

November 3, 2017

FOUNDATION AWARDS \$43,000 IN MINI GRANTS

(Aurora) – The Aurora East Educational Foundation (AEEF) has awarded \$43,000 in grants to District 131 staff who applied for funding through the AEEF Educational Grants Program.

The purpose of the AEEF Educational Grants Program is to allow innovative ideas to be tested and the education of our youth to be enriched through these ideas. Past activities have been very successful and have made the educational experience of our students even more rewarding.

“The Aurora East Educational Foundation is humbled by the overwhelming response from the teachers and staff to this year's request for mini-grants. Forty-nine applications were received and slightly over \$43,000 was distributed. Thank you very much to all for their submittals and congratulations to the recipients. Continued success to our dedicated staff members as they implement their programs and enrich our students' educational opportunities both in and out of the classroom.” said Bill Deligiannis, Chairman.

The following are the projects that were funded for this cycle of the AEEF Educational Grants Program:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>School</u>
Reggio-Inspired Environment & Enrichment	Cory Mehnert	Early Childhood Center
Flexible Seating & Sensory Supports	Dana MacDonald	Benavides Center
STEAMing Away with Legos	Joe Bastian	Benavides Center
Coding in Elementary School	Rebecca Cole	Brady
World History Classroom Maps	Michael Adams & Linda Lang	Waldo
Waldo's Great Escape	Stacey Martin	Waldo
Breakout the Norm with Breakout EDU	Kelly Tsioupros	Waldo
High/Low Reading Program	Beth Frost & Morgan Olzen	Waldo
Pirates! The Musical	Eliseo Martinez & Nancy Griffin	Bardwell
Task Boxes	Alma Colton & Aishia Jefferson	Krug
Drama Club – The trial of Alice in Wonderland	Elizabeth Elsbree & Amy Kastel	Krug
Adaptive PE	Jacqueln Cudebec	Krug
Peace Jam Leadership Conf.	Sue-Z Bruno	Gates
Illinois Educational Adventure to Springfield	Marissa Mendoza	Gates
KDE – Kids Design Engineering	Susan Cunningham	Gates
Choices & Consequences	Annie Halsema	East High
African American Honor Society	Nakita Stewart & Master Chief Allen	East High
Special Olympics	Kathleen Sandacz	East High
Expecting Mom Group for Teen Moms	Nakita Stewart & Jamie Frederick	East High
Soul Sisters: African American Female Leadership Group	Nakita Stewart & Jackie Montroy	East High
East Side Percussion	Joe Kulick	East High

<u>Program</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>School</u>
X-Kids Math Club	Brian Griffin	Beaupre
Buddy Bench	Lenore Hernandez, Alison Mann & Cathy Piehl	Rollins
Powered Machines – Cars & Cantraptions	Maiden Lopez & Christine Martinez	Rollins
Every Step Counts	Saul Olivas & Carol Mertes	Johnson
Self-Regulation Curricula & Materials	Amy Ditmar	Oak Park
Educational Technology	Nicole Schomas & Elizabeth Goebel	Oak Park
Green Screen	Jennifer Kmiec	Oak Park
JJ Girls Club	Jeanne Morrell & Janel Jaros	Oak Park
Reach for the Stars w/Reading	Rachel Pinkepank	Hermes
IMSA Fusions Mission to Mars	Karen Henderson	Simmons
Digital Objects to Enhance Learning	Jason Shipinski	Simmons
Pumpkin Math	Karen Henderson	Simmons
Community Based Life Skills Trips	Crystal Cepek	Simmons
Home School Connection	Denise Salemi & Isela Renteria	Simmons
Fostering Independence, Stamina & Passion in ELL Readers	Denise Salemi	Simmons
Hydroponics Project	Darren McArdle	O'Donnell
Friendship Garden Project	Darren McArdle	O'Donnell