



News Release

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Education Foundation joins Amplify Austin

March 1, 2017 – In an age of instant results, Park Crest Middle School students must often slow down and problem-solve when working with the school’s new 3D printer. One student, for example, developed the ingenious idea of creating a 3D printer out of the 3D printer, but stumbled when having to adhere the individual printer parts together.

“It’s eye-opening for students,” noted Park Crest educator Angela Matysek, who last year submitted the grant application for the 3D printer. “It really is very human-like, in that it’s only as smart as the person using it.”

The Pflugerville Education Foundation in May approved Matysek’s Innovative Teaching Grant application, along with 10 other applications. In total, more than \$34,000 in grants was divvied up among eight Pflugerville ISD campuses.

Innovative Teaching grants such as that supporting the Park Crest 3D printer are among the direct beneficiaries of Amplify Austin, an area-wide, 24-hour giving campaign starting at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 2. Donations to the Pflugerville Education Foundation through Amplify Austin directly benefit the Foundation and its programs.

“Supporting the Foundation during the Amplify campaign will help us impact the minds of our students by allowing teachers to introduce innovative teaching tools into the classroom through grants,” said PEF Board President Cameron Howard.

Matysek noted students in the school’s Gifted and Talented program utilize the 3D printer. It helps teach math and engineering, while used in conjunction with a curriculum that stresses such skills as inductive reasoning and time management.

“I’ve enjoyed the problem-solving that young students are doing on it,” she said. “You see them thinking on a level that is very mature for them. I truly, truly love it.”

Pflugerville Education Foundation will be participating in Amplify Austin for the first time, but the fundraising effort is in its fifth year. Last year, it raised \$8.5 million for more than 600 Central Texas nonprofits.

The Foundation aims to raise \$5,000 through Amplify Austin. Besides the Innovative Teaching grants, the organization supports PflISD through a variety of programs, recognitions and other grants. Others include Campus, New Teacher and Community grants, each awarded on an annual basis.

The Foundation will be hosting a celebration party, where donations may be made in person, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 3 at Cheddar's, 15119 N. Interstate 35, Pflugerville. Donations may also be made online at <https://amplifyatx.livehereigivehere.org/PEF/overview>

For more information on the Pflugerville Education Foundation, visit www.thepfoundation.org.

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