

JUSTIFICATION FOR  
SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT

Sole Source Vendor: **Washington State University, Office of Research Support and Operations (ORSO), Lighty Student Services Building, Room 280, PO Box 641060, Pullman, WA 99164-1060**

Based upon the following determination, Agency proposes to acquire the supplies, construction, information technology, and/or services described herein from the Vendor named above per S.C. Code Ann. §11-35-1560 and S.C. Regulation 19-445.2105, Sole Source Procurement.

Description of the Agency need that this procurement meets:

**Trident Technical College (TTC) has been awarded a grant from Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program of the National Science Foundation (NSF). The ATE program requires that projects have a meaningful research component, and a detailed evaluation plan which must be provided by research experts appropriate to the proposal type.**

Description of market research Agency performed to determine the availability of products or services that would meet the Agency's needs:

**The project will be implemented by a consortium of Trident Technical College, Greenville Technical College, Spartanburg Community College, and Clemson University. Clemson University faculty, with many years of experience in contracting research evaluation services, initially reached out to several evaluators with whom they had closely worked in the past. However, none of them had expertise in both of the main criteria for selection in this project: expertise in network data analysis (analysis of data across multiple collaborative partners to provide recommendations on ideal strategies to collaborate and to strengthen such partnerships) and expertise conducting mixed methods studies (both quantitative and qualitative) in evaluating large scale NSF ATE projects. A subsequent review of evaluators with ATE experience and expertise in the aforementioned methods led them to choose the Social & Economic Sciences Research Center at Washington State University is the only vendor to support this effort.**

Description of supplies, construction, information technology, and/or services Vendor will provide under the contract:

**Washington State University will provide substantive independent evaluation activities throughout the three-year duration of the project, including the development, monitoring, testing, and data analysis of a range of surveys (to include technician summit, curriculum implementation, proposal development, diversity, coalition building events, focus groups with industry and higher ed partners, and student curriculum), focus group observation, interviews of PIs and webinar attendees, participation in monthly project meetings, report writing and analysis, and project management support.**

Detailed explanation why no other vendor's supplies, construction, information technology, and/or services will meet the needs of the Agency:

**Proposals submitted to this NSF program are expected to include pertinent details of the evaluator(s) conducting the project evaluation. NSF review panels are required to consider the background and expertise of the evaluator(s) while evaluating the technical merit of the proposal. The evaluators provide the evaluation section during the proposal stage and are considered integral members of the project team.**

**The identified team from the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center at Washington State University (WSU-SESRC) has extensive expertise both in pedagogical and policy research. They**

**provided the evaluation plan for the submitted proposal and they currently serve as evaluators for multiple NSF ATE centers and projects, including NSF National Centers InnovATEBIO Center, GeoTech Center, and the MATE Center, making them the only choice approved by the National Science Foundation for supporting the activities proposed in this project. Specifically, the independent evaluation will be performed by Dr. Adam McKee, Project Manager with the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center at Washington State University with assistance from Candiya Mann, WSU-SESRC Senior Research Manager, and Yi Jen Wang, WSU-SESRC Research Associate.**

Date: 05/10/22 TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Contract Period: 05/15/22 – 04/30/25

Contract Amount: \$85,375.00

*CB* Mary Thornley  
Mary Thornley, Ed.D.  
President

Com. Code: 961

Blanket sole source:  YES  NO

Contract \$50,000 or greater. Drug Free Workplace Act (Section 44-107-30 Code of Laws of SC) applies:

YES  NO wgd Buyers Initials

Signed Drug Free Workplace Certification form attached:

YES  NO wgd Buyers Initials

Open Trade Certification on file or attached:

YES  NO wgd Buyers Initials

This notice is posted in the South Carolina Business Opportunities (SCBO) as required by SC Code 11-35-1560.

Protests (May 2019) If you are aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of the contract, you may be entitled to protest, but only as provided in section 11-35-4210. To protest a solicitation, you must submit a protest within fifteen days of the date the applicable solicitation document is issued. To protest an award, you must (i) submit notice of your intent to protest within seven business days of the date the award notice is posted, and (ii) submit your actual protest within fifteen days of the date the award notice is posted. Days are calculated as provided in section 11-35-310(13). Both protests and notices of intent to protest must be in writing and must be received by the appropriate chief procurement officer within the time provided. See clause entitled "Protest-CPO". The grounds of the protest and the relief requested must be set forth with enough particularity to give notice of the issues to be decided.