

PNI-Arizona Business Gazette

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

PHASE:3
109 WESTPARK DRIVE, SUITE 360
BRENTWOOD, TN 37027

The Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC), Houston, TX is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide **Learning Management System (RFP No. 20-14)**.

In order to be considered, the Offeror must complete and submit a proposal to Region 4 ESC in accordance with the solicitation documentation available at www.esc4.net or <https://www.omniapartners.com/publicsector/solicitations>

PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE:
Thursday, November 5, 2020, 10:00 AM CST., Region 4 ESC, 7145 W. Tidwell Rd., Houston, TX 77019
PROPOSAL DUE DATE:
December 15, 2020 BEFORE 10:00 AM CST
Pub: Oct 29, 2020

Order # 0004429111 # of Affidavits 1

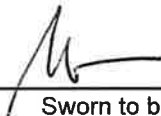
P.O # RFP No. 20-14

Published Date(s):

10/29/20

STATE OF WISCONSIN }
COUNTY OF BROWN } **SS.**

I, being first duly sworn, upon oath deposes and says: That I am the legal clerk of the Arizona Republic, a newspaper of general circulation in the counties of Maricopa, Coconino, Pima and Pinal, in the State of Arizona, published weekly at Phoenix, Arizona, and that the copy hereto attached is a true copy of the advertisement published in the said paper on the dates indicated.



Sworn to before me this

29 TH day of
OCTOBER 2020



Notary Public

My Commission expires: 9.19.21



CAPITAL CITY PRESS

**Publisher of
THE ADVOCATE**

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

The hereto attached notice was published in
THE ADVOCATE, a daily newspaper of
general circulation published in Baton Rouge,
Louisiana, and the Official Journal of the
State of Louisiana, City of Baton Rouge, and
Parish of East Baton Rouge or published daily in
**THE TIMES-PICAYUNE/
THE NEW ORLEANS ADVOCATE**, in
New Orleans Louisiana, or published daily in
THE ACADIANA ADVOCATE in

10/21/2020



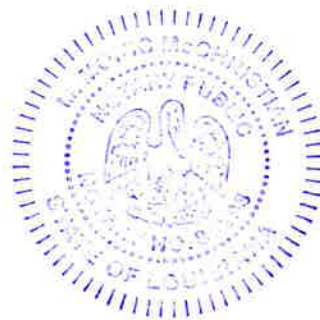
Joshua Crowley, Public Notices Representative

Sworn and subscribed before me by the person
whose signature appears above

10/21/2020



**M. Monic McChristian,
Notary Public ID# 88293
State of Louisiana
My Commission Expires: Indefinite**



PHASE 3 MARKETING & COMM	467085-01
RICH MELIN 109 WESTPARK DR STE 360 BRENTWOOD, TN 37027	

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC), Houston, TX is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide **Learning Management System (RFP No. 20-14)**. In order to be considered, the Offeror must complete and submit a proposal to Region 4 ESC in accordance with the solicitation documentation available at www.esc4.net or <https://www.omniapartners.com/publicsector/solicitations>

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PROPOSAL DUE DATE:
December 15, 2020 BEFORE 10:00 AM CST

467085-oct 21-1t



PROOF OF PUBLICATION CUSTOMER'S COPY

CUSTOMER NAME AND ADDRESS		ACCOUNT NUMBER
PHASE 3, ACCOUNTS PAYABLE 109 WESTPARK DR STE 360 BRENTWOOD TN 37027		9001501174
ACCOUNT NAME		DATE
PHASE 3,		10/22/2020
TELEPHONE	ORDER # / INVOICE NUMBER	
6155674070	0001302135 /	
PUBLICATION SCHEDULE		
START 10/21/2020 END 10/21/2020		
CUSTOMER REFERENCE NUMBER		
RFP 20-14		
CAPTION		
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS The Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC), Houston,		
SIZE		
33 LINES	1 COLUMN(S)	
TIMES	TOTAL COST	
2	57.14	

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC), Houston, TX is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Learning Management System (RFP No. 20-14).

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Region 4 ESC, 7145 W. Tidwell Rd., Houston, TX 77019

PROPOSAL DUE DATE:
December 15, 2020
BEFORE 10:00 AM CST
1302135 UPAXLP

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

AS NEWSPAPER AGENCY COMPANY, LLC dba UTAH MEDIA GROUP LEGAL BOOKER, I CERTIFY THAT THE ATTACHED ADVERTISEMENT OF **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS The Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC), Houston, TX is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Learning** FOR **PHASE 3**, WAS PUBLISHED BY THE NEWSPAPER AGENCY COMPANY, LLC dba UTAH MEDIA GROUP, AGENT FOR DESERET NEWS AND THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE. DAILY NEWSPAPERS PRINTED IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE WITH GENERAL CIRCULATION IN UTAH, AND PUBLISHED IN SALT LAKE CITY, SALT LAKE COUNTY IN THE STATE OF UTAH. NOTICE IS ALSO POSTED ON UTAHLEGALS.COM ON THE SAME DAY AS THE FIRST NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION DATE AND REMAINS ON UTAHLEGALS.COM INDEFINITELY. COMPLIES WITH UTAH DIGITAL SIGNATURE ACT UTAH CODE 46-2-101; 46-3-104.

PUBLISHED ON Start 10/21/2020 End 10/21/2020

DATE 10/22/2020

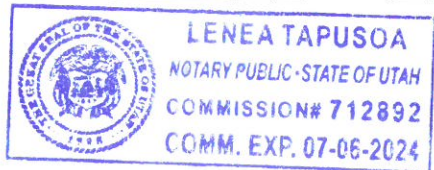
SIGNATURE *Ludmundson*

STATE OF UTAH)

COUNTY OF SALT LAKE)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME ON THIS 22ND DAY OF OCTOBER IN THE YEAR 2020

BY LORAIN GUDMUNDSON.



L Tapusoa
NOTARY PUBLIC SIGNATURE



2601 Bransford Ave. ▪ Nashville, TN 37204
615-259-8632 ▪ Fax: 615-214-8892

Workplace Safety Office
A Division of Human Resources Department

COVID-19 ACCOMMODATIONS Agreement Form

Please Complete All Fields

Date of Request: 8/18/2020

Date of Medical Documentation Received: Yes

Date of Interactive Process Commenced: September 2020

Agreement Plan: Bonnie Melin will remain virtual. The accommodations are based on the needs of the school as of 10/22/2020. In the event the teacher does not perform the job duties according the MNPS and school guidelines another meeting will be held to re-evaluate accommodations. Mrs. Melin plans to return Jan 2021

Employee Number: _____

Employee Name: Bonnie Melin

School/Department: Oliver Middle School

Position: EL Teacher

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Employee)

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 10/22/2020

(Department Head)

A copy of this agreement should be sent to the Workplace Safety Office via scan/email to MNPSWorkplaceSafety@MNPS.org or faxed to 615-259-8892

*** Proof of Publication ***

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD
2222 Washington St
Helena, MT 59602
Ph: (406) 447-4000

The Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC), Houston, TX is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide **Learning Management System (RFP No. 20-14)**. In order to be considered, the Offeror must complete and submit a proposal to Region 4 ESC in accordance with the solicitation documentation available at www.esc4.net or <https://www.omniapartners.com/publicsector/solicitations>
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December 15, 2020 BEFORE 10:00 AM CST
October 21, 2020 **MNAXLP**

Phase 3 Marketing & Communications
Rich Melin
109 WESTPARK DRIVE STE 360
BRENTWOOD TN 37027

ORDER NUMBER 16479

The undersigned, being duly sworn, deposes and says. That she is the principal clerk of The HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD, a newspaper of general circulation published daily in the City of Helena, in the County of Lewis & Clark, State of Montana, and has charge of the advertisements thereof:

That the Legal Ad

a true copy of which is printed, was published in said newspaper for the same number of insertions provided below.

October 21, 2020

STATE OF MONTANA
County of Lewis & Clark

Subscribed and sworn to me this 21st day of October 2020.

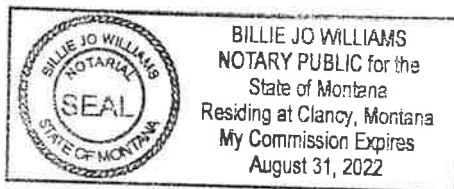
Section: Legal
Category: 0701 Legals Helena
PUBLISHED ON: 10/21/2020

TOTAL AD COST: 64.26
FILED ON: 10/21/2020

Billie Jo Williams

NOTARY PUBLIC for the State of Montana
Printed Name: Billie Jo Williams
Residing at Clancy, Montana 59634
My commission expires August 31, 2022

(Notary Seal)



Certificate of the Publisher

The Herald-News

Description: RFP 20-14
1827360
RFP 20-14

PHASE 3 MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
P O BOX 680758
MARIETTA GA 30068

Shaw Media certifies that it is the publisher of The Herald-News. The Herald-News is a secular newspaper, has been continuously published daily for more than fifty (50) weeks prior to the first publication of the attached notice, is published in the City of Joliet, County of Will, State of Illinois, is of general circulation throughout that county and surrounding area, and is a newspaper as defined by 715 ILCS 5/5.

A notice, a true copy of which is attached, was published 1 time(s) in The Herald-News, namely one time per week for one successive week(s). Publication of the notice was made in the newspaper, dated and published on 10/21/2020

This notice was also placed on a statewide public notice website as required by 5 ILCS 5/2.1.

In witness, Shaw Media has signed this certificate by J. Tom Shaw, its publisher, at Joliet, Illinois, on 21st day of October, A.D. 2020

Shaw Media By:



J. Tom Shaw, Publisher

Account Number 10174037

Amount \$72.92

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC), Houston, TX is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide **Learning Management System (RFP No. 20-14)**.

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www.esc4.net or
<https://www.omniapartners.com/publicsector/solicitations>

PRE-PROPOSAL

CONFERENCE:
Thursday, November 5, 2020, 10:00 AM CST.,
Region 4 ESC, 7145 W. Tidwell Rd., Houston, TX 77019

PROPOSAL DUE DATE:
December 15, 2020
BEFORE 10:00 AM CST

(Published in Herald-News
October 21, 2020)
1827360

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

IN THE MATTER OF
Learning Management System (RFP No. 20-14)

}
}
}
}
}
}

STATE OF HAWAII


}
} SS.
}

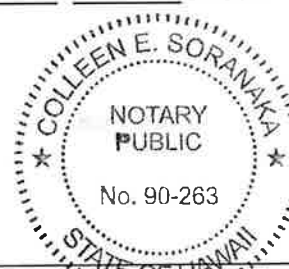
City and County of Honolulu

Doc. Date: OCT 22 2020 **# Pages:** 1

Notary Name: COLLEEN E. SORANAKA **First Judicial Circuit**

Doc. Description: Affidavit of
Publication

 OCT 22 2020
Notary Signature Date



The Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC), Houston, TX is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Learning Management System (RFP No. 20-14). In order to be considered, the Offeror must complete and submit a proposal to Region 4 ESC in accordance with the solicitation documentation available at www.esc4.net or <https://www.omniapartners.com/publicsector/solicitations>

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Thursday, November 5, 2020, 10:00 AM CST, Region 4 ESC, 7145 W. Tidwell Rd., Houston, TX 77019

PROPOSAL DUE DATE:
December 15, 2020 BEFORE 10:00 AM CST (SA1300086 10/22/20)

Lisa Sakakida being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is a clerk, duly authorized to execute this affidavit of Oahu Publications, Inc. publisher of The Honolulu Star-Advertiser, MidWeek, The Garden Island, West Hawaii Today, and Hawaii Tribune-Herald, that said newspapers are newspapers of general circulation in the State of Hawaii, and that the attached notice is true notice as was published in the

Honolulu Star-Advertiser 1 times on:
10/22/2020

MidWeek 0 times on:

The Garden Island 0 times on:

Hawaii Tribune-Herald 0 times on:

West Hawaii Today 0 times on:

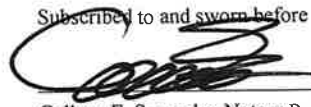
Other Publications: 0 times on:

And that affiant is not a party to or in any way interested in the above entitled matter.



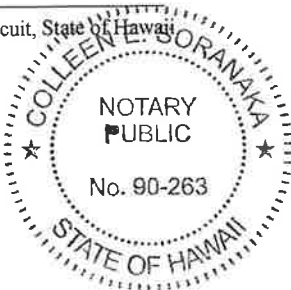
Lisa Sakakida

Subscribed to and sworn before me this 22 day of October A.D. 2020



Colleen E. Soranaka, Notary Public of the First Judicial Circuit, State of Hawaii
My commission expires: Jan 06 2024

Ad # 0001300086




ICSP NO.: _____

Victoria Bond A/B CLK
NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVE

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 4th Day of November A.D. 2020





Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

The Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC), Houston, TX is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide **Learning Management System (RFP No. 20-14)**.

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PROPOSAL DUE DATE:

December 15, 2020 BEFORE 10:00 AM CST

STATE OF MAINE

County of Kennebec
City of AUGUSTA/WATERVILLE

Being duly sworn, says he/she is Donna Dusty *Donna Dusty*
Of the Kennebec Journal/Morning Sentinel, daily newspapers in the City of Augusta /
Waterville, State of MAINE:

Public Notice: The Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC), Houston, TX is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide **Learning Management System (RFP No. 20-14)**.

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PROPOSAL DUE DATE:

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Has been published in the said Kennebec Journal:
10/21/20

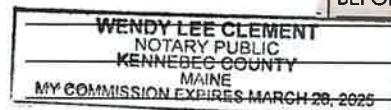
Has been published in the said Morning Sentinel:
10/21/20

Subscribed and sworn before me this:
10/22/20

Wendy Lee Clement

My Commission Expires

Name: Phase 3
Caption: Region 4 Education Service Center
Ad Number:0219619



Wendy Lee Clement

Public Notice
The Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC),
Houston, TX is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Learning Management System (RFP No. 20-14) .
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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NEVADA)
COUNTY OF CLARK) SS:

PHASE 3 MARKETING & COMM
STE 360
109 WESTPARK DR
BRENTWOOD TN 37027

Account # 170430
Ad Number 0001122769

Eileen Gallagher, being 1st duly sworn, deposes and says: That she is the Legal Clerk for the Las Vegas Review-Journal and the Las Vegas Sun, daily newspapers regularly issued, published and circulated in the City of Las Vegas, County of Clark, State of Nevada, and that the advertisement, a true copy attached for, was continuously published in said Las Vegas Review-Journal and / or Las Vegas Sun in 1 edition(s) of said newspaper issued from 10/21/2020 to 10/21/2020, on the following days:

10 / 21 / 20

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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TX 77019

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10:00 AM CST

PUB: Oct. 21, 2020
LV Review-Journal

ISI *Eileen Gallagher*
LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 21st day of October, 2020

Notary *Mary Lee*



**PHASE 3 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
109 WESTPARK DRIVE, SUITE 360
BRENTWOOD, TN 37027**

Acct Number 65600
Ad Number 0000947396
Insertions 1
Total \$18.30

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION,
NEW JERSEY, SUSSEX COUNTY, ss**

Cristy Carlson, of full age being duly sworn, did depose and say that the notice hereto attached was published in THE NEW JERSEY HERALD and/or NEW JERSEY SUNDAY HERALD a newspaper printed and circulated in said county on:

<u>ADNUMBER</u>	<u>Publication</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Date</u>
0000947396-01	NJH Herald	B4	10/21/2020

Cristy Carlson

Subscribed and sworn to me before this date: 10/21/2020

Daria Jean Sorgine
Notary: Date: 10/21/2020

**DARIA JEAN SORGINE
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
Comm. # 2457972
My Commission Expires 6/22/2023**

Legal Notice

NOTICE

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PROPOSAL DUE DATE:
December 15, 2020 BEFORE 10:00 AM CST
Oct. 21, 2020 pfs\$10.80
0000947396 NJH

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Advertising Affidavit

Account Number

6067881

300 E. Franklin Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 649-6208

Date

October 21, 2020

OMNIA
109 WESTPARK DRIVE
SUITE 360
BRENTWOOD, TN 37027

Date	Category	Description	Ad Size	Total Cost
10/30/2020	Propos-Sld Bids-RFP	The Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC), Houston, TX is	2 x 0 L	90.40

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PROPOSAL DUE DATE: December 15, 2020 BEFORE 10:00 AM CST

Publisher of the Richmond Times-Dispatch

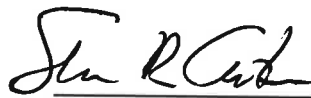
This is to certify that the attached The Region 4 Education Se was published by the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Inc. in the City of Richmond, State of Virginia, on the following dates:

10/21/2020

The First insertion being given ... 10/21/2020

Newspaper reference: 0001147599

Sworn to and subscribed before me this Wednesday, October 21, 2020



Notary Public



Billing Representative

Sharon R Carsten

NOTARY PUBLIC

Commonwealth of Virginia

Notary Registration Number 329549

Commission Expires July 31 2021

State of Virginia

City of Richmond

My Commission expires _____

THIS IS NOT A BILL. PLEASE PAY FROM INVOICE. THANK YOU

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SUN

This space for filing stamp only

473 E CARNEGIE DR #200, SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408
Telephone (909) 889-9666 / Fax (909) 884-2536

RICH MELIN
PHASE 3 MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS/NIPA
109 WESTPARK DRIVE SUITE 360
BRENTWOOD, TN - 37027

SB #: 3409036

The Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC), Houston, TX is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Learning Management System (RFP No. 20-14). In order to be considered, the Offeror must complete and submit a proposal to Region 4 ESC in accordance with the solicitation documentation available at www.esc4.net or <https://www.omniapartners.com/publicsector/solicitations>
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December 15, 2020 BEFORE 10:00 AM CST
10/22, 10/29/20

SBS-3409036#

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

(2015.5 C.C.P.)

State of California)
County of SAN BERNARDINO) ss

Notice Type: RFP - REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Ad Description:

Learning Management System (RFP No. 20-14).

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of California; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer and publisher of the SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SUN, a newspaper published in the English language in the city of SAN BERNARDINO, county of SAN BERNARDINO, and adjudged a newspaper of general circulation as defined by the laws of the State of California by the Superior Court of the County of SAN BERNARDINO, State of California, under date 06/27/1952, Case No. 73081. That the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

10/22/2020, 10/29/2020

Executed on: 10/29/2020
At Riverside, California

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.



Signature



Email * A 0 0 0 0 0 5 5 5 8 2 1 9 *

STATE OF WASHINGTON -- KING COUNTY

--SS.

388975

No.

PHASE 3 MARKETING & COMM.

Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

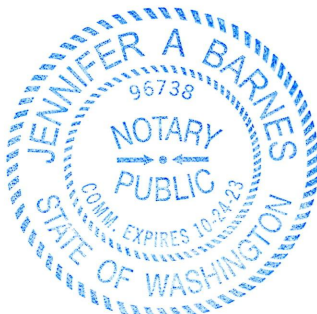
The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

BCSB:LEARNING MGMNT SYST

was published on

10/21/20

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$72.00.



Affidavit of Publication

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "M. J. Lee".

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

10/21/2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jennifer A. Barnes".

Notary public for the State of Washington,
residing in Seattle

State of Washington, King County

Region 4 Education Service Center Learning Management System

Proposals Due: December 15

The Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC), Houston, TX is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide **Learning Management System (RFP No. 20-14)**.

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10:00 AM CST

Date of publication in
the Seattle Daily Journal of
Commerce, October 21, 2020.

10/21(388975)

THE STATE MEDIA CO., INC.

Columbia, South Carolina publisher of

The State

The State Media Company

NEWSPAPER • DIGITAL • MAGAZINES • DIRECT MAIL

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Ad Number	Identification
580372	0004787017	REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS The Region 4 Education Service Center (

Attention: Rich Melin

PHASE 3 MARKETING
PO BOX 680758
MARIETTA, GA 30068

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC), Houston, TX is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Learning Management System (RFP No. 20-14).

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77019

PROPOSAL DUE DATE:
December 15, 2020 BEFORE
10:00 AM CST
4787017

State of South Carolina

County of Richland

I, Michelle Long, makes oath that the advertisement, was published in The State, a newspaper published in the City of Columbia, State and County aforesaid, in the issue(s) of

1 Insertion(s)


Published On:

October 21, 2020



Michelle Long
Inside Classified Accounts
Representative

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 29th day of October in the year of 2020



Amy L. Robbins
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires:
November 27, 2022

"Errors- the liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion."

TIMES UNION

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The Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC), Houston, TX is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Learning Management System (RFP No. 20-14). In order to be considered, the Offeror must complete and submit a proposal to Region 4 ESC in accordance with the solicitation documentation available at www.esc4.net or <https://www.omniapartners.com/publicsector/solicitations>

PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE:
Thursday, November 5, 2020, 10:00 AM CST. , Region 4 ESC, 7145 W. Tidwell Rd., Houston, TX 77019

PROPOSAL DUE DATE:
December 15, 2020 BEFORE 10:00 AM CST

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Fired Astros GM still doesn't get it



Nancy Armour
Columnist
USA TODAY

Jeffrey Luhnow seems to think the rules of upper management don't apply to him.

The disgraced former general manager of the Houston Astros, fired for fostering the frat boy culture that spawned the cheating scandal involving the 2017 World Series champions, is now whining about how unfairly he was treated. Luhnow didn't know about the trash can banging or the text messages, he insisted in his first interview since he was fired, and he's only the fall guy because Major League Baseball and Commissioner Rob Manfred wanted a high-profile head to roll.

Well, yeah. That's how it works.

When you run a team, or a company, you get to take credit for its successes. "Taking a terrible organization and turning it into a dominant organization," as Luhnow himself put it in the interview, which aired Monday night.

The flip side is that when things go south, you own that, too. And Luhnow, despite his tone-deaf attempt at revisionist history, owns every bit of the toxic mess that disgraced baseball.

Contrary to how Luhnow is trying to spin it, he wasn't suspended and subsequently fired because the Astros were caught cheating in 2017 and 2018.

Or because of the aggressive misogyny of his underlings.

Or the win-at-any-cost arrogance that turned pretty much everyone in baseball outside of Houston off the Astros.

He was fired for all of it.

"It is very clear to me that the culture of the baseball operations department ... has been very problematic," Manfred wrote in his January report on the sign-stealing. "At least in my view, the base-



Former Astros general manager Jeffrey Luhnow was fired by the team in January after being suspended by Major League Baseball. JOHN GLASER/USA TODAY SPORTS

ball operations department's insular culture — one that valued and rewarded results over other considerations, combined with a staff of individuals who often lacked direction or sufficient oversight, led, at least in part, to (this)."

Luhnow's attempts to evade responsibility are, simply, laughable. He acknowledges that someone at MLB reached out to him twice — not once, twice — in 2018 to raise the possibility that the Astros were stealing signs.

"But I wasn't asked to follow-up on it, they weren't asking me to do anything," Luhnow said. "It was sort of a heads-up, and I didn't think we were doing anything so I didn't pursue it."

Now that just begs credibility. Houston's success stemmed from its parsing of the tiniest morsel of data, and we're to believe Luhnow would just ignore something like this? Of course not.

Sure enough, Luhnow contradicted himself. While still answering the same question, no less.

"During the season in 2018, about five different times, either because I noticed it myself or because MLB called me and said, 'We think there might be a potential violation here,' I followed up quickly, I followed up vigorously, I talked to the coaching staff, I talked to the video room staff," Luhnow said. "And I told them, 'We've been accused of a violation, let's make sure we're doing everything right.'"

That's the problem with thinking you're untouchable. The lies feel like truth and the moral compromises seem more like starting points in the negotiations.

That Luhnow is portraying himself as the victim, throwing everyone else under the bus, is not a surprise. He and his team might have been the smartest people in the room, taking their analytics, technology and operations know-how from the business world and applying them to baseball.

But that cut-throat world view left no

room for introspection. For anyone to raise their hand if and when he or she saw a problem with how the Astros were doing things.

It also created a permissive atmosphere where no one below Luhnow would have felt the need to inform the boss about the sign-stealing caper, figuring he'd be OK with their any-means-necessary approach.

"They just did it," Luhnow said. "Whether it's the players or the video staffers, they just decided on their own to do it, and that's a shame, because had they come and asked me for permission I would have said no. Had they gone and asked (owner Jim Crane) for permission, he would have said no. There's just no reason why that should have happened."

He's right. But that is the culture Luhnow created. Celebrated, really.

The Astros did things differently and if you didn't like it, that was your problem, not theirs. If they got caught skirting the bounds of decency, well, surely their success would protect them. That, or they'd find someone else to take the fall.

Either way, the damage would be minimized and it wouldn't be long before everyone moved on and Luhnow and his crew could go back to doing what they did best.

Luhnow still doesn't seem to understand that *that* is what got him fired. It wasn't the sign stealing. It was that the Astros actively and enthusiastically undermined the integrity of the game.

"My integrity is being questioned here," Luhnow said.

"Everything I worked for for the past 16 years is being questioned here. And it's wrong. I was accused of something I didn't do. I'll take my punishment because I was the general manager. But I'm not going to let people label me as a cheater."

He might not be a cheater. But he is more than deserving of the punishment he got.

Fans

Continued from Page 1C

season shortened from 162 to 60 games and took in zero game-day revenue. With teams in 28 markets, MLB will have to abide by — or cut a deal with — health departments across the country to ensure fans in every stadium.

That's a significant reason why the NL Division Series, NLCS and World Series are in the Lone Star State — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott flung the door open for fans in stands at sporting events in June, just before a summer spike in COVID-19 cases and deaths in the state.

MLB's Texas test case could potentially provide a path to fans on a wider scale in 2021.

"Thus far the Rangers have executed the protocols well," MLB said in a statement, "and the hard work of their staff is providing a road map for other Clubs to host fans next season."

It has been an interesting sight, seeing fans spread about the stadium in pods of four. It's clear many are families and close friends, as MLB intended when selling the tickets in quartets that can't be individually resold. Mask compliance appears strong, at least on concourses and other common areas.

"The masks, the distancing and the (hand-washing) ports — they have soap and everything. We're OK. We feel safe," says Albert Leza of Laredo, who attended Game 7 of the NLCS with his wife, Roxy. "We're used to having more people around. We'd like to see more fans, but you can still have fun like this."

Perhaps too much fun.

The Lezas were wearing their masks in their seats, but that piece of the equation has been much more hit-or-miss. MLB's ticket policy this postseason



Fans with face coverings sit in the stands Tuesday before Game 1 of the World Series at Globe Life Field. TIM HEITMAN/USA TODAY SPORTS

states that masks must be worn "except while eating or drinking," which could serve as a Texas-sized loophole for non-compliance, particularly at an event where alcohol is sold.

"I like to call it the Starbucks effect — people take their masks off and sit there for two hours, sipping a beverage," says USF's Roberts. "As long as you have alcohol in your hands, you can take your mask off. My concern would be getting into arguments, getting closer than you need to be."

"As long as you have beverages of any sort, people will have them to take their masks off. And the longer you take them off, the more dangerous you are."

The coronavirus' delayed and insidious nature means the league won't be

able to hang a "Mission Accomplished" banner once every fan has left the final game of the World Series. If there is a case of community spread at a playoff game, it likely will be weeks or even months before it is discovered, what with fans returning to towns across Texas and to home markets in California, Georgia and Florida.

Roberts said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tracks data across states and likely would connect the dots back to Globe Life Field. MLB did not request specific information from ticket buyers for the purpose of contact tracing but said in a statement to USA TODAY that it will "assist public health authorities in any contact tracing by providing any information request-

ing, including identifying information of ticket purchasers."

Tickets to the World Series sold out the day they went on sale, and all NLCS games eventually sold out, the crowds ranging from 10,800 to the low 11,000s. The combination of a baseball-starved populace, the stakes of the playoffs and a new, \$1.1 billion stadium that even hardcore aficionados had never seen were all significant lures.

Come April, a far wider swath of fans, including casual ones, will be in play. To that end, MLB sent out an extensive survey to ticket buyers that gauged their willingness to accept risk, which virus mitigation procedures (masks, hand-washing, distancing) they valued most, and even their political affiliations.

Naturally, progress on a vaccine would greatly affect any fan's calculus. But the production line and distribution of the vaccine will likely unfold over much of 2021, which means these playoff games' look, sound and feel to paying customers may last for at least another season.

"It's going to be exciting," says Rays shortstop Willy Adames, whose club played in fan-less San Diego in the American League Championship Series, "to play again in front of fans."

In a few weeks, we may learn how likely that is in 2021.

Corrections & Clarifications

A story on Dick Vitale that ran in Tuesday's editions misspelled the given name of the Tampa Bay Lightning coach. It is Jon Cooper.

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November 20th, 2020

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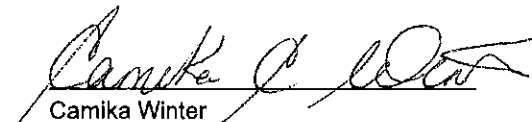
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10/21/2020, 10/29/2020, 11/11/2020



Anthony Pacini

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