Dear Gifted Educators,

**The most powerful professional development of my career has almost always been selected for me, by me.** Whether it was attending a local workshop, going to a conference, or reading a book, it’s the professional development I’ve received after asking myself, “What do I need? What am I struggling with? Will this benefit my students? How will this make me a better teacher?”

Every school/district has money specifically for professional development. Often times we don’t ask for professional development because frankly we are overwhelmed, anxious, or too often feel guilty. Let me assure you, you are not asking for undue favors, you are asking for professional development that you’ve taken the time to research and make a case for. At the end of the day, we are professionals who participate in complex and critical work. Which means, we need ongoing training to stay competent!

We are so fortunate to have Edufest right here in Idaho. Edufest is the leading Northwest conference for gifted education and it will be returning to the in-person week-long structure. Details can be found at [edufest.org](https://www.edufest.org/).

If this is something you know would be beneficial to you, ask for the opportunity to go. First, find the facts. How much time? How much money? Then, craft your argument. What do you hope to learn through this professional development? Can you see this learning experience impacting other teachers and students for the better? Finally, schedule your meeting. This doesn’t have to be formal and can be done through a quick email. At the meeting, state your case and ask if you can sign up. I find an in person request is more successful than an email request.

**Asking for PD Funding - Example – Conference (adapted from Dave Stuart Jr.)**

**Name of PD Course:** EDUFEST summer conference on gifted and talented education

**Presenter:** Multiple, including experts like Tom Hebert and Ion Doescher

**Location:** Boise, Idaho

**Dates:** July 25th – 29th, 2022

**Time Required:** 5 days

**Will you need coverage for your classroom?** No, it is held during the summer.

**Costs:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full Conference In Person | $450 |
| Travel - Car | $250 |
| Lodging – BSU Dorms | $240 |
| Other costs (i.e. food) | $175 (Meal Plan) |
| Total | $1,115 |

**What do you hope to learn through this PD?**

I hope to learn new ideas and strategies for improving the strength-based instruction in my classroom. I hope to connect with others around a shared love for teaching gifted students. I hope to feel inspired and rejuvenated to come back and teach fully prepared for the fall!

**Why do you believe that this person is an expert on this topic?**

The Edufest conference is the Northwest’s premier summer conference and it is conveniently located in Idaho. All the sessions are held by gifted education experts and advocates via an intense approval process.

**Why is this information something you can’t access internally?**

This conference is attended by hundreds of gifted educators, each with their own classroom experience and ideas. It is the most efficient way to network, learn new ideas, select the most helpful, and bring them home.

**How do you hope it will impact students in your classroom?**

Students will grow more because I have grown more in my knowledge to better serve their needs, because I’ll have better ideas and strategies to reach them. They will also feel the renewed passion in my teaching and be motivated to work harder.

**How will this learning experience impact other teachers and students for the better?** I will share the material I learn with other gifted and general educators in my school or district.

Good luck and I hope to see you all at Edufest this summer 2022!

Rebecca Martin

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Content & Curriculum

Idaho State Department of Education