



News Release

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Foundation awards Innovative Teaching Grants

Approximately \$42,500 in enrichment programs funded

June 4, 2018 – Pflugerville Education Foundation Board members and staff on Friday, May 25 awarded 10 Innovative Teaching Grants worth more than \$42,500 to Pflugerville ISD staff members.

PEF board and staff members joined PfISD staff and board members, as well as local business sponsors, in surprise visits to district campuses that morning.

“I was thrilled to see diversity and the array of innovative ideas the Foundation board selected,” said PfISD Board of Trustees President Vernagene Mott, a Foundation charter member. “It will motivate and mobilize our passionate teachers to prepare for implementation next year, ultimately impacting positive student outcomes.”

Through Innovative Teaching Grants, the Foundation provides up to \$2,000 for programs or projects initiated by individual educators and up to \$5,000 for programs or projects initiated by teams or departments. The Foundation’s goal is to select projects and/or programs for funding that stimulate students’ learning and creativity by enhancing the existing curriculum.

This year’s winners (listed by grants) are:

- Kim Mendez and Mara Galusha (Dearing Elementary): For a technology-based Maker Monday event students attend monthly
- Laura Diaz, Shannon Cochran, Brandi Lujano, Scott Smith and Michelle Lopez (Mott Elementary): For additional flexible seating
- Morufat Komolafe and the Weiss High School counseling team (Weiss High School): For suicide prevention training
- Kimberly LaMarre and Margaret Dominguez (Park Crest and Cele middle schools): To allow students to create a mosaic of famous world leaders, which will support STEAM skills offered in library MakerSpaces
- Melissa Shannon, Mary Eaton, Michelle Garcia, Jena McGuire, Jennifer Kienzle (Park Crest Middle School): For engineering- and math-based kits in which students may study speed, energy transformations and motions of an inclined plane
- Philip Catuogno and David Robb (Timmerman Elementary and Pflugerville High

School): For the exploration of video production by first- and second-grade students, mentored by audio/video students at Pflugerville High School

- Christopher Stelly and Cara Kinney (Pflugerville Middle School): For Wacom tablets
- Brandy West (Parmer Lane Elementary): For Bee Bot programmable floor robots
- Daniela Guardiola, Patti Tout, Rebecca Patterson and Emily Arbesu (Delco Primary): For virtual reality gear to be used by all grade levels
- Maria Barrow (Ruth Barron Elementary): For virtual reality kits

“Teachers are always looking for new ways to expand their instruction and engage their students in the classroom, but it can be expensive,” said Pflugerville Education Foundation Executive Director Allison Kane. “The Foundation is excited to work with our donors to support this year’s recipients.”

Kane was joined in the grant presentations by PflSD Deputy Superintendent Troy Galow, Mott, board member Renae Mitchell, Pflugerville Chamber of Commerce President Shontel Mays, campus principals and PEF board members, as well as representatives from local business sponsors H-E-B, St. David’s and Zaxby’s.

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