WSU Strings Project
Dr. Michael Palumbo
Department Chair of Performing Arts
Weber State University

The Weber State University String Project is one of 25 String Projects that make up the National String Project Consortium. The Project, funded with a contract through OSP, was begun as a method to develop string music education beginning in the third through fifth grades in the public schools and continuing into the upper grades as the children become more proficient. Students attend classes at WSU for two hours a week and perform a public concert at the end of each semester. WSU string music education students teach these students. Each semester a new beginning class is started and the older, more advanced students continue into more sophisticated instruction. This program is tied in with the large WSU Summer Strings program that meets at WSU. Last year junior and senior youth orchestras were added to the Project to allow access to the program for students who did not begin their string instruction in the String Project. In order to assure that the Project is not competing with any existing public school programs all students that participate in the Project are required to participate in the string programs in their schools provided such programs are available.

The students rent or buy instruments from local music merchants. The Project is currently trying to raise money to purchase small string basses for students to rent since these instruments are generally not available for rent from local merchants.

In addition to providing children with string instrument instruction the program is designed to employ string music education majors to encourage them to become public school teachers and help alleviate the nationwide shortage of teachers. There are currently over 150 students in the program, with 9 university students serving as teachers. A Master Teacher and the Project Director supervise the student teachers.

Primary goals of the WSU String Project include the following:
1. Preparing children in the lower grades for placement in public school programs by providing children in school districts where string programs do not exist with an opportunity to learn to play stringed instruments.

Carrie Maxson, the Project’s Master Teacher is the instrumental director at Ben Lomond High School. A graduate in Music Education from WSU, Carrie is currently completing her Master’s Degree in Education with a music emphasis. She serves as the assistant conductor of the Weber State Symphony Orchestra. Michael Palumbo, the Project Director is the Chair of the Department of Performing Arts, and is the Director of Orchestral Studies and Professor of Viola at WSU.
2. Facilitating the growth of both beginning and advanced programs, thereby enabling the secondary school level programs to reach a higher level of development.

3. Providing a safe environment for children and teachers involved in the string education process.

4. Creating programs that give undergraduate and graduate students hands-on, supervised experience in teaching, administration, and leadership as they pursue degrees in music education.

The WSU String Project serves children of public school age without regard to ethnicity, or income level. Students from all schools within traveling distance are welcome to become involved in the project. Our audience is primarily family and friends of the children who are involved in the program.

Students are still being accepted for classes. Please contact Carrie Maxson, Master Teacher, 626-8169 or email at wsustringproject@weber.edu or maxsonc@ogdensd.org. For more information visit programs.weber.edu/wsustringproject/

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**Time and Effort Reporting**

- Ramona Sessions

Attendance at a recent Grants Management Conference and news from fellow members of professional organizations has heightened our focus on time and effort reporting. Effort reporting remains the number one issue for audit compliance and we have learned that auditors' continued attention on effort reporting has sparked numerous findings.

We are taking a close look at the University’s current time and effort reporting process and are working on making some changes. Why is time and effort reporting important? Any employee whose salary or wage is funded in whole or in part by sponsored projects is required by OMB Circular A-21 to certify their time and effort. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in auditors disallowing expenses, penalties, and possible loss of future funding.

Some of the changes we are considering include time and effort reporting for students who are paid by sponsored projects, sending the report directly to the employee rather than the supervisor, and follow-up on this critical area of documentation. We are hoping to have the new reporting changes finalized by March 1 and will include more information in our March newsletter.

Please rest assured that we are aware your time is very valuable and the new process will not require additional time commitments. Our goal is to keep the university in compliance so that we stay out of the auditors’ spotlight and out of trouble!
Agency: National Science Foundation  
Next Deadline: March 29, 2007  
Synopsis: Seeks to encourage talented science, technology, engineering, & mathematics majors and professionals to become K-12 math & science teachers. Provides funds to institutions of higher education to support scholarships (at least $10,000 per student) & stipends for students who commit to teaching in high-need K-12 school districts, or monitoring & evaluation programs. Deadline refers to full proposals. Optional letters of intent due by 2/28/07  

Agency: National Science Foundation  
Next Deadline: March 12, 2007  
Synopsis: Supports collaborative research in fundamental mathematics, statistics, & computer science with a focus primarily on mathematical & statistical challenges posed by large data sets, managing & modeling uncertainty, & modeling complex nonlinear systems.  

Agency: National Science Foundation  
Next Deadline: April 10, 2007  
Synopsis: Notice seeking proposals for research and educational projects to improve ethics education in all of the fields of science and engineering that NSF supports, including in interdisciplinary or inter-institutional contexts.  

Agency: National Science Foundation  
Next Deadline: April 13, 2007  
Synopsis: Notice seeking proposals to manage and develop the NCAR staff, buildings, and facilities, and promote an ambitious, coherent, and inclusive program of research and education. NCAR operates world-class observational facilities and computing infrastructure, conducts an extensive in-house research program and a vigorous program of education, training and outreach, and maintains extensive national and international collaborations.  

Agency: National Science Foundation  
Next Deadline: April 2, 2007  
Synopsis: Supports Research, Outreach/Communication, & Extension Services to broaden participation of girls & women in science, technology, mathematics, & engineering to create a more diverse STEM workforce. Projects typically address gender-related differences in learning & in educational experiences affecting student interest, performance, & career choice; & causes & cures for gender gaps in certain careers. Preliminary proposals required by 1/8 for Research and Extension. All full proposals due 4/2/07  
Link: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5475

Office of Sponsored Projects
Chris Millard, Director  
Tony Aragon, Administrator  
Ava Painter, Administrator  
Ramona Sessions, Contract Analyst  
Susan Wood, Office Specialist

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### March, 2007

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