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**2019-2020
GoTeach!**

Classroom Grant Awards
Celebrating Innovation in the Classroom

September 26, 2019



Education Foundation of Palm Beach County's History and Purpose

Established in 1984 by Palm Beach County business leaders, the Education Foundation serves as the philanthropic support organization for K-12 public education and partners closely with the School District of Palm Beach County and the greater business and charitable community to fund programs that close achievement gaps in learning and that create positive, measurable change for students. This is accomplished by using the funding to provide innovative classroom grants as well as providing quality professional development to foster excellence in teaching.

Through a unique matching grant program, the Education Foundation works with corporate and private investors to fund innovative projects and curriculum that improve literacy and grade-level performance, increase graduation rates, support STEM and career academies and target support to low-performing students and schools.

We all know that children succeed in school when they have all the tools, resources and support they need in order to achieve. That is why the Red Apple Supplies (RAS) program was created as a free school supply store that serves the highest-needs Title I schools throughout Palm Beach County. RAS is the signature program of the Education Foundation. Since opening the doors in 2016, over one million dollars in free school supplies have been provided to teachers and students throughout Palm Beach County.

Mission

We are the nexus of Palm Beach County's public school system, the private sector, and the community. We facilitate student achievement by supporting high quality public education through partnerships, grants, events, and public awareness.



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

Tonight, we celebrate innovation in the classroom as we gather to honor and award our GoTeach! Classroom Grant recipients. Each year, the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County awards these grants to innovative teachers whose creativity and dedication is worthy of our support.

I want to thank our Board of Directors, the Programs and Grants Committee, the entire staff and our amazing volunteers for making this night possible. This amazing evening is presented by Office Depot. I also want to thank Kimberly Lea, Dr. Gary Vonk and the entire Keiser University family for graciously opening their beautiful facility to us hosting us and sponsoring the welcome reception. We share our gratitude to all our sponsors, including: BDO, Gunster, Pratt & Whitney, PNC, Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, TD Bank, JPMorgan Chase & Co., B&I Contractors, and The Breakers. I also want to thank the Great Charity Challenge, SRG Technology, Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation, the Consortium of Florida Education Foundation's Matching Grant Program and our Champions of Education whose financial support makes these grants and all of our programs possible.

We welcome our School District officials, Members of the School Board, our business and community leaders, as well as elected officials who are here tonight. When we work together, we create miracles.

Finally, I address a word to our heroes...the amazing teachers in our public schools. Every day, you go to work, teach your class, assign homework, grade papers, and perform a hundred other tasks. But what are you really doing? You are opening a door...the most important door ever conceived. Every day, you go to work and open the minds of our students. No work in our community is more sacred, or more necessary. Thank you for all you do day in and day out. Thank you for your vision, your commitment and your creativity. Thank you for caring so deeply about our students. And thank you for planting seeds today that will come to fruition in the years to come.

With respect,

James S. Gavrilos, CFRE
President/CEO
Education Foundation of Palm Beach County

Education Foundation of Palm Beach County and School District Matching Grant Programs 2019-2020

Classroom Resources and Supplies

Red Apple Supplies

A FREE resource store providing essential school supplies to teachers in 53 high-needs schools throughout the school year, ensuring students and teachers have the supplies they need to succeed.

Funded in partnership with Ventus Charitable Foundation, Children's Healthcare Charity/Honda Classic Cares, LexisNexis Risk Solutions, U.S. Sugar, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office, Gunster, Florida Power & Light Company, Kast Construction Company, Carrier Corporation, McKinsey & Company and the School District Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations along with the generosity of individual donors throughout the community.

Teacher Development & Training

GoTeach! Classroom Grants

A competitive grant program for individual or team-teaching projects. Grants promote an original, creative and innovative teaching approach that addresses student needs.

Charging Forward with Multisensory Strategies

In collaboration with the University of Central Florida's Morgridge International Reading Center, the School District of Palm Beach County has trained district administrators and teachers in four pilot elementary schools in research-based multisensory instructional strategies. This year, the program will expand to serve kindergarten and first grade teachers and students in 12 schools. These instructional strategies will be used to improve students' reading proficiency in primary grades with language-based learning disabilities, including students with characteristics of dyslexia.

Funded in partnership with Ventus Charitable Foundations and the School District Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations.

The OrKIDS Project: Understanding the Importance of Conservation Science

A hands-on plant propagation program, in partnership with Florida Atlantic University's Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, that trains teachers and provides the opportunity for middle and high school students to grow endangered native orchids in their classroom while collecting important data that will help to inform the scientific field on native plant conservation. Students learn how to think critically about the plant world through interacting with their orchids daily by setting up a classroom botany lab. The hands-on experiences of caring for the orchids, and planning a restoration project, will increase students' awareness of the plant kingdom and provide a better understanding of restoration ecology.

Funded in partnership with Florida Atlantic University's Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, Ventus Charitable Foundation and the School District of Palm Beach County's Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations.

Global Collaborations for Project Based Learning

This program engages students and teachers through a system of instruction that provides unique cultural experiences and identifies global problems. Educators facilitate international dialogue, allowing students to identify current world issues, with the goal of focusing on real needs that are meaningful and relevant to participating students and teachers. Incorporating global and project based learning in all subjects (by integrating technology as an instructional tool) empowers students to analyze problems and design solutions in collaboration with peers across the world. Students will increase their global communication skills and understanding of different perspectives that lead to innovative solutions. Teacher training opportunities are provided to teachers which will help them to implement advanced strategies in the classroom. Through the Genius Plaza online platform, teachers will also have access to culturally relevant resources and innovative methods including digital storytelling and access to blended learning resources, teaching tools, parent engagement facilitation, and a teacher dashboard. Participating schools will have the instructional tools to embed global education concepts and project-based learning into all areas of the curriculum. Participating teachers and students will create global education projects through collaborations with international schools abroad.

Funded in partnership with the Mary and Robert Pew Public Education Fund and the School District Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations.

Career Education Programs

Healthcare Innovation Project

The Healthcare Innovation Project will provide 11 schools (10 high schools and 1 middle school) with Medical Sciences Academy Programs with cutting-edge diverse clinical patient simulators that teachers can program with a "pre-existing medical condition". This cutting-edge equipment will provide students with hands-on learning opportunities, allowing them to meet the required clinical experiences necessary to become healthcare providers and licensed or industry certified in our modern medical world.

Funded in partnership with the Quantum Foundation and the School District Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations.

Rocket Powered Robotics

Providing support for middle and high school robotics clubs and high school LEGO First Robotics teams. Exposing students to STEM education and careers.

Funded in partnership with Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation and the School District Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations.

Stepping up STEM at Pahokee

This program supports STEM education and curriculum at Pahokee Middle and High School, which was designated as a 4-year Discovery STEM pilot school this year. By adding new STEM courses in Computer Programming and Robotics for 9th and 10th graders at Pahokee High School and enhancing the existing Computer Programming Course content at Pahokee Middle School, Pahokee is "Stepping up STEM".

Funded in partnership with Ventus Charitable Foundations, Florida Power & Light, Company, Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation & School District Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations.

Academic/Graduation Improvement

AVID - Advancement via Individual Determination

The AVID program mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. AVID expands to 66 schools this year and celebrates Coniston Middle School being named an AVID National Demonstration School, serving as a teaching and observation site to other districts and schools in the 2018-2019 school year.

Funded in partnership with Bank of America and the School District Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations.

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GoTeach! Classroom Grant Recipients

Elementary Grant Recipients

Maria Soto *Barton Elementary*

Laptops for Pre-Kindergarten

This project will utilize laptops for pre-kindergarten students who are English Language Learners (ELL) to: stimulate language comprehension and vocabulary, to prepare them for future computer use, such as I-Ready, and to increase self-esteem and self-confidence. Because students are living in a digital world, this project will help students with literacy skills such as letter recognition, letter sounds, rhyming, word identification and reading.

Lucinda Holden *Belle Glade Elementary*

The LEGO Robotics Invention Project

The LEGO Robotics Invention Project is designed to meet first grade students' needs by providing them the opportunity to explore a variety of engineering and technology systems. Using robotics, such as the LEGO Robotic Systems, in a hands-on classroom environment will help to promote various skills that are useful preparation for future careers in science, mathematics and engineering. This curriculum also integrates science, physics, engineering and computer programming.

Ariana Murphy *Belle Glade Elementary*

Hatching Life in the Classroom

This project will provide the students with the opportunity to learn about the incubation process and life cycle of chickens. Students will begin by researching the incubation process of chicken eggs through technology in the classroom. They will then watch the process live in the classroom! The students will be responsible for monitoring the incubator and taking data to see the project through to the end, with the hatching of the chicks.

Rachel Bennett *Boca Raton Elementary*
Growing Media Center Gardens

This program integrates traditional literacy and research skills traditionally taught in the media center with math, science and technology. Students will be provided instruction and will then have opportunities to conduct their research on native plants, develop a design for garden boxes and get their hands dirty by planting and maintaining the garden.

Teresa Girolmetti, Sue Hannan & Cynthia White *Coral Sunset Elementary*
That's a Fact Jack! 3rd, 4th and 5th grades (3 projects)

Students will have the opportunity to utilize up-to-date current events in the world by using Scholastic News with the Science Spin add-on to enrich their knowledge of science, social studies, history and technology while building essential reading and writing skills. These interesting stories are interactive and available in multiple media formats such as video clips, the digital Google classroom and print.

Laura Orlove *Crosspointe Elementary*
Build-A-Word

Phonics and word analysis can be boring and confusing when taught in isolation. Young children need to interact with words and watch them come alive. With Build-a-Word, the children will choose quality books to read and then build the words that are inside the pages of that book. Using LEGO blocks, the children will build rhyming words, contractions, compound words and more! Students and teachers will have the opportunity to check out books and manipulate the blocks in order to play and learn words in a meaningful way!

Tempie Craven *Discovery Key Elementary*
KindSpace

This program is designed to provide students a structured environment where they can grow their Social Emotional Learning skills. With class sets of books and group activities, grade levels will be learning empathy, impulse control, communication skills, managing emotions and maintaining positive relationships. The goals of this program are to foster peer relationships within the school community and to provide the students with the self-awareness and responsible decision-making skills they need to become successful students.

Rebecca Blucher & Jessy Canton *Forest Park Elementary*
Bringing Math Home

This project creates backpacks that combine literacy with math. Each backpack will cover a mathematics standard and include a book to read about the math topic and games to play with family members and friends. This project will help reinforce math skills while bringing families closer together. Families can enjoy each other's company with a game night while practicing math skills. This program provides a fun and interactive way for learning to occur!

Gayle Zavala & Jill Schmidt *Gove Elementary*
TURTLEPALOOZA

This project will offer K-6th grade students lessons that are engaging, hands-on and supportive of multiple content areas. It will teach stewardship for sea turtles, oceans and other waterways. Lessons will be implemented through school-wide STEAM classes related to sea turtles and waterway conservation using materials acquired from Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center and will also offer lessons through visual arts classes. The after-school Garden/Environmental Club and Art Club will take an active part in creating games for grade levels PreK - 6th, which will focus on the study of sea turtles. In addition, the club members will attend a field trip to the Marinelifelife Center to learn first-hand the importance of community awareness and advocacy to protect wildlife. Club members and interested grade groups will participate in an end of the year "TURTLEPALOOZA" performance to showcase the school's commitment to saving sea turtles and maintaining unpolluted waterways.

David Voytek & Dave DiGiovanni *Grassy Waters Elementary School*
Ozobots - Ways to Code

This project will give students a chance to learn basic coding skills along with combining the use of Ozobots which are easy-to-use robots. K-5 students will be provided with endless opportunities to expand their coding knowledge and skills. The innovative part of the project is that the students will be utilizing computers to code as well as using a color-coded system allowing them to code without the use of a computer. The system makes it easy for all grade levels to understand and use the robots successfully!

David Voytek *Grassy Waters Elementary School*
Makey Makerspace

This project will allow students to use the unique device of a “Makey Makey” to create music, robotic functions and coding. Students will be able to create, design and discover ways to make innovating circuitry. This educational tool allows for self-discovery, creative problem solving and critical thinking.

Elizabeth Bare & Jodi Shechtman *Greenacres Elementary*
Summer Slide Summer Enrichment Program

The aim of the Summer Slide Program is to keep students reading over the summer, to stop summer learning loss and to continue progress in Reading. Greenacres Summer Slide Program provides students with “just right” books in English and Spanish, while also providing time for students and families to engage with teachers and technology during “Open Media” sessions held at the weekly PRIDE Academy. Teachers who speak both English and Spanish are present over the summer and can help facilitate conversations with parents as well as students. Computers are available for students to utilize the District’s online learning network. Teachers also work with students individually and read with students. Every student leaves for the summer with a minimum of five books, which they can “swap” throughout the summer for new titles.

Lauren Maclay *Hagen Road Elementary*
Bee-Bots in Pre-K

Bee-Bots are an early childhood, interactive robotic activity which will encourage STEM at the earliest level in VPK Inclusion classrooms. Bee-Bots support building an academic foundation for later years, while encouraging a love for learning through technology. This project supports innovation through four and five-year-old children learning how to code, while simultaneously building the necessary academic skills of math and literacy. In addition, it facilitates social communication for all children, including those with speech and language delays.

Nani Dupee & Arisbeth Cortez *K.E. Cunningham/Canal Point Elementary*
Breaking Out is Hard to Do!

This project utilizes Break Out Edu, Kami Teacher, and Pear Deck Professional licenses to actively engage students in their education through the use of technology. Break Out Edu is a learning games platform that can transform classrooms into academically focused escape rooms. This project merges reading, science and math classrooms with the 4 Cs of 21st Century Skills (collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and communication) while creating an environment of perseverance and problem-solving. This project extends across grade levels and subject areas, allowing all students to be involved in authentic problem-solving. Kami and Pear Deck licenses allow students to become active participants in their lessons using Chromebooks.

Amy Gustafson & Elizabeth Spivey *Northboro Elementary Montessori Magnet School*
STEAMing to Success

The primary goal of this project is to empower students to visualize and synthesize math and science vocabulary and concepts through hands-on learning. As students move through science, geometry and math standards, they will see the parallel development through their art projects. The use of key vocabulary terms will further assist them in transferring their understanding of the scientific method, force and motion and key math concepts into everyday living through art, math and science. This project will apply to all elementary school learners, from PK3 through 5th grade.

Debbie Tanner & Suzanne Drummond *S.D. Spady Elementary*
Mapping + Coding = Excited Second Graders!

This project will involve second graders using literature to inspire the creation of three-dimensional maps of the school and community. The students will then use Sphero robots to navigate the maps using coding via iPads. The second-grade classroom teachers and the media specialist will collaborate to successfully implement this project that combines reading, math, social studies, art, visual spatial skills and coding.

Jana Gill *Sunrise Park Elementary*
Purposeful Play

This project will use play to help develop motor skills, express emotions, sharing, cooperation, communicating, vocabulary growth, increased concentration, creativity and imagination. Playing is learning, and this project will help kindergartners grow in their cognitive, social and emotional development. This program will also provide the community of learners with opportunities to work together to build, construct, plan, design, create, role play and develop!

Mitchell Bobrick *Wynnebrook Elementary*
S.O.A.R.: Successful Opportunities to Accelerate Reading

In order to meet the needs of students who struggle with reading due to a reading disability, lack of proficiency in English as a new language, or a lack of motivation, this project will provide fifth grade students with unabridged digital audio books to support their reading. The purchase of grade level novels and popular titles purchased as digital audio will open the doors for students who require both audio and visual material to improve their literacy skills.

Jessicca Oelerich & Deborah Lamb *C.O. Taylor/Kirklane Elementary*
Free to Learn

When students are able to move and wiggle during the day, there is an increased amount of oxygen going to the brain to help with cognitive processing. This program will provide students with a variety of flexible seating options. Students will have the opportunity to move around and thereby stay motivated and engaged in learning throughout the day.

Wendy Alvarado *Egret Lake Elementary*
Fencing Club

This project will involve designing fences using recyclable materials to enrich students through STEAM, while learning the steps involved in project management. This public art display is intended to be inspirational for the students, parents, staff and community.

Jennifer Bakakos *Loxahatchee Groves Elementary*
Mrs. B's Kindergarten is Hatching Chicks

This project will allow kindergarten students to learn about the life cycle of chicks. They will read high-quality informational texts on chickens as well as doing their own research on how chicks develop inside the egg. The baby chicks will hatch inside the classroom and the students will have first-hand knowledge of the experience.

Pauline Fagan & Jean Garry Pierre *Westward Elementary*
ESOL Home Library

This grant will supply home libraries for English Language learners who are currently reading below grade level in grades K-5. This program will increase the students' reading levels as well as their English Language Acquisition.

Courtney Prieto & Kiesha Haynes *Forest Hill Elementary*
There's No Duel in Dual

The purpose of this project is for students to apply their learning in Spanish literacy to their English literacy by engaging in books that contain the same content, in two different languages. Students will learn through paired books and will thereby understand that the knowledge they acquire is transferable in both English and Spanish.

Cynthia Orocofsky *Palm Springs Elementary*
Revamping Literacy

The goal of this program is to increase student reading by revamping the school's media center with a child-friendly layout and design. Palm Springs Elementary is a Title 1 school where 52% of the students are English Language Learners. For many of the students, the school library is their primary source for accessing books and utilizing technology. The students will benefit from a positive environment in which to do their research and to read for pleasure.

Carolyn Mawali *Belle Glade Elementary*
ROBOTICS: Build It! Share It!

Through this project, students will be able to complete a STEM activity by building robot models using plans provided. Students will also create stories to go along with their models, thus increasing their enthusiasm for reading and helping to improve their reading scores.

Dana Tate & Brittany Burns-Saul *Village Academy*
Project Play

This project was designed to support kindergartners in transforming their outdoor play space into an active environmental learning area. Utilizing a Project-Based Learning (PBL) approach, kindergarten students will critically analyze their current play area and 1) identify problems; 2) brainstorm solutions; 3) interview others for input; 4) plan and design changes; 5) present ideas for approval, and finally, 6) work with community members and experts for implementation. As a component of Project Play, kindergartners will build Peace Learning Gardens. The Peace Learning Gardens will promote environmental stewardship, community and social development, academic achievement and a healthy lifestyle.

Margaret Woehlcke, Christine Moschetti, Jennifer Staer & Hilary York
Benoist Farms Elementary
Genius Hour with Book Buddies 3rd and 4th grades (2 projects)

This program will allow students to check out high-interest books from their classroom "Book Buddies" library to take home daily. This is an innovative approach to motivating students to read a variety of books in order to grow their enjoyment of reading. The books will be rotated to different classrooms throughout the school year, allowing students to consistently experience new material which will build their background knowledge and provide them with new learning opportunities.

Courtney Roper & Scott Lehman *Crosspointe Elementary*
Robotic Class Pets

Being a STEM school, Crosspointe Elementary would like their class pets to be robots instead of your average hamster or bearded dragon. Students will be responsible for programming, feeding (aka charging) and supervising their class robots. These robotic pets will travel with their class everywhere throughout the day. Yes, even lunch and recess!

Courtney Roper & Scott Lehman *Crosspointe Elementary*
Free Community Library

Many students do not have access to good literature on a daily basis. This project will provide a mini lending library on campus in a location where parents can drive up and choose a book anytime the school gates are open. This large "bird house" type of structure will contain books for all reading levels, and which address a variety of interests.

Kaitlyn Byrne-Mauro *Diamond View Elementary*
Unlocking the Potential of Every Reader!

This grant will provide more ways to close the achievement gaps in reading for students prior to the third grade. Providing resources for teachers to use to target specific literacy skills, and using a multi-sensory approach, will help unlock the potential of striving readers. Additionally, through the implementation of a Reading Goal Tracker tailored for each student to monitor their progress, students will feel more confident in their reading.

Maureen Mitchell *Forest Park Elementary*
Forest Park Sensory Hallway

This program will provide Pre-K students access to a sensory hallway. A sensory hallway is a pathway that is comprised of floor and wall decals that require students to use a variety of movements. The movements may be crawling, jumping, pushing, tiptoeing, etc. The movements help students release energy and help to refocus brain activity. Students will be engaged in physical tasks specifically selected to increase cognitive focus and ultimately result in increased learning and productivity.

Talia Zito *Galaxy Elementary*
Make and Meditate: A Mindful Art Club

The Make and Meditate Mindful Art Club will serve as an after-school club for students during which they will be taught to use expressive art activities as a way to promote emotional growth and healing. This club will provide a safe space for students to explore creative talents and utilize artistic techniques and mediums for self-expression when they can't find the words to work through their emotions. Lessons about mindfulness, along with strategies to cope with stress and emotions, will be explicitly taught and strategically integrated into each session. Not only will art become a vehicle for meditation and self-expression, it will provide an escape for students by allowing them to tap into a deeper, more quiet part of themselves to help them to lead healthier lives.

Correna Littles *Highland Elementary School*
Full STEAM Ahead: Inspiring Our Next Generation of Scientists

This program provides students with the opportunity to explore, engage and collaborate on inquiry-based STEAM projects throughout the school year. The STEAM projects will focus on the exploration of renewable and non-renewable energy sources, energy transformation, and circuitry. Students will design and create solar cars, wind turbines and hydropower lifts. After students become masters of their designs, they will host a STEAM Night for their family and peers to showcase and to teach others about their energy-inspired projects.

Elise Gordon & Laura Bolyard *Lantana Elementary*
Vermiculture Project-Worm Farming

This vermiculture project will take place with first and fifth graders who will learn to become worm farmers. This will include building worm bins, placing worms and organic food waste from the cafeteria in the bins, and allowing the worms to eat and decompose the matter so that it may be used as compost to enrich the school's garden soil.

Stephanie Peck & Brian Gallagher *Palmetto Elementary Garden Learning Center*

This project will create an outdoor student center which will encourage students in grades 3 - 5 to investigate nature in their surrounding environment and school gardens. Students will have a fully functioning outdoor learning center supporting all subjects right at their doorstep. A shaded student area and teacher platform will also be included. As this enhanced learning environment grows, students will build their skills in collaboration and will utilize their investigative skills to track the changes along the way.

Alan Geppert & Jacque Dyer *Rolling Green Elementary Edible Forest*

"Edible Forest" is a STEM based program which deals with a real-world scenario and is very hands-on. The students will be helping to design a new curriculum in which they research, design, build and then harvest an edible forest with at least three layers of vegetation. They will calculate the area designated to budget for equipment, trees and plants. The students will research edible forests and the science behind sustainable and companion planting. After each group creates a blueprint with a 3-D model of their design, the group with the most votes from other classes will move their design to the next stage and the students will begin the work of building the edible forest. The final stage will involve the harvesting of the fruits or vegetables and preparing them for consumption or sale.

Christianne Leffelman & Tracey Kinney *Seminole Trails Elementary School In Support of Flourishing Music Theater Stars!*

The intention of this project is to develop and expand a music theater program to reach and engage more students throughout the school. The goal is to teach and instill a love for musical theater that benefits every child. This program supports STEAM, as well as the development of intrinsic and extrinsic qualities and the ability to collaborate with peers. The impact from this project will grow the students sense of school community and pride, as well as broaden the expanse of opportunities that await the students.

Francis Arbesfeld & Kelly Ayala *South Grade Elementary Spanish Books for Classroom Libraries*

This program will allow Dual Language students to increase their proficiency levels by reading engaging, authentic Spanish literature. These books will be ordered by specific themes, topics of interest to the students, series, favorite authors and content areas. Students will read daily during independent reading time and at home. They will work towards their learning objectives and will share what they have learned with other students and teachers.

Gladys Velez *South Grade Elementary It's Fun to Read in Spanish!*

Through this project, students will be introduced to Spanish literature written in the native language. Students will also be provided with literature of known characters that they also have in English to facilitate the transference of the language and concepts through the literature.

Shannon Culp & Kelly Homa *Timber Trace Elementary Sphero is the New Hero in the Media Center Makerspace*

This project will involve hosting a SPRK STEM Challenge. This will allow students to use creativity and teamwork to move through simple steps of the design process in order to build Sphero-based creations. In this challenge, students will program Sphero to navigate an original maze built by the class. This challenge will require students to gather data about the best route through the maze and to figure out how to build a program so that Sphero can successfully navigate it.

Dr. Daquia McCoy *Village Academy on the Art and Sara Jo Kobacker Campus Read to Me, Please!*

This project will provide enhanced-level audio books for learners K-3 to support the five essential components of reading (phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary and reading comprehension). Students will become immersed in audio storybooks utilizing a tablet with access to hundreds of books online and on their reading level. As a result, students will become more engaged and proficient readers.

Grace Bailey *Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary*
Robot Coding

The “Trailblazers” program was created last year, providing classroom teachers with student Chromebooks, smartboards and training. Due to this, my class was able to participate in the National Day of Coding and they loved it! This project will extend that learning by adding programmable robots for an even more hands-on experience for the students.

Jayeonte Brooks *Starlight Cove Elementary*
Read, Bump, Jump!

The purpose of the “Read, Bump, Jump” program is to allow students in the fifth grade to be exposed to many different novels on their reading level. This grant will allow the purchase of five sets of Bluford High Series books, an iPad, a sound hub and flip charts. The students will have the opportunity express knowledge gained through the flip charts that will be hung outside the classroom to show others what’s taking place in the classroom. The students will have the chance to analyze different styles of writing and will identify and critique the techniques used by the authors. Utilizing the new listening center, students will have the opportunity to both hear as well as to read text. Afterward, they will be able to express themselves through artwork based upon their reading experiences.

Yvette Nola-Gilroy & Ashely Thomas *Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary*
Do You Mind? A Mindful Approach to Classroom Management Through Classroom Literacy

The purpose of this grant is to create a social-emotional learning library to implement literacy lessons while teaching students about managing and understanding their feelings. It includes books and manipulative to help navigate the process of finding out about ourselves and others, with the goal of having a mindful, compassionate and safe classroom for all.

Mary Streker *Grove Park Elementary*
Walking Through Time: Literature We Learn From

This project will provide students in second to fifth grades the opportunity to increase their literacy and cultural awareness. They will be learning about and completing projects about a variety of topics, including African American History, the Holocaust and Women’s Studies. Cultural experiences will be explored through both fiction and nonfiction texts in a way that will expand student awareness and build literacy skills.

Susan McGill & Veronica Knott *Forest Park Elementary*
Let’s Grow Together

This grant is being renewed for the fourth year. This year, students will be working to landscape the area by the third-grade wing. This will create a more beautiful environment and will also provide students with a sense of commitment, community building and the hands-on understandings of the science standards related to the study of plant survival as living things in our world.

Middle School Grant Recipients

Stephanie Hunte *Carver Middle*
Leading Ladies and Men-Toring Middle School Youth

Carver Middle School Soar-Rarity is a middle school girls’ group which supports the development of young people during the often-challenging period of adolescence. In support of their development, the Leading Ladies and Men-tering Middle School Youth initiative will provide them with opportunities to delve into STEM studies and serve as school leaders throughout campus. As a collective, the Leading Ladies will explore engineering, technology, and arts-based science activities. As a service to their school, they will create model activities to showcase to their peers.

Yoelqui Tomas *Conniston Middle*
Connecting Nature to Classroom

The ELL class wants to bee-lieve in nature. This project will engage ELL students in the outdoor environment. Students will experience science activities which include observing the school garden and learning about the role of flowers and bees in the ecosystem.

Karen Bottiglieri *Western Pines Middle*
The Mathematical Mind Gym

The focus of this program is to improve the mathematics skills of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who have scored in the lowest 25th percentile on the Florida Standards Assessment. The program will incorporate goal setting, mathematics skills training and various challenge activities. The challenge activities will consist of both mental challenges (logic puzzles, math puzzles and brain teasers) and physical challenges (juggling, magic tricks and balloon twisting) that require practice, patience and perseverance in order to achieve success. The overall goal is for students to transfer these skills to their academic performance, particularly in the area of mathematics.

Cheryl Hyatt Huey & Brenda Joyce *Jupiter Middle*
Coding for Innovation and Invention

The purpose of this grant is to provide students who are enrolled in Jupiter Middle School's Pre-engineering Academy with the resources needed to take computer coding from the virtual world to the physical world. The funding will be used to purchase micro:bit custom PLTW (Project Lead the Way) kits for students to use when engaged in a computer science course called Innovators and Makers. Students will use computer block coding to program micro-controllers (basic micro-chips) with inputs and outputs they develop to bring innovation and invention to life using sensors, lights and moving parts.

Lisa Johnson *Eagles Landing Middle*
Inspiring Thinkers with Programmable Robots

This grant project will inspire thinkers with programmable Sphero robotic balls. Students can program the Sphero ball to change colors, run a circuit, move through an obstacle course, keep beat with a song, etc. The Sphero robotic ball is controlled through a smartphone, tablet or computer and has over 25 apps developed to work with it. Using Sphero robotic balls will provide opportunities for students to gain experience with engineering and technology projects that involve math and science instruction through hands-on learning. Students will become expert JavaScript programmers as they work on STEM projects. Sphero is a teaching tool to help students develop the skills that are necessary to compete in a global, technology-oriented world.

Lisa Kraus *Congress Middle*
Passport to Reading

This program is designed to help students become interested and engaged in reading. Students will work toward reading goals which will help promote reading outside of the classroom. They will focus on building reading comprehension with an emphasis on choosing appropriate books based on their reading levels. Students will complete book recommendations as they read, and monthly drawings will be held to motivate students. Students will work to complete their Passport to Reading so that they can participate in the final incentive: a board game and pizza party.

Jamie Plumadore & Jerry O'Donnell *Eagles Landing Middle*
To the Sky and Beyond: Vex Robotics and Drones in the Classroom

This grant will allow for the purchase of both a Vex robotics competition kit and an FVP drone racetrack. The program will utilize the VEX robotics kit to not only teach the importance of programming and design, but to place emphasis on STEM education in the classroom. This program will promote creativity, problem solving, and teamwork through the engineering of the students' designs and team collaboration. The project-based lessons will guide students through hands-on STEM activities in a modern learning environment. With the drone and robotics activities, the students will be tasked with designing and building a robot or drone to play against other teams in a game-based engineering challenge or course flight challenge. The students will engage in challenges and experiences they would not otherwise be exposed to and which can shape the direction of their future life goals.

Brenda Joyce & Juanita Deal *Jupiter Middle School of Technology*
Building Green - Living Clean

In this program, students will explore civil engineering and architecture by using their imaginations to combine science, technology, engineering, art, and math to design and construct buildings and structures. The models will be part of an innovative, sustainable community which embraces inclusiveness and a better future for everyone.

Linda Pike & Jaclyn Shaub *Jupiter Middle School of Technology*
Electromagnetic Exploratorium

The Electromagnetic Exploratorium will have rotating stations from radio waves all the way to gamma rays. From walkie talkies to a Geiger counter, students will experience all 7 parts of the Electromagnetic Spectrum for themselves. For example, an infrared camera will take a "picture" of a thermal image to show the visible heat given off by objects. At the ultraviolet station, students will make a bracelet from UV beads, allowing them to learn this abstract concept with a hands-on approach.

Branden Stair & Lakilya Johnson *SouthTech Prep Academy*
March to Positive School-Wide Behavior

March to Positive School-Wide Behavior is a project that will support students in grades 6-8 through music and the fine arts by giving students an opportunity to create a performance drum line and color guard. This will give students another lens through which to express themselves and an opportunity for them to display their artistic abilities.

Tara McAlonan *Palm Springs Community Middle*
I Am Palm Springs Middle

"I Am Palm Springs Middle" is a project that seeks to show the breadth of cultures, traditions, and origins of students and staff through the use of technology. Through interviews, photographs and videos, students will showcase their school community by focusing on what makes each of us culturally unique. This project celebrates diversity and allows students to see what they have in common with others, while attaining knowledge of how people across the globe live their lives.

Rachel Charson & Diane Martin *SouthTech Preparatory Academy*
Hands-On Learning for STEM and CTE Pathways

Interactive Notebooks for STEM and CTE Pathways will provide approximately 140 students with the tools to document their hands-on learning experiences in their Science and Medical Science courses. When implemented into the classroom, these notebooks will serve as an accurate record of student learning. The plan is for students to move away from pre-published workbooks and move towards creating their own learning tools through the incorporation of interactive notebooks.

High School Grant Recipients

David Sikorski & Gyorgy Ari *SouthTech Academy*
Can Art Change the World?

This program will enable South Tech Academy to establish a successful art education program providing 50 to 100 students with access to quality instruction, art supplies and modern equipment. This will involve offering both an elective art course and an after-school Visual Arts Club for students at all skill levels. Students will start with photography to explore varying perspectives and points of view. By using art as a tool to develop empathy, students will apply different emotional perspectives and points of view to their photographs. They will later use sketching, painting, etc. to represent the photographic image that they initially captured. By the end of the class, students will have a portfolio of artwork representing the same image but using a variety of mediums. This portfolio will be used to create a thoughtful "inclusive school" art campaign, developing a school culture that values art and service learning.

Marissa Kingham *Atlantic Community High*
Learning to Cook the Mexican Recipes in the Novel "Like Water for Chocolate"

This program serves to provide a culinary and literary experience to 9th grade International Baccalaureate students. Students will learn about traditional Mexican culture through a piece of literature. The novel, "Like Water for Chocolate," centers around traditional recipes prepared in a Mexican kitchen. The class is also going to partner with a local instructional chef and the outcome will be that the students gain an appreciation for both the literature and the food! Students will be able to discover what it takes to prepare a meal from scratch. They will make chocolate, tortillas and mole poblano. The project will culminate with each student composing an original piece of creative writing, utilizing many of the novel's elements, such as Spanish language and magical realism.

Milica Peric *Boynton Beach High*
Pleasure Reading Library for Beginners French Classes

The purpose of this project is to form a library of reading materials for students in the target language of French for pleasure reading. This project will increase fluency in reading and writing in the French language. It will also support literacy in English by teaching and reinforcing general reading strategies. Additionally, it will provide differentiation and personalization for students' different language abilities. This project will be especially useful in providing ESOL students with additional exposure to direct instruction and practice of reading strategies.

Sara Vogel & Maureen Bergquist *Wellington High*
Let'sRead WHS!

This program will establish a reading club within the school's English classes for the lowest performing (25% of) students. Through the purchase of high-interest young adult novels, small discussion groups will be established within the classrooms. The short-term goal is to foster an enjoyment of reading by allowing the students to select books that they would like to read vs. being told that they must read for an assignment. The long-term goal is to bring back reading for the sake of enjoyment and inspiration!

Jennifer Girona *Lake Worth Community High*
Recycled Runway: Sustainable Fashion

This program will help create awareness about recycling and reusing materials by creating wearable art from discarded items. Students will create one-of-a-kind garments from recycled and upcycled materials that will be displayed in the school and community as a visual reminder of the global issue of overflowing landfills.

Tiffany Cox *Lake Worth Community High*
STEAM: Technology in Marching Band

This project will provide opportunities for instrumental music students to encounter seamless integration of technology in the arts. Students will be exposed to real-world STEM applications in the fields of music performance, music composition and music management.

Mary Carstarphen & Crystal Hyett *SouthTech Academy*
Learning with Style

This grant will impact the overall quality of classroom instruction by providing additional resources to the students and to the Cosmetology program. The purchased items will aid in instruction, including the analysis of hair/skin/scalp and performance on the predisposition test for chemical services. It will also provide a selection of supplies and equipment to be used in the salon lab.

Mary Fish *Spanish River High*
Biomedical Technology and Biosensors at River Biotech!

This project will allow the development of curriculum that will weave through the existing Biotech Academy courses, introducing students to biomedical engineering through experiments and projects that teach them about how biosensors are made and how they work. In Biotech 1, the introduction to biomedical engineering and biosensor technology will be incorporated. In Biotech 2, more emphasis will be placed on detection sensor technology such as pH meters and spectrophotometers for use in enzyme kinetics and analysis. In Biotech 3, biosensor applications in DNA and protein analyses will be explored. Students in this year will be encouraged to employ biosensor technologies in their science fair projects.

Bridget Ramsey *Suncoast High*
Podcast Project

This program is designed to merge project-based learning with responsible social media awareness, digital-media analysis, organizational skills, researching, writing, editing and production. Ultimately, students will produce a five-minute audio narrative and will submit their work to a contest in the Spring of 2020.

Douglas Baethke *Wellington High*
VEX - The Wellington High School Robot Challenge

This program will offer the thrill of robotics and the excitement of competition to inspire and engage the students. Students will design and build a mobile robot to play a sport-like game. During this process, they will learn key STEM principles and robotics concepts. Through this process, students will understand the relevance of STEM education. At the culmination of this class, students will compete against their peers in the classroom.

Mari Orsenigo & Kenneth Lutz *Glades Central Community High*
Next Level Farming

Students will be introduced to alternative farming techniques. A hydroponic garden will provide students hands-on learning opportunities in which they will design, construct and maintain a hydroponic garden. Students will be able to compare traditional farming techniques to a hydroponic system that does not require soil.

Bradford Chase *Wellington High*
World Premiere Performance of "Magnificat" by Michael John Trotta

The Wellington High School Chorus will be using this grant to realize the vision of their world premiere performance of Michael John Trotta's "Magnificat". The WHS Chorus has commissioned this composer to write a masterwork (a large work for chorus and orchestra) which they will then perform on April 30th, along with a professional orchestra. The opportunity to participate in an event like this is unique and will provide a once in a lifetime experience for the participating students.

Allegra Butler *Boynton Beach Community High*
Maker Space: Boynton Beach High School Media Center

This grant will provide an innovative makerspace for the library media center. Adding a makerspace to the facility will create a vibrant space to build problem-solving and collaboration skills to support academic excellence and achievement. The purpose is to create a place where students gather to collaboratively explore, tinker and invent using tools and materials provided by the media center's makerspace. The makerspace materials will innovatively combine robotics, technology, creativity, building and electronics. The materials purchased will support STEM and will integrate learning from all academic subjects. The materials include a LEGO Mindstorms Robotics kit which is programmed and controlled with a free software programming app with drag-and-drop coding blocks. The project will also give students access to a 3-D printer which will be used to plan and design projects. Google cardboard viewers will provide opportunities to experience virtual reality in a simple and affordable way. Finally, the makerspace will provide squishy circuits to teach electrical circuits and engineering concepts through play and tools for self-directed and group building projects.

Carolyn Slygh *Seminole Ridge High*
Growing Strong Science Foundations

The goal of this project is to have groups of students design their own experiments with a plant-growing system that is based on the concept of NASA's "Growing Beyond Earth" project which utilizes a compact growing system with LED lights on the International Space Station. The students will be able to experience cultivation and data collection. They will research their choice of seed and conditions for optimal growth and will record data on a weekly basis and summarize the data using tables and charts. Weekly lessons on plant biology will supplement their projects.

Allan Phipps & James Nance *AD Henderson University School*
Build Every Mountain: Bringing Augmented Reality into the Classroom

Students will design and build an Augmented Reality Sandbox that will create a micro-reality at their fingertips to explore large, complex Earth processes. Through combining sand and sensors, students will physically construct geographic land-form models in the sand, which is scanned in real-time by sensors that detect the height and placement of the sand. An LCD projector then projects colored topography contour lines directly onto the sand to help students visualize these landforms. Conversely, the projector can project a 2D topography map onto the flat sand and students can then create an accurate 3D model of that particular landform. When teaching students with 2D maps, it is sometimes difficult for them to completely understand the cartography and the effects topography might have on waterflow and ecosystem type. The goal of this project is to increase enthusiasm and understanding of careers in meteorology, environmental science, planetary exploration, mapping technology & AR technology. This technology can also help to show the importance of responsible land and water management to policy makers in our region and will engage students with the increasingly important sciences of hydrology, geomorphology and topography.

Gabriella Sarraf *Boynton Beach Community High*
Painting a Path to The Future: Civic Engagement Through Art Education

This project's mission is to create a safe harbor for underserved youth, while also educating the public through art. Projects like this can create generational activists through art education and service-learning projects. This project will operate as a collaborative mural program. The goal is to create works of art that will serve two purposes: community participation enrichment and student growth. The project will consist of public artworks created by students with assistance from artist-teachers. The art will have inspiring messages and peaceful rhetoric, or it will address issues that promote multicultural concepts. This provides an opportunity to use art as analogy. The mural making process can be used to teach basic life skills such as patience, creative thinking, flexibility, prioritization, communication, dedication and resilience.

Jill Harden & Allison Mesang *Forest Hill Community High*
Tables and Charts and Graphs, Oh My! Teaching Content Literacy to Underdeveloped Readers Using the Scientific Method.

This grant targets 30 Biology students who read below threshold with 7 monthly after school lab experiences that will engage them in interesting, cutting-edge science which will also improve their content literacy skills. Performing laboratory experiments gives students the opportunity to read Biology-specific content as well as to think critically and create/interact with tables, charts and graphs that demonstrate understanding of the new content. These labs will build upon knowledge gained in the classroom and will allow students to move beyond what can be accomplished in a typical classroom setting.

Julie Mandel & Nicole Mendenhall *SouthTech Academy*
Starlighters Light the Way

This project provides an assortment of scripts and stagecraft supplies to enhance the school's theatre classes and extracurricular club with the intent of promoting reading, writing, public speaking, critical thinking, art appreciation and character education. Students will acquire an assortment of highly engaging material covering a wide array of theatrical genres. Additionally, students will have equipment to practice elements of stagecraft, such as sound and makeup design. Students will apply this knowledge to prepare and present a play for their peers.

Anthony Carroll *Glades Construction Academy/West Tech*
Security Hut: The Intersection of Math, Construction & Critical Thinking

The H.E. Hill Construction at West Technical Educational Center is built around providing safe quality training in the area of construction carpentry. Student learning is geared around safety, construction mathematics, hand tools, power tools, construction drawings, communication skills, employability skills and materials handling. This grant will provide funds to for students to build a school safety project in the form of a campus security hut.

Douby Alerte *Glades Construction Academy/West Tech*
VEX Robotics Competition

The goal of this program is to introduce the students to VEX competition which provides an exciting, dynamic and challenging learning environment. They will be able to take classroom learning and apply it to robotics at the competition level. From the engineering design process to computer programming, students will receive more exposure to various disciplines of engineering. Students will gain a deeper understanding in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) through the use of this technology.

Special Needs Program Grant Recipients

Samantha Heil *Pine Grove Elementary*
Sensory Space @ Pine Grove Elementary

This project focuses on a multi-sensory approach to learning through sensory manipulation and exploration. Students who have any form of sensory processing disorders (ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorders, etc.) will be able to utilize the sensory room which will be specifically designed and stocked with materials that will assist students in exploring their senses. The Sensory Space will provide an array of sensory stimuli ranging from gym-like equipment to clays and other manipulatives. The mission of the sensory room is to allow students time to regulate their sensory inputs and outputs and calm their minds so that they are more receptive to their daily academic instruction.

Erin Miller *Belvedere Elementary*
De-escalation through Sensory Input

This project supports students on the autism spectrum by utilizing sensory tools to learn effective coping skills and by implementing de-escalation strategies. This project will allow students the opportunities to develop their social/emotional skills while teaching important skills that will prepare them to function appropriately in a variety of settings. Students will have access to a sensory area within the ASD unit where they can utilize various sensory tools to promote a calm state of mind in order to meet their unique academic, communication and social/emotional needs and goals.

Alane White *Western Pines Middle*
I Am an Author

The "First Author Writing" program encourages and enables students with disabilities to become better communicators. It helps educators to integrate writing, reading, listening and speaking and to optimize performance in students who present with a broad range of abilities and challenges. Students will begin to see themselves as authors who have the potential to share and communicate with others.

Deri Heredia, Louise Villao & Erin Mogul *Indian Ridge School*
D.R.A.M.A. (We are Daring, Resilient, Artistic, Mindful and Authentic!)

This project creates a therapeutically-informed dramatic arts program supporting students in a full-time ESE setting who are challenged by mental health diagnoses and emotional/behavioral disorders. Students will use activities drawn from dramatic arts to enhance pro-social skills, communication, teamwork, self-awareness and self-esteem. The project serves to help increase proficiency in positive social interactions and self-expression while also promoting literacy and creativity.

Jill Williams & Andrea Crespo *Lantana Elementary*
AActually Reading

This project will support the district's initiative to prioritize social emotional learning by allowing the adaptation of books that address critical social emotional learning topics for students diagnosed on the autism spectrum. Books will be adapted to allow all learners to access the materials, keeping each child's unique needs in mind. Page turners, fluffers, heavy duty lamination, modified binding, pull-off pictures, words and sentences will allow the students to interact with each book and demonstrate comprehension at their own level of understanding. Basic communication devices will also be used to enhance student motivation and allow students with limited verbal output to participate.

Jill Williams & Margo Breistol *Lantana Elementary*
Bottles, Bins, and Bags, Oh My!

This project was designed to provide a loaning library of sensory activities, objects and materials for use with students diagnosed on the autism spectrum. Sensory activities engage a child's sense of touch, smell, vision and/or hearing and can positively impact their ability to focus, remain on task and self-soothe. For example, a bottle filled with glitter can help a student to focus their eye contact. Bins filled with slime, water balls, moldable sand, textures and putty allow for a hands-on activity that addresses the sense of touch. Scented markers and play dough engage the child's sense of smell. Different objects that produce calming sounds engage the hearing. The large variety of activities will allow teachers to try many different sensory approaches with their students in order to find the activities that work best for individual children. When students' senses are engaged and they feel calm and relaxed in their environment, then they are ready to learn!

Sheri Predmore, Hayley Barto & Sharon Casucci *Palm Springs Middle*
MECA STEAM: Multi-Sensory Equine Curriculum that is All-Embracing

This will provide an outdoor classroom learning experience through a multi-sensory curriculum for students with intellectual disabilities, emotional/behavioral disabilities and/or deaf/hearing impairments. This learning experience will utilize an equestrian science-based program with components in STEAM and Social Emotional Learning. Students will engage in a four to ten-week program at the Vinceramos Therapeutic Riding Center. The students will be learning in the areas of science, technology, engineering, art and math.

Elizabeth Grimes & Debra Carroll *Loxahatchee Groves Elementary*
Outdoor STEM Classroom

This grant will allow for the creation of a Pre-K outdoor STEM classroom through several activities. First will be the creation of a butterfly garden and a fruit/vegetable garden. Next will be the creation of STEM stations for children to manipulate during outdoor playtime. This will include a child-sized balance scale, a child-sized ramp, an interactive ping pong maze, an interactive water displacement/water movement station, a gross motor balancing center, a child-sized writing station and a station to create simple machines.

Sarina Sigel *Orchard View Elementary*
Literacy Through Wilson

This program will increase ESE students' reading skills through the Wilson Reading System® (WRS). WRS is an intensive Tier 3 program for students in grades 2-12 who are not making sufficient progress through their current intervention and require multisensory language instruction, or who require more intensive structured literacy instruction.

**2019 School District of Palm Beach County's
Beginning, Mentor, and Teacher of the Year**

2019 Beginning Teacher of the Year (Elementary)

Daria Miller
Clifford O. Taylor /Kirklane Elementary

2019 Beginning Teacher of the Year (Secondary)

Brittney Poliak
Eagles Landing Middle School

2019 Mentor Teacher of the Year (Elementary)

Andrea Suarez
Highland Elementary

2019 Mentor Teacher of the Year (Secondary)

Patrick Duncan
Park Vista Community High

2019 Teacher of the Year

Daniella Boyd
Royal Palm Beach High School

Save the Date!

Champion
the Cause.

Support
high-quality
public education
in Palm Beach
County!



Heroes for Education 5K Run/Walk
November 2, 2019
Bryant Park, Lake Worth Beach

Principal of the Year
January 28, 2020
Manatee Lagoon, An FPL Eco-Discovery Center

Distinguished Alumni & Leadership Awards
March 19, 2020
Palm Beach County Convention Center

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Thank you Champions



Envision your Future Workforce.
Become a Champion TODAY.