of both pathways. Within each pathway, about 30 teachers (referred to as Tier 2 Teachers) will participate in additional and more intense professional learning to prepare them to serve as teacher leaders in building district capacity.

Funding: $490,917 a year, for 5 years, for a total of $2,454,585.