March 13, 2015

Faith Outreach Foundation  
Attn: Grant Review Committee  
3965 West 83rd Street, Suite 155  
Prairie Village, Kansas 66208

Dear Grant Review Committee:

The Foundation of the Metropolitan Community Colleges (MCC) requests a $4,000 grant for Metropolitan Community College - Longview 9th annual Flights of Fancy kite festival, which will bring the art of kites to more than 24,000 area children and their families.

The Foundation of the Metropolitan Community Colleges, a 501©(3) organization established in 1975, is submitting this proposal on behalf of the MCC - Longview Flights of Fancy. As the nonprofit, fundraising arm of the college, the Foundation supports Metropolitan Community College mission by addressing financial and educational needs through resources development and scholarship. The mission of Metropolitan Community College is to prepare students, serve communities, and create opportunities. Founded in 1915 as the Kansas City Polytechnic Institute, MCC is the largest institution of higher education in the Kansas City area, serving more than 43,000 credit and non-credit students annually. MCC is a two-year public open enrollment community college, with five campuses located in two Missouri counties and three municipalities. MCC’s service area covers eight counties in Missouri.

The Flights of Fancy kite festival is MCC-Longview’s signature event; the annual mega kite festival brings thousands of area children and their families to our campus and the Suburban Jackson County area every spring to participate in this FREE one-day event on the third Saturday in April.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this request. Should you have any additional questions about this proposal or our Flight of Fancy kite festival, please contact Tami Morrow, the project coordinator for this event. You may reach Ms. Morrow by phone (816-604-2640) or email (tami.morrow@mccckc.edu).

Sincerely,

Dr. Kirk Nocks, President  
MCC-Longview
Faith Outreach Foundation Grant Application

Name of Organization Requesting Grant: The Foundation of Metropolitan Community College

Address: 500 SW Longview Road City: Lee's Summit, Missouri Zip: 64081

Web Address: www.mcckc.edu/www.MCCFlightofFancy.org Email Address: tami.morrow@mcckc.edu

Contact Number(s): 816-604-2640

Grant Writer’s Name: Kendra Edwards Date Application Made: March 13, 2015

Executive Director of Organization: Dr. Kirk Nooks, President

Check All that may apply X 501(c)(3) Organization ___ Charitable Organization ___ Arts Organization ___ Religious Institution X Other Institute of Higher Education

Federal Tax Exempt # of the Organization (if available): 51-0181875

Amount Requested from Foundation:

In 2-3 words, tell us how the funds will be spent To support the Flight of Fancy Kite Festival

Geographic Area served by request: Jackson and Clay Counties

Proposed Start Date for use of Requested Grant: April 18, 2015

Approximate number of people served by your Organization. MCC 46,000 and Longview Campus 4,700
(Break down by programs if necessary)

Make sure that you provide all of the required attachments. Failure to provide these documents will result in a delay in approving your application.

By signing this application, you agree to provide the foundation with a final report detailing how the funds you received were spent, how the program helped the people it was intended to help, and photos.

The Grantee agrees to repay any portion of the amount granted which is not used for the original purpose of this grant. The Grantee accepts to submit a full and complete report on the manner in which the funds were utilized.

Signature of Grant Writer or Official: [Signature]

Return completed form to Faith Outreach Foundation, 3965 W. 83rd Street, Ste.155, Prairie Village, Kansas 66208.
HISTORY OF ORGANIZATION

The Foundation of the Metropolitan Community Colleges, a 501©(3) organization established in 1975, is submitting this proposal on behalf of the Metropolitan Community College - Longview Flights of Fancy. As the nonprofit, fundraising arm of the college, the Foundation supports Metropolitan Community College mission by addressing financial and educational needs through resources development and scholarships. Founded in 1915 as the Kansas City Polytechnic Institute, Metropolitan Community College (MCC) is the largest institution of higher education in the Kansas City area, serving more than 46,000 credit and non-credit students annually. **The mission of Metropolitan Community College is to prepare students, serve communities, and create opportunities.** MCC is a two-year public open enrollment community college, with five campuses located in two Missouri counties and three municipalities. MCC’s service area covers eight counties in Missouri.

Metropolitan Community College-Longview (MCC-Longview) is part of the Kansas City’s five campus system. MCC-Longview was founded in 1969 on the scenic and historic R.A. Long Farm on the southeast side of Lee’s Summit, Missouri. MCC-Longview has established a record of success in academics and athletics as well as in service to the surrounding community. In 2001, MCC-Longview was selected as the first community college to be nationally recognized as "College of the Year" by TIME magazine. Each year, more than 11,000 credit students and noncredit students choose MCC-Longview because of its quality programs, student-centered faculty, and affordable tuition. MCC-Longview's academic programs, student organizations, and sports teams have repeatedly received regional and national recognition. MCC-Longview is proud to offer numerous community events and festivals each year with the support of the local community and businesses.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION -  *Flights Fancy Kite Festival*

The *Flights of Fancy* kite festival is MCC-Longview's signature event; the annual mega kite festival brings thousands of area children and their families to our campus every spring to participate in this *FREE* one-day event on the third Saturday in April. The overall goal of the *Flights of Fancy* kite festival is to bring a unique, family-oriented experience to the area to enjoy, understand the art of kites, and build community. The objective is to enhance learning by improving core literacy skills and academic standards, and increase attendance. *Flights of Fancy* now in its ninth year have grown from 3,500 participants in 2007 to more than 24,000 in 2014. It is one of the largest kite festivals in the Midwest and a unique event in our back yard. While the mega kites provided by the Kansas City Kite Club are the centerpiece of the festival, we also offer free children's activities that include kite making, face painting, balloon artists, an inflatable, kite bol races and candy drop. The Kansas City Kite Club (KCKC) is one of the largest and most active kite clubs in the nation. The KCKC is a group of people united by their absolute love of kites, and provide entertainment and kite education throughout the Midwest.
The *Flights of Fancy* kite festival has an educational aspect designed to help children improve their core literacy skills, math, science, and listening. Children will learn how kites were used for scientific purposes, such as Benjamin Franklin’s famous experiment proving that lightning is electricity, and how Alexander Graham Bell experimented with a very large man lifting kites, as did the Wright brothers and Lawrence Hargrave. They will also learn how kites were used to measure atmospheric conditions for weather forecasting. The results of this event are both educational and fun, an entertaining way for families to bond over a common activity, while learning about the history of kites. Helping children build critical academic and life skills via the arts are long-term investment in the economic and social health in the community. According to the American Kitefliers Association, kites are a perfect teaching tool, offering lessons in art, science, mathematics, history, recreation, culture, geography and, well—fun! Study after study demonstrates that the arts, including kites, enhance learning skills. This is important because students in some public schools are failing to meet basic core literacy and academic standards.

Our project evaluation is designed to be cost-effective and improve future event development. The evaluation plan includes a systemic collection of quantitative data to determine community participation and attendance. We utilize a traffic counter to collect the necessary data. At this time we are unable to track and measure the considerable walk-in traffic, and overflow parking which is located just east of the Longview campus. The Kansas City communities receive attention through extensive television and print media coverage. The increase in festival attendance, media coverage and sponsorships all demonstrate that the event was successful.

The arts foster a vitality and liveliness in a community. The *Flights of Fancy* kite festival ignites and sustains this vitality. More than 24,000 people, representing virtually every social, cultural, economic and racial/ethnic group in the area, will attend this event, exposing them to the art of kites. This includes roughly a third of participants from low-income, disadvantaged backgrounds for whom this FREE event may be their only exposure to the arts during the year. The *Flights of Fancy* provide a unique opportunity unlike any other event in this area, and has universal appeal for all ages.

The *Flights of Fancy* kite festival is coordinated through the MCC-Longview Community Education department and MCC personnel manage all aspects of the event—from early planning to post event wrap-up. MCC-Longview has collaborated with the Kansas City Kite Club (KCKC) since 2007. KCKC orchestrate the entire show and coordinate air and ground displays. In early October, we begin meeting to discuss next year’s event.

Metropolitan Community College – Longview has been committed to providing funds to supplement the *Flights of Fancy* event when outside funds were not sufficient to pay for the full cost of the event. However, since the economic downturn has spawned ongoing cuts in state funding and a decrease in enrollment, MCC – Longview can no longer provide the funding it has afforded the *Flights of Fancy* event in the past. In order to avoid any cuts in programming, we are aggressively seeking funding from donors that understand the importance of engaging the community in the Arts. MCC – Longview will continue to provide support and is committed to
the sustainability of the *Flights of Fancy* kite festival. Throughout the life of the grant and thereafter, MCC Longview will work to promote the value of this community event. To ensure that this annual event continues, we have begun assuming event cost. MCC’s Resource Development office will continue to explore alternative funding sources to sustain the *Flights of Fancy* Kite Festival, including public and private grant sources and partnerships with community-based organizations that may interested in collaborating.