GO TEACH!

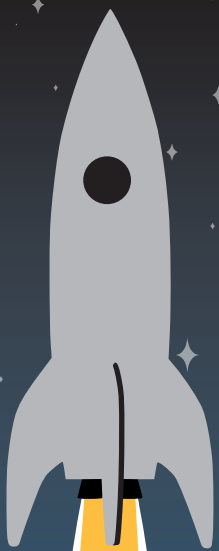
2026 CLASSROOM GRANT AWARDS

LAUNCHING INNOVATION

October 29, 2026
Center for Public School Excellence and Innovation
Lake Worth Beach, Florida
www.educationfoundationpbc.org

PRESENTED BY

EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY





CONGRATULATIONS

To Our Amazing GoTeach! Classroom Grant Recipients









Your dedication to innovating in the classroom and engaging your students truly inspires the next generation, igniting a passion for learning that will last a lifetime.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

DEAR GRANT RECIPIENTS



Welcome to Launching Innovation! The future begins tonight. When I think of a "launch," of course I think of the moment when the engines engage and a powerful rocket blasts off for the moon and beyond. But I also think of the THOUSANDS of engineers, technicians, support staff, and administrators who all contributed their expertise and passion for space travel. Every single member of the NASA crew – right down to the people who sweep the floors at the factories where the parts are manufactured – every single one of them played a role in launching that rocket into space.

And so it is with education! Our students move through our schools, and at 18, they blast off into their future. Some enter college, others the military, and still others will immediately enter the job market. Graduation is "Launch Day." But today, this GoTeach! Celebration is even more important. Because you are precisely those engineers, technicians, support staff, and administrators who bring those students to the launching pad. Through your tireless efforts through the years, with your passion and expertise, you have set these students up for success. And our GoTeach! grants are just one part of the complex process in which you have played a critical role.

And so, whether you are a funder who provided the financial support for these programs or a teacher who is carrying out these programs or support staff making sure our teachers have what they need, tonight, look into the future. There is a launch pad waiting for the 170,000 students in the School District of Palm Beach County. And you have been part of their journey. So sit back, enjoy tonight, gaze into the future, and watch as these young astronauts prepare for their future.

10… 9… 8… 7… 6… 5… 4… 3… 2… 1…
We have ignition… let the future begin!

With respect,

James S. Gavrilos

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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD

Lisa King
Board Chair
Verdex Construction
Lisa Park
Immediate Past Board Chair
Seacoast Bank
Jordan Paul
Secretary & Chair of Programs
and Grants Committee
NAI/Merin Hunter Codman, Inc.
Marty Cass
Treasurer & Chair of Finance Committee
BDO
Jim Moore
Chair of Human Resources Committee
UnitedHealthcare
Michael Pych
Chair of Development Committee
Carrier Corporation
Max Macon
Florida Power & Light Company
Juan Tagle
Palm Beach Capital
Kenneth Kahn
Retired: LRP Media Group

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan Baseman,
Comiter Singer
Nadege Bernard, *NCCI*
Maria Bishop,
School District of Palm Beach County
Superintendent Michael J. Burke,
School District of Palm Beach County
Steve Bush,
Gold Coast Federal Credit Union
Jorge Cabrera,
The Breakers Palm Beach
Frank Compiani, *Retired: RSM US LLP*
Nicole Daggs,
Florida Power & Light Company
David Dolan,
School District of Palm Beach County
Leanne Evans,
School District of Palm Beach County
George Forman,
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Jorge Fuentes, *Song + Associates, Inc.*
Ruth Guerra, *Amazon*
Michael Kohner, *Alvarez and Marsal*
Britnye Kurty, *ODP Corporation*
Luke Kurtz, *U.S. Sugar*
Merdochey LaFrance, *Tillman Fiber*
Matthew Lane,
Palm Beach County School Board
Sophia A. Nelson, *S.A.Nelson & Associates*
Michael O'Neill,
Proctor Construction Company
John Perez, *JPMorgan Chase & Co.*
George Prueger, *Aerojet Rocketdyne*
An L3 Harris Technologies Company
Kimberly Reckley, *PNC Bank*
Greg Schwinghammer, *Gunster*
Kelly Smallridge,
Business Development Board
of Palm Beach County
Clayton Tadler, *TD Bank*
Michael Thomas, *The Weitz Company*
Jamie Wyatt,
School District of Palm Beach County

EMERITUS BOARD

Meredith Trim,
Ventus Charitable Foundation

EDUCATION
FOUNDATION
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

OUR MISSION

The Education Foundation of Palm Beach County is 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.

OUR HISTORY & PURPOSE

Established in 1984 by Palm Beach County business leaders, the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County 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 of Palm Beach County 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 underperforming students and schools.

We all know that children succeed in school when they have all the tools, resources, and support they need to achieve. That's why the Red Apple Supplies program was created as a free school supply store that serves the highest needs Title I schools throughout Palm Beach County. Red Apple Supplies is the signature program of the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County. Since opening its doors in 2016, more than $10 million in free school supplies has been provided to teachers and students in more than 100 public schools throughout Palm Beach County.

SPECIAL THANKS

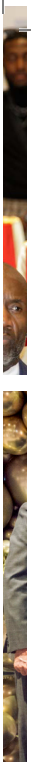
Special thanks to those who have served on the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County's GoTeach! Classroom Grant Awards Committee and/or Grant Review Panel

Kate Arrizza
Alan Baseman
Nadege Bernard
Loreen Blake
Ronnie Boriskin
Kathy Burstein
Steve Bush
Jorge Cabrera
Nicole Daggs
Mike Davis
Fabiana DesRosiers
Brian Edwards
Jennifer Ethridge
Nalani Gordon
Alexa Guy
Rebecca Haynes
LeeAnne LaBanz
Todd L'Herrou
Anita Marcel
Lauren Marcum
Jim Moore
Kendale Musgrove
Sophia Nelson
Robin O'Brien
Matt Papaycik
Lisa Park
Jordan Paul
Lisa Seymour
Rita Shearon
Karen Swedenborg
Kerrie Tyndall
Teresa West
Dr. Becky Youngman
Jessica Zunker

OUR STAFF

Education Foundation of Palm Beach County

Ronnie Boriskin
Programs and Grants Specialist
Jennifer Ethridge
Senior Vice President and Chief Program Officer
Lloyd Evans
Red Apple Supplies Store Manager
James S. Gavrilos
President/CEO
Alexa Guy
Programs and Grants Specialist
Tarneisha Hatten
Director of Warehouse Operations
Mark Howard
Programs and Grants Specialist
Matt Papaycik
Director of Special Events and Marketing
Sam Pasley
Office Manager and Accountant
Rita Shearon
Development Director
Karen Swedenborg
Development Coordinator
Teresa West
Chief Engagement Officer
Dr. Becky Youngman
Programs and Grants Specialist











Congratulations

to all of the GoTeach!
Classroom Grant Award Recipients

We appreciate your passion, hard work and dedication to the students in our community.

You are making a difference!

STILES
NICHOLSON
FOUNDATION

www.Stiles-Nicholson.org

MATCHING GRANT PROGRAMS

2026-2027

Education Foundation of Palm Beach County and the State of Florida's School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Programs 2026-2027

School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program

CONSORTIUM OF FLORIDA EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS

CLASSROOM RESOURCES AND SUPPLIES

Red Apple Supplies



A FREE resource store providing over 10 million dollars in essential school supplies and classroom resources since the program's inception in 2016. The program will provide support and resources to 115 high-needs schools throughout the district this year, ensuring teachers and students have the supplies they need to succeed.

Funded in partnership with Amazon, Asofsky Family Foundation, BDO, Boca West Children's Foundation, Carrier, CBS12 Stuff the Bus Campaign, Cognizant Classic, Great Charity Challenge, Gunster, Florida Blue Foundation, Mirasol Foundation, Office Depot, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office (PBSO), School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations, The Breakers Palm Beach, UnitedHealthcare, U.S. Sugar, Ventus Charitable Foundation, and Walmart, along with the generosity of individual donors and various companies and philanthropic organizations throughout the community.

TEACHER QUALITY/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

GOTEACH! CLASSROOM GRANTS



A competitive grant program for individual or team-teaching projects. Grants range from $1,000- $5,000 and promote an original, creative and innovative teaching approach that addresses student needs in multiple subject areas, grade levels, and schools throughout the district.

CAREER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Scaling the Future of Finance: Santaluces Community High School's Finance Academy

The program is designed to give high school students an opportunity to learn and prepare for college, as well as secure entry-level positions in the business and finance industries. The program emphasizes a college-preparatory curriculum linked to the financial world and is aligned with industry standards. Students will graduate from this four-year program with a standard high school diploma and up to two industry certifications (QuickBooks and Program Management Certifications). Funding will support the program's inaugural year, including enrolling the first cohort of freshmen and establishing National Academy Foundation membership and extracurricular clubs, such as Business Professionals of America. In addition, students will have opportunities to engage with finance sector business leaders through guest speakers, competitions, etc.

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

SDPBC Healthcare Career Pathway

This program is proactively addressing Florida's projected healthcare worker shortage by building a robust pipeline of skilled, diverse professionals. Currently serving over 7,500 students in Medical Academies throughout the School District of Palm Beach County, the program will expand industry certification pathways in additional schools while strengthening support for its existing academies. Participating Medical Academy students will demonstrate clinical competency and increased employability skills by passing at least one of the industry certification exams offered within their program of study, providing opportunities for post-secondary success, including immediate employment in healthcare.

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

LITERACY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Building Oral Language and Vocabulary in VPK



This interactive literacy project strengthens kindergarten readiness by developing children's oral language, vocabulary, print knowledge, fine motor skills, self-regulation, resilience, and confidence as writers and authors. Through a hybrid professional learning model, teachers, teaching assistants, early childhood professionals, and paraprofessionals will engage in training, collaborative workshops, coaching, and guided reflection focused on using writing, including electronic book creation, to advance language and literacy development.The program also trains educators to integrate High-Yield instructional practices, Conscious Discipline, and CLASS strategies used in statewide VPK evaluation to strengthen daily teacher-child interactions.

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

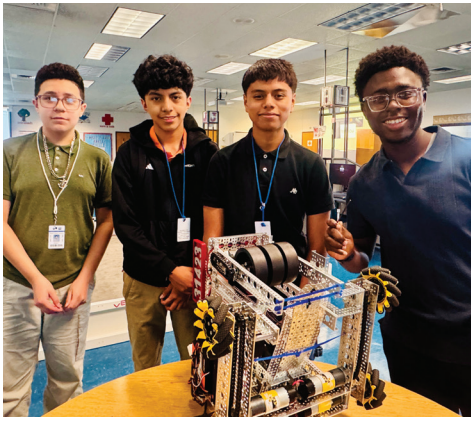
Educate, Affirm, Inspire: A Reading Intervention Program

The Educate, Affirm, Inspire program will support approximately 50 teachers and 250 underperforming students in 13 elementary schools in Boca Raton, Florida, by providing targeted, evidence-based instructional support and supplemental remediation that delivers explicit, systematic, multisensory instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, and high-frequency word recognition to improve students' reading skills across the five construct areas of reading.

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

S.T.E.M. PROGRAMS

Stepping Up STEM in Pahokee



This program provides a comprehensive pipeline of computer programming and robotics courses for students in grades 6–12. Hands-on STEM activities build programming, robotics, critical-thinking, and problem-solving skills, while rigorous International Baccalaureate (IB) Computer Science and expanded AICE course offerings enable students to earn industry certifications and college credit in computer science. By supporting pathways to a standard high school diploma or an IB diploma, the program aims to improve graduation rates and prepare students for college and STEM careers.

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

GOTEACH! INDIVIDUAL TEACHER CLASSROOM GRANT AWARDS

$1,000 CLASSROOM GRANT AWARDS

Structural Design: Authors vs. Illustrators

▸ **Lisa-Ann Hall /Banyan Creek Elementary School**

This innovative third trimester capstone project will bridge English Language Arts with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics by transforming second graders into book architects and engineers. Students will apply the Engineer Design Process and narrative writing skills to construct and publish physical, multi-modal accordion books featuring original stories and interactive mechanical sliding mechanisms.

Barton Money Masters: A Classroom Economy and Budgeting Lab

▸ **Kenneth Tibodeau / Barton Elementary School**

This project will help fourth-grade students at Barton Elementary enhance their teamwork and problem-solving skills while learning about entrepreneurship and real-world money management, all through a hands-on classroom economy. Students will earn classroom money, apply for jobs, create budgets, practice saving, and make financial decisions through engaging activities tied to math and reading standards. This project will teach responsibility, teamwork, problem-solving, and entrepreneurship while helping students better understand the value of money and make smarter decisions.

Show What We Know

▸ **Miriam Robson / Citrus Cove Elementary School**

This project will transform existing learning centers into maker-friendly inquiry spaces where students can actively create stories and demonstrate their learning through Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics exploration. These targeted additions—an interactive listening station, engineering materials, art supplies, open-ended manipulatives, and pretend play enhancements—give every center the tools students need to move from passive learning to active creation, allowing them to Show What They Know!

Chats and Chapters

▸ **Ally Van Valkenburg / Diamond View Elementary School**

This project will give fourth grade students the opportunity to participate in book clubs with complex, rigorous chapter books and then present what they learn in a multimedia way. Students will meet with their peers to read recommended chapter books for fourth graders and have discussions surrounding important topics which match Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking standards. As students read, they will create their own podcasts to connect with their books. The book clubs aim to foster collaborative inquiry and active student engagement.

Brushes & Benchmarks: Art-Infused Reading and Research in 3rd Grade

▸ **Diana Tobin / Discovery Key Elementary School**

This project will re-imagine how students connect with reading and writing by blending core English Language Arts benchmark goals and district curriculum with hands-on visual arts. The funding will furnish the classroom with quality art tools and painting supplies, allowing students to step into the dual roles of author and artist as they translate their reading and writing comprehension into vibrant visual artwork. This innovative cross-curricular approach builds deeper textual understanding, supports diverse learning styles, and fosters a vibrant, creative classroom community.

ESOL Math Development

▸ **Evon Hana / Eagles Landing Middle School**

Using multi-sensory learning, this project will strengthen the mathematical skills, vocabulary, and confidence of English Speakers of Other Languages students in grades six through eight. Students will learn math through sensory-focused books, educational games, hands-on activities, visual resources, vocabulary assignments, small group pairings, and problem-solving practice. These learning experiences will make difficult concepts more accessible while helping students understand the language of mathematics. By connecting language development with engaging, hands-on math instruction, the project will help students improve understanding, problem-solving abilities, participation, and overall achievement.

The Classroom Economy & Entrepreneurship Market

▸ **Arlo Rappaport / Eagles Landing Middle School**

Through an interactive classroom micro-economy, 140 middle school students will build real-world financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills. Students will earn class currency, manage budgets, respond to unexpected expenses, and secure micro-seed loans to launch small businesses. The project culminates on Market Day, a hands-on capstone, where students create, price, market, and sell their products—turning financial concepts into meaningful, hands-on experience.

Skills in Action: A Content-Based Learning Intervention for Reading Improvement

▸ **Reicon Condes and Bernadette Condes / John I. Leonard High School**

This project will address a deficiency in grade nine reading levels through a bottom-up, content-based pedagogical approach for 120 students. By utilizing reading mastery goal packets, individualized anchor materials, and Data Chats, this project will transition learners from foundational English Language Arts concepts to complex textual analysis through authentic, real-world topics. This data-driven strategy focuses on achieving documented learning gains and a significant reduction in the number of students performing below grade level by the conclusion of the academic year.

The SCIENCE of Learning!

▸ **Daquia McCoy / Lantana Elementary School**

This science project will establish a hydroponic garden for vegetables, fruits, and edible flowers which students will grow throughout the school year. Students will also grow and care for succulents as they learn about resiliency and sustainability and become better equipped to perform proficiently on grade-level tests and the fifth-grade state science assessment. This project will be Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics-focused,engaging and applicable both in the classroom and at home.

No Bones About It: We Need Anatomy Models!

▸ **Sandra Noakes / Meadow Park Elementary School**

With this grant, the classroom will be equipped with detailed, interactive human body models and specialized organ systems. Students will dive deep into the mechanics of the heart, lungs, and digestive tract through collaborative, hands-on learning. By peeling back the layers of diagrams and interacting with physical models, students will bridge the gap between curiosity and true scientific understanding, fostering a lifelong appreciation for human biology.

Bringing Agricultural Biotechnology to the Classroom

▸ **Rachel Wellman / Palm Beach Lakes Community High School**

This project will expand the Palm Beach Lakes Community High School Biotechnology Academy to include the Agricultural Education Services and Technology certification, providing students with access to industry-approved Bio-Rad Laboratories' supplies and lessons. Students will engage in authentic biotechnology laboratories focused on safety, DNA analysis, micropipetting, solution preparation, tissue culture, and scientific problem-solving, while developing critical thinking, collaboration, and technical skills. Frequent formative assessments and certification-focused practice will ensure students build confidence and demonstrate competency throughout the course. The ultimate goal is for every student enrolled in the PBL Biotechnology Academy to successfully earn the AEST Agricultural Biotechnology industry certification, preparing graduates for postsecondary education and high-demand careers in biotechnological sciences.

Think, Tinker, Thrive

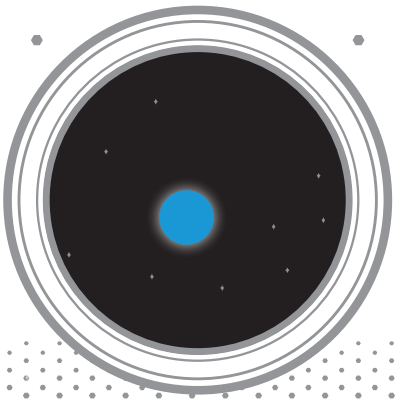
▸ **Amy Ramsdell and Kathleen Simpson / Pierce Hammock Elementary School**

This project will transform the Pierce Hammock Elementary School library into a dynamic Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) learning hub where every student can explore the sciences through hands-on learning centers. During weekly library visits, students will design, build, create, problem-solve, and collaborate using engaging STEM activities that reinforce classroom learning. By integrating STEM into the library program, this project will increase student engagement, foster creativity and critical thinking, and strengthen science skills, helping improve student performance on the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking Science Assessment while inspiring curiosity and a lifelong love of learning.

Hawk's Nest Refuel

▸ **Alane White / Seminole Ridge Community High School**

This program provides students with special needs and varying abilities the opportunity to run a school-based smoothie and bagel shop right on campus. Students will gain hands-on, real-world skills in food preparation, customer service, money handling, inventory management, and marketing. By creating a vibrant community hub, this project will foster social inclusion, independence, and career readiness, one delicious morning treat at a time.



Mars to the Everglades: Rovers to the Rescue

▸ **Patricia Leazier / SouthTech Academy**

This program will engage eighth-grade students in an innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics challenge connecting space exploration, robotics, and Everglades conservation. Working in collaborative engineering teams, students will design, build, program, test, and improve robotic rovers modeled after technologies used to explore environments that may be unsafe or difficult for humans to access. Students will then apply these concepts to a simulated Everglades environment, where rovers will navigate challenging terrain, collect environmental data, and monitor endangered species while minimizing habitat disturbance.

Tiny Living, Big Thinking: Designing Sustainable Homes for the Future

▸ **Kristin DeLaTorre / The Conservatory School at North Palm Beach**

This program will be a hands-on, interdisciplinary Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics project in which middle school students design and build scaled models of tiny houses based on real client needs. Students will explore how housing design can address current economic challenges while promoting sustainable and intentional living by acting as junior architects and engineers as they interview real "clients," collaborate with professionals in architecture, design, and construction, and apply math skills to create accurate scaled floor plans and physical models using balsa wood and other building materials. To deepen communication and reflection skills, students will also record client interviews and turn their design process into a podcast series documenting their learning journey.

Soaring with Stories: Elevating Second Grader Readers Through Project-Based Learning

▸ **Ivania Fullerton and Melissa Hardy / The Conservatory School at North Palm Beach**

Designed to close the literacy gap for second-grade English Language Learners and Exceptional Student Education students, this project will combine hands-on project-based learning with English Language Arts and Social Studies standards. Students will boost their reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension as they research habitats, model local ecosystems, and design solutions to community challenges. Through 3D creation, digital storytelling, and collaborative showcases, students will build both lifelong reading skills and a stronger community!

Discovering the Past: A Marine Archaeology Investigation

▸ **Todd LaVogue / The Conservatory School at North Palm Beach**

This program will create a hands-on, project-based learning experience that transforms students into marine archaeologists. Using simulated underwater excavation tanks, students will investigate recreated shipwreck sites, carefully uncover artifacts, map discoveries, analyze evidence, and reconstruct the stories behind historic maritime disasters. By combining archaeology, history, science, and engineering, the program will provide an engaging, authentic learning experience that develops students' critical thinking, collaboration, observation, and inquiry skills while bringing the past to life and inspiring curiosity about our world's underwater cultural heritage.

Stories by Young Authors

▸ **Marwa Jaber / Westward Elementary School**

This project will give approximately twenty students the unique opportunity to become published authors by writing and creating their own books. Using the Top Scores curriculum, students will develop essential writing skills by drafting, revising, and collaborating with peers. Then, partnering with a professional book publishing provider, the students' stories will be compiled and printed into a real book, with twenty copies produced for the school community, concluding with a celebration event to honor the student authors' hard work and achievements.

Panther Innovators: Design for Good

▸ **Linda Villarson / Westward Elementary School**

This project will engage seventeen gifted fifth-grade students in hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) challenges inspired by authentic school and community problems. Students will think like engineers and innovators as they research needs, develop ideas, build and test prototypes, analyze results, and improve their designs. Through creativity, collaboration, and evidence-based problem solving, students will learn that STEM is more than building projects—it is a powerful tool for designing meaningful solutions to real-world challenges.



GOTEACH! TEAM TEACHER CLASSROOM GRANT AWARDS

$1,500 CLASSROOM GRANT AWARDS

Buzz Bites – An ESE Student Run Snack Cart

▸ **Magdalena Roberts and Jennifer Daniel / Allamanda Elementary School**

This project centers on a student-run snack cart designed to provide fourth- and fifth-grade Exceptional Student Education students with authentic opportunities to develop communication, financial literacy, socialization, and vocational skills. Through planning, stocking, marketing, and operating the business, students will engage with real customers while practicing money management and problem-solving. Students with limited verbal communication will have meaningful opportunities to use Augmentative and Alternative Communication devices and visual support to participate in customer interactions.

Vocabulary-Reading Bridge Within L1 and L2 to Improve Comprehension

▸ **Imelda Bangun / Barton Elementary School**

This project will support second-grade students enrolled in Barton Elementary School's Dual Language Program by addressing significant gaps in vocabulary and reading comprehension. The project will implement an explicit vocabulary-reading link that intentionally connects academic vocabulary in Spanish (L1) and English (L2) to meaningful reading experiences using bilingual vocabulary flashcards, e-flashcards, image galleries, bilingual books, graphic organizers, read-alouds, and differentiated reading activities across ten instructional units. Through explicit instruction, repeated practice, discussion, and cross-linguistic connections, students will strengthen vocabulary retention, comprehension, and independent literacy behaviors. The project will also incorporate targeted interventions in phonics, decoding, fluency, and comprehension. Ultimately, the project aims to empower bilingual learners to confidently access grade-level texts, communicate their understanding, and develop stronger literacy skills in both languages.

From Seed to Plate: Hydroponics and Culinary Sustainability

▸ **Rachel Gaon and Elisa Bracero / Boynton Beach Community High School**

This project will bring sustainability concepts to life by allowing students to experience the complete journey of food from seed to plate. Using a hydroponic growing system, students

will gain hands-on experience producing fresh ingredients while exploring the benefits of local food systems. By growing, harvesting, and preparing their own ingredients, students will develop a deeper understanding of sustainable practices, responsible food choices, and the impact that locally grown foods can have on our future. This project will also introduce students to fresh, diverse ingredients they may not have previously encountered or had access to, expanding their culinary knowledge and encouraging a greater appreciation for the value of fresh, locally produced foods.

Little Explorers of Magnitudes: We Work on Measurement, Volume and Weight

▸ **Silvia Moreno San Segundo and Karina Moran / Clifford O. Taylor / Kirklane Elementary School**

This project will turn Mathematics and Science into an epic journey guided by a charming architect lion named Leo. Through hands-on learning stations, achievement passports, and physical tools, more than 180 children across 10 classrooms will learn to measure the world in a truly innovative way, while also incorporating bilingual learning to ensure language is never a barrier. This project will be more than just cubes, scales, and water containers; it is a direct commitment to preventing abstract concepts from becoming a source of frustration for children, transforming them today into the explorers, engineers, and leaders of tomorrow.

H.E.A.R.T. – House Engagement through Action, Responsibility & Teamwork

▸ **Samantha Ball and Kimberly Leaming / Diamond View Elementary School**

This project will transform Diamond View Elementary's House System into an innovative, student-led project based on learning and service. Sixteen student leaders representing four Houses will plan and facilitate schoolwide events, family engagement experiences, service projects, and charitable initiatives. Through authentic leadership opportunities, students will strengthen communication, teamwork, responsibility, resiliency, academic skills, career readiness, and school belonging while making a positive impact on their school and community. As part of the program, academic learning will be intentionally integrated throughout all events. Students will conduct research, write communications, develop budgets, calculate costs, analyze participation data, create presentations, use technology, speak publicly, and evaluate project outcomes. H.E.A.R.T. creates a school culture in which leadership is practiced, academics are applied, and students discover that their ideas, decisions, and actions can positively influence others.

Discovery Story Lab: Read It. Build It. Live It.

▸ **Michelle Martello and Kaitlyn Byrne / Diamond View Elementary School**

This project will transform literacy into an interactive, hands-on experience for students in volunteer pre-kindergarten to second grade at Diamond View Elementary. Through carefully selected high-interest books, students will read, discuss, investigate, design, build, create, and communicate their learning through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) challenges, maker activities, puppetry, digital storytelling, and collaborative projects. Each authentic learning experience will strengthen comprehension, vocabulary, oral language, writing, creativity, and problem-solving. This project will also extend beyond classroom instruction through schoolwide literacy events and a family STEM Night featuring book-inspired exploration stations. Families will experience firsthand how reading connects to science, engineering, communication, creativity, and real-world problem-solving. By intentionally integrating Florida B.E.S.T. literacy expectations with hands-on learning and resiliency skills, Discovery Story Lab will help young learners build both strong literacy foundations and the confidence to become curious, persistent, engaged learners.

SparkLab: Where Science Comes Alive

▸ **Elizabeth Sheppard, Syndie White, and Nicholisa Ramlogan / Diamond View Elementary School**

Designed for grades four through five, this project uses hands-on investigations, engineering challenges, scientific tools, models, simulations, and creative Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics experiences to strengthen understanding of the science standards where students have historically struggled. Rather than waiting for learning gaps to appear, the program will proactively identify high-priority concepts and engage students in authentic inquiry before misconceptions take hold. Students investigate, collect and analyze data, explain their thinking, and apply their learning through real-world performance tasks while teachers use ongoing evidence to provide targeted support. By making science active, collaborative, and engaging, SparkLab aims to increase achievement, build scientific confidence, and inspire curiosity.

The Magic of Words: Finding Every Voice

▸ **Caitlin Watson, Michelle Dittmeier, and Roxanne Halstead / Diamond View Elementary School**

This project for students from kindergarten to fifth grade will be an innovative literacy initiative, using oral language, storytelling, and theater to help every student become a confident reader, communicator, and learner. Building upon Diamond View Elementary's success with language-rich instruction for multilingual learners, the project will expand these high-yield practices with an intentional focus on Students with Disabilities. Through an engaging

Moana-inspired thematic literacy experience, students will participate in Readers' Theater, dramatic storytelling, vocabulary development, structured conversations, and collaborative communication, culminating in an inclusive theatrical production where every child can contribute through speaking, narration, music, movement, visual arts, technology, stage design, and leadership. Grounded in the Science of Reading, this project will help students discover that their words, ideas, and voices have power.

FusionSTEM: The Next Phase

▸ **Syndie White and Brittany Starr / Diamond View Elementary School**

Last year, Diamond View established the FusionSTEM foundation by developing certification pathways, expanding career-connected Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) experiences, creating instructional resources, and building systems for tracking student participation and project evidence. This year, the project will move from broad schoolwide exposure to personalized learning opportunities. Students will select individual areas of focus based on their interests, strengths, and future career goals; complete pathway-specific, standards-aligned projects; develop portfolios; meet with mentors; work toward individual mock certifications or badges; and participate in a schoolwide Career Day.

Curiosity Creates Scientists: Empowering Middle School Discovery

▸ **Susan Russo and Chris Barto / Dwight D. Eisenhower K-8 School**

This project will provide approximately 150 students in fifth through eighth grades with engaging, hands-on opportunities to explore and apply science concepts. Grant funding will purchase durable, reusable materials that transform standards-based instruction into meaningful investigations, experiments, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics experiences. By turning curiosity into active learning, this project will help students see themselves not simply as science students, but as young scientists.

Bon Appétit, Books! A Taste for Reading at Highland Elementary

▸ **Deanna Jones, Angela Norman, Hannah Scott, and Danielle Pasquariello / Highland Elementary School**

Through this project, kindergarten through third-grade students will participate in an immersive, restaurant-themed reading celebration designed to build foundational literacy skills and elevate reading comprehension. Through transformative classroom role-play, young learners will dress as student chefs and serve as reading hosts for visiting families and local community partners. This dynamic approach will remove language barriers for native Spanish-speaking English Language Learner families while fostering oral reading fluency and strong home-school partnerships, cultivating a joyful, lasting passion for reading throughout the entire school community.

Great Teachers Launch Great Possibilities



GoTeach! Classroom Grants give educators the resources to create engaging, innovative experiences that inspire students to explore, discover, and grow.

Congratulations, Teachers!

CONSORTIUM OF FLORIDA EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS

EducationFoundationsFL.org

Reading Comes Alive in Fourth Grade

▸ **Dimaris Sharma and Lizbeth Roman / Highland Elementary School**

This project will transform fourth-grade reading instruction into an engaging, student-centered experience designed to improve reading proficiency and learning gains. Grant funds will help turn existing Benchmark Advance materials into hands-on learning stations, text-evidence scavenger hunts, interactive vocabulary games, task-card challenges, choice boards, and creative response projects. All activities will align with Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking standards and the district pacing guide. Through collaboration, meaningful discussion, and hands-on practice, students will build confidence and take greater ownership of their learning before demonstrating skills independently.

Rally for Resilience: Building Confidence, Emotional Regulation, and Healthy Relationships Through Therapeutic Pickleball

▸ **Karen Markus-Handis, Laura Landusky, Stephanie Starr, and Garrett Necaise / Indian Ridge School**

This project will be an innovative therapeutic pickleball program at Indian Ridge School that uses sport to strengthen social-emotional learning, confidence, teamwork, emotional regulation, and physical wellness for students with Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities. Serving students from kindergarten to twelfth grade, many of whom have experienced trauma or face barriers to community recreation, the program will provide structured opportunities to build resilience, healthy relationships, and lifelong recreational skills. By integrating pickleball into therapeutic and educational programming, students will experience success, improve self-esteem, and develop skills that support both academic achievement and personal growth while fostering a sense of belonging and community.

Savoring Success: Cooking and Financial Literacy Together

▸ **Lauren Trainor and William Beck / John I. Leonard High School**

This project will give young adults who are deaf or hard of hearing, or who have diverse exceptionalities, the hands-on practice they need to build real independence and resilience. Using recipes accessible to all students, this project will teach practical cooking skills, such as choosing nutritious recipes, shopping, and preparing meals. The learning doesn't stop in the kitchen. Students will utilize public transportation to access local grocery stores, adhere to a budget, and handle real financial transactions at checkout. These integrated experiences will give exceptional students the everyday tools and confidence they need to thrive on their own.

Ceramics 101, Graffiti, Self-Expression Boxes, and the Memory Project

▸ **Britt Feingold and Brent Bludworth / Lake Worth Community High School**

This program will encourage students to discover new techniques and ideas in clay and ceramics, including learning about graffiti as an art form, creating personal shadow boxes, and giving back to others. Students will also integrate their love of art, literacy, and experimentation in new mediums with various art projects throughout the school year. Through this innovative project, students will have the chance to build upon their knowledge and application of new media techniques and processes while being introduced to a wide range of art mediums.

Introducing Biotechnology Through Shark Prey Biodiversity and DNA Barcoding

▸ **William Bartenslager and James Horvath / Palm Beach Central High School**

Students at Palm Beach Central High School and Emerald Cove Middle School will collaborate with the Angari Foundation and shark researchers at Florida International University to incorporate biotechnology into conservation research. Fish samples from local markets will be collected, and students will perform a DNA extraction and polymerase chain reaction on the COI gene. Further work will then determine how related the fish are, which will help shark researchers determine which types of fish are actually being sold in markets and better determine fishing quotas for these fish which are also shark prey.

Pine Jog Elementary Interactive Map and Field Guide: A Schoolyard Companion

▸ **Lori Vanis and Aimee Trier / Pine Jog Elementary School**

This interactive and immersive project will involve a student-created field guide of the various plants, animals, and insects that live (or visit) the campus' ecosystem. As the project grows, it will include the school's unique outdoor learning features (hydroponic garden, weather station, wind turbine, etc.) and the green building features that qualify Pine Jog Elementary as a Gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Certified school. This essential resource will be used to introduce parents, new teachers, and the school's community to Pine Jog's one-of-a-kind campus.



The Giving Tree Project

▸ **Mark Williams, Richard Bowers, and David Brogan / Royal Palm School**

The Giving Tree Project is an innovative school-based enterprise that provides meaningful, hands-on pre-vocational training for students with significant cognitive, physical, and communication challenges. Addressing the need for inclusive vocational programming, this initiative will transform discarded wood pieces—such as cast-off furniture and other wood items—into restored, upcycled goods. Using a total communication approach, robust visual supports, and adapted tools, the project will break the restoration process into accessible steps, empowering students as they gain tangible vocational skills, build autonomy, and participate in an eco-friendly, zero-waste workforce initiative. Initially serving three classrooms of students aged seventeen to twenty-two, the project will become self-sustaining through sales of upcycled items, with proceeds reinvested into the program.

Project LEAD (Literacy Engagement Across the District)

▸ **Leann Harms, Dorothy Schroader, Takisha Johnson, and Cari Cubiotti / Santaluces Community High School**

This project is an innovative cross-age literacy mentoring program. High school students identified as needing additional literacy support will serve as trained reading mentors for elementary students through structured read-alouds, partner reading, and literacy games. By giving struggling adolescent readers the opportunity to mentor younger students, the program transforms reading from an academic intervention into a meaningful leadership experience. Elementary students will receive individualized reading practice and positive role models, while high school mentors build fluency, confidence, communication skills, and a stronger connection to school.

The Art of Being Human: Photography, Connection, and the World Around Us

▸ **Kristin DeLaTorre and Loren Foster / The Conservatory School at North Palm Beach**

Through this project, students will explore human relationships, identity, community, and the environment using visual storytelling. Using digital cameras, camera phones, and instant film photography, students will learn composition, lighting, editing, storytelling, and ethical media practices while strengthening digital literacy, creativity, and empathy. A unique component of the project will include a student-safe darkroom experience where students will develop their own film and learn traditional photographic processing techniques. Student artwork will be publicly displayed in community spaces and entered into local youth photography contests, giving students authentic opportunities to share their voices and perspectives through art.



Proud Supporter of **GoTeach! Classroom Grant Awards**

Celebrating teachers, driving innovation and creating educational opportunities for students.

LexisNexis®
RISK SOLUTIONS

RISK.LEXISNEXIS.COM

GOREACH! HIGH IMPACT CLASSROOM GRANT AWARDS

$3,000 CLASSROOM GRANT AWARDS

Bridging Home and School: A Bilingual Family Literacy & Resiliency Toolkit for First Grade Success

▸ **Steve Rey and Ivonn Salamanca / Barton Elementary School**

This project will provide families with accessible resources, including vocabulary cards, reading activities, instructional videos, and social-emotional learning materials aligned with Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking Standards. By reducing language barriers and increasing parent confidence, this initiative will strengthen the home-school partnership, promote student resiliency, and support student growth on District Benchmark Assessments. The reusable resources will create a sustainable support system for current and future dual language families.

Transforming Early Biliteracy Through Small-Group Phonics Instruction and Traditional Spanish Storytelling with UF Flamingo Literacy Method

▸ **Daniel Rincon Casas / Barton Elementary School**

This innovative, research-based project will integrate small-group Spanish phonics instruction, traditional storytelling, and the University of Florida Flamingo Literacy framework to accelerate literacy outcomes for first-grade dual language learners. A distinctive feature will be transforming traditional Spanish stories into instructional materials such as booklets, flashcards, and practice activities that enhance engagement, oral language development, and comprehension while reinforcing phonics skills in meaningful contexts. Daily small-group intervention will support Tier 2 and Tier 3 students, while ongoing progress monitoring will ensure responsive instruction.

Little Weather Engineers (Pequeños Ingenieros del Clima): Integrated STEM and Dual-Language Literacy Labs

▸ **Ivonn Salamanca and Steve Rey / Barton Elementary School**

Addressing critical foundational gaps, this innovative project will equip first graders with individual LED micro-climate terrariums and color-coded soil moisture sensors. As young biological engineers, students will monitor micro-climates and translate real-time physical data into technical writing within their "Manual del Ingeniero Climático". Utilizing four

Continnued on next page >>>

rotational Mobile Engineering Carts, two teachers will seamlessly integrate teacher-guided Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics exploration with independent Spanish Language Arts writing centers across four classrooms. By grounding abstract concepts in multi-sensory experiences, this project will empower English Language Learners to achieve grade-level reading growth, master scientific inquiry, and build confidence as the next generation of bilingual scientists and writers.

"Backpack Books" – Building Reading Stamina and Joy... One Book at a Time!

▸ **Karina Moran, Misty Bauer, and Jean Marie Hempfling / Clifford O. Taylor / Kirklane Elementary School**

This project will serve all third, fourth, and fifth-grade students, focusing on those reading below proficiency on the FY26 Florida Assessment of Student Thinking state assessment. At this critical pivot—where students transition from learning to read to reading to learn—the program ensures equitable access to high-interest materials, direct support for Florida's Resilient Education Standards, and instruction in core characteristics like grit and perseverance. Rather than framing reading around test prep or mandatory classroom drills, "Backpack Books" will make reading personal, flexible, and engaging. By directly reinforcing Florida's resiliency expectations through self-directed reading, the program transforms a daily chore into an exciting, stamina-building experience that fosters long-term persistence.

Walkin' Wall Street: I'm Worth It!

▸ **Adrianna Labrys / Coral Reef Elementary School**

This project moves beyond abstract worksheets by creating a physical environment where financial literacy is kinesthetic, tactile, and visually immersive. Students will earn, save, and invest a custom currency within a multi-sensory-based classroom economy. By integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math challenges such as energy-efficient "utility" costs and architectural "rent," math will become a tangible tool for navigating the students' world while incorporating digital banking, record-keeping, buying & saving.

Advancement In Mentoring (AIM)

▸ **Michael Matos and Cheletia Morgan / Coral Sunset Elementary School**

The purpose of the program is to provide targeted mentorship and leadership development opportunities for elementary students who display behavioral challenges, lack positive role models, or need structured social-emotional support. The program aims to empower students and cultivate a culture of accountability, confidence, and leadership through consistent mentoring relationships and meaningful activities. Weekly mentoring sessions led by trained students and staff mentors, engage students in reflection, goal setting, and

service projects that foster self-confidence and a sense of community. The program will culminate in a tie-tying graduation ceremony symbolizing personal growth and readiness to lead. By equipping students with leadership skills and empowering them to take ownership of their actions, AIM bridges personal development and academic success while fostering a healthier, more supportive school climate for all students.

Crosspointe Jotit

▸ **Valerie Valcourt, Julia Rose, Jennifer Kennedy, Dan Kindel, Katelyn Bohall, and Alyssa Ciambriello / Crosspointe Elementary School**

This project will bridge traditional handwriting with modern digital learning by introducing Jotit's interactive notebook platform to 250 students and 15 teachers. By combining digital stylus handwriting with accessible features like voice input, text-to-speech, and language translation, the initiative will support diverse learning needs while enhancing reading development, written expression, and executive functioning. This innovative project aims to boost student organization and drive academic accuracy to new heights in the digital classroom.

Reimagining Reading: Decentralized High-Interest Classroom Libraries for Alternative Student Success

▸ **Derrick Hibler, Sonia Sutherland, and Toccara Miller / Crossroads Academy**

Crossroads Academy operates without a central library media center and relies entirely on individual classroom collections, many of which contain outdated texts that do not reflect students' interests or reading levels. This project will equip every core English Language Arts and intensive reading classroom at the school with curated, high-interest classroom library modules. By integrating graphic novels, high-low (high-interest, low-readability) fiction, vocational reads, and culturally responsive literature directly into students' daily learning environments, this project will eliminate physical barriers to reading, drive credit recovery, and foster long-term literacy resilience.

Brick by Brick: Engineering a Love for Science

▸ **Olivia McCoy, Diana Weintraub, and Elizabeth Sheppard / Diamond View Elementary School**

This project will bring hands-on, standards-aligned science investigation to life for third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students using the LEGO® Education Science 3-5 Class Pack. By introducing these interactive, device-free building kits, educators will spark curiosity and collaboration across physical, earth, space, and life sciences. Through 40 engaging, classroom-ready lessons, this shared resource will empower young learners to design, experiment, and solve real-world problems.

Brushstrokes & Benchmarks: Elevating Student Gains Through Art

▸ **Morgan Parfitt / Diamond View Elementary School**

This project will transform the visual arts studio into a dynamic Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics lab designed to accelerate academic performance. Through organized table-group Art-Lab Kits and 3D printing technology, students will gain immediate "grab-and-go" access to tactile math manipulatives, scientific inquiry tools, and engineering resources. By co-planning standards-based lessons with classroom teachers, abstract mathematical concepts, such as geometry, spatial reasoning, and measurement, will be brought to life through hands-on artistic creation. This cross-curricular approach will eliminate downtime, boost engagement, and turn creative art time into a powerful engine for academic growth and lasting student success.

Hands-On STEM Learning for All: Empowering Students with Disabilities Through Access, Engagement, and Success

▸ **Veronica Zeppa Pacheco and Jacqueline Cuomo / Eagles Landing Middle School**

The project will provide students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other significant cognitive disabilities opportunities to explore science through engaging experiments and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics activities aligned with the Florida Access Points curriculum. These experiences will promote students' creativity, teamwork, problem-solving, and academic growth through hands-on learning. By incorporating and applying the Universal Design for Learning framework into lessons, teachers will ensure students have equitable access to science learning experiences, increasing their engagement, participation, and understanding of concepts in an accessible way.

Read, Build, Discover!

▸ **Marie Volcimus and Susan McGill / Forest Park Elementary School**

This school-wide LEGO® Education Science project will bring together the Media Specialist and the Gifted Teacher in a collaborative venture, combining Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) standards with active, constructive learning. The project will provide project-based learning in the Media Center while supporting the Gifted Teacher's work to expand the successful tabletop Earth systems model her students created last year. Building on this collaboration, LEGO® STEM-based projects will be extended into the Media curriculum, providing students in grades K–5 with additional opportunities for hands-on, project-based learning.



Back to Bloom: Restoring Our School Pollinator Garden

▸ **Mari Orsenigo and Kenneth Lutz / Glades Central Community High School**

This project will revitalize our school's existing pollinator garden and transform it into a thriving outdoor learning space for students across campus. With new native pollinator plants, improved soil, repaired planter boxes, mulch, and landscaping materials, students will help restore and maintain the garden while learning about pollinators, native plants, environmental stewardship, and sustainability. The revitalized garden will provide opportunities for agriculture, biology, environmental science, and other science classes to conduct hands-on observations, investigations, and lessons outside the traditional classroom. By creating a shared learning space, this project will connect students across disciplines while providing a lasting resource the entire school community can enjoy, study, and maintain for years to come.

The Panther Cyber Lab: The E-Sports Edition

▸ **Aaron Atkins-Rivers, Alex Carnes, and Laura Boxley / Highland Elementary School**

Through structured esports competitions, Minecraft Education challenges, computer science mini-lessons, digital citizenship instruction, technology troubleshooting, and student leadership opportunities, this project will strengthen students' critical thinking, collaboration, communication, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Students will rotate through leadership roles such as Team Captain, Strategist, Technology Specialist, Equipment Manager, and Presenter, building confidence, responsibility, and decision-making skills. Throughout the year, students will also create digital projects, reflect on their academic learning, and demonstrate growth through authentic performance tasks, culminating in an end-of-year Panther Cyber Lab Showcase where students will share projects, skills, and accomplishments with families, staff, administrators, and local community members.

Beyond the Benchmark: An Immersive Journey Through Learning

▸ **Laura Boxley / Highland Elementary School**

Fifth grade students will explore literacy concepts through authentic artifacts, hands-on investigations, movement, role-playing, Reader's Theater, simulations, and culminating experiences that connect directly to grade-level texts and standards. These experiences will build the background knowledge and academic vocabulary students need before and during reading, which is especially important for English for Speakers of Other Languages students and Exceptional Student Education students who benefit from multiple pathways to access and understand complex content. Rather than simply asking students to imagine something unfamiliar on a page, this project will give them opportunities to see it, experience it, discuss it, and then read about it.

Roar, Reset, Refocus: Jaggy's Calm Corner Initiative

▸ **Cher O'Bryant / H.L. Johnson Elementary School**

This project will be a school-wide social-emotional learning initiative designed to strengthen students' self-regulation skills through the intentional integration of classroom-based calm corners and evidence-informed coping strategies. Through teacher training, student instruction, and accessible self-regulation resources, this initiative will help kindergarten through fifth-grade students develop emotional awareness, manage challenging emotions, and use effective strategies to enhance focus and engagement. By promoting proactive approaches to emotional regulation, this initiative will foster a supportive learning environment that will enhance student well-being, resiliency, positive behavior, and academic success.

Sow, Grow, & Know: A Garden-to-Table STEM

▸ **Tacara Ferguson and Ricky Smith / Jeaga Middle School**

Students will grow, harvest, and prepare fresh foods while exploring Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics as well as nutrition and culinary careers through hands-on learning. This project will transform an outdoor space into a living classroom where students will design, plant, maintain, and harvest portable raised-bed gardens while applying science, mathematics, literacy, and culinary skills. Students will investigate plant growth, collect and analyze data, practice environmental stewardship, prepare healthy recipes using harvested produce, and explore careers in agriculture, nutrition, culinary arts, hospitality, and environmental science.

Beyond strengthening academic achievement, the project will promote leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, healthy lifestyle choices, and career readiness. Students will document their learning through STEM journals, participate in culinary demonstrations, and share their work during a student-led Garden-to-Table Showcase.

Give Peas a Chance: School-Wide Healthy Cooking Tastings

▸ **Rachel Lutz and Maria Rodriguez Silva / Lake Shore Middle School**

Rooted in the agricultural heart of Belle Glade, this innovative farm-to-school project will transform Agriscience students into culinary leaders and campus health ambassadors. Utilizing school garden harvests and fresh produce from local farmers, Agriscience students will manage mobile classroom cooking stations to safely prepare, cook, and serve fresh vegetable tastings during school lunches. This student-led initiative will provide hands-on career training in food safety, logistics, and culinary arts for these young Agriscientists while inspiring the entire student body to try, taste, and learn to love locally grown vegetables.

What Can I Be When I Grow Up?

▸ **Meredith Abrams and Dawn Harrison / North Grade K-8 School**

This project will refresh the school's technology and social sciences library collection with engaging, career-focused books for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. By connecting students' interests and strengths with future possibilities, the new collection will inspire curiosity, expand career awareness, and help young learners envision meaningful goals for their futures. Students will explore a wide range of professions while strengthening literacy, research, and communication skills through age-appropriate learning experiences. The updated collection will also provide teachers with lasting resources for read-alouds, classroom projects, and conversations that encourage students to dream confidently about what they can become.

Mic ON: Empowering Student Voices Through Technology & AI

▸ **Julius Edwards and Michael Marrero / Palm Beach Lakes Community High School**

This program supports career and technical education at Palm Beach Lakes High School by equipping Esports Academy students with a cutting-edge curriculum and state-of-the-art media production technology. By combining emerging Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies, new forward-thinking curriculum, and professional media production, this project will give students opportunities to develop AI literacy and technical skills through their own creative voices. Through project-based learning, students will apply AI-assisted scriptwriting, voice-to-text transcription, emerging AI tools, and AI education to create hands-on experiences in digital environments and experiences, including visual and video production, 3D design, animation, and 3D virtual game environments. Additionally, using mobile production equipment, students will produce authentic work while supporting live tournament broadcasts, podcasts, impact interviews, and other productions. Aligned with CTE and STEM pathway standards in digital media, artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, animation, and entrepreneurship, this initiative engages students in hands-on, technology-driven learning.

Finding Our Voices: Building Literacy Through Readers' Theater and Performance

▸ **Alma Atkins-Robinson / Roosevelt Community Middle School**

This project transforms literacy instruction into an engaging experience that helps sixth-grade students strengthen reading fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, writing, collaboration, and speaking confidence. Through repeated oral reading, close script analysis, collaborative rehearsals, and performance, students will bring literary and informational texts to life while deepening comprehension and building fluency.

Continnued on next page >>>

They will adapt published texts, create original scripts, and cite textual evidence to support their interpretations before sharing their work in classroom and family showcases. The project will also provide opportunities for peer feedback, self-reflection, and recorded performances that allow students to monitor their growth over time. By combining literacy instruction with theatrical elements such as costumes, props, microphones, staging, and performance, this project will create a supportive environment where students can become more confident readers, writers, speakers, and collaborators while working toward measurable growth in reading achievement.

AgriLab: Growing Future Scientists, Farmers, and Problem Solvers

▸ **Melanie Wilson and Dwan Ross / Saddle View Elementary School**

Through hydroponic gardening, scientific investigations, and engineering challenges, students will explore plant biology, sustainability, nutrition, and environmental stewardship while strengthening critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Rather than simply learning about science from a textbook, students will become scientists by designing experiments, collecting data, analyzing results, and applying Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics concepts to real-world agricultural challenges. The AgriLab integrates Florida academic standards with authentic learning experiences that inspire curiosity, collaboration, and innovation. This project creates lasting opportunities for all children to develop scientific literacy, environmental responsibility, and a deeper appreciation for the role agriculture plays in their daily lives and the future of our communities.

Growing CTE Literacy and Instruction Through High Interest Books Schoolwide

▸ **Janice Konigsberg, Lois Armour, and Trey Camburn / SouthTech Academy**

This project will build career-aligned classroom library collections. These collections will blend high-interest literature with industry-specific resources—trade manuals, technical guides, biographies, and informational texts—reflecting students' cultural backgrounds and their professional aspirations. Teachers will be trained to embed these materials into daily lessons, so students read for pleasure, academic growth, and career preparation. This project will increase independent reading, strengthen comprehension skills, and boost engagement in career-related literacy activities. With permanent, high-quality classroom libraries in place and ongoing community and industry partnerships, this initiative will have a lasting impact, ensuring access to books that inspire, inform, and prepare students for lifelong success.

Curious Minds, Creative Pages

▸ **Diane Martin and Patricia Leazier / SouthTech Academy**

This project will provide students with the opportunity to create cumulative science vocabulary dictionaries and interactive science notebooks aligned with the Florida Next

Generation Sunshine State Standards. Students will complete one notebook each semester, filled with vocabulary, notes, diagrams, foldables, and standards-based learning activities. At the end of the school year, teachers will transfer the notebooks to the next grade level, creating vertical alignment across grades six through eight and ensuring continuity of instruction so that by the time students take the cumulative Florida 8th Grade State Science Assessment, they will have a collection of six interactive notebooks to review key vocabulary and concepts from all three years of middle school science.

Data Detectives: STEM in Action

▸ **Olena Sinko / Spanish River Community High School**

This program transforms the campus into a living laboratory where students use scientific instruments to investigate heat, light, air quality, and water quality. Through a repeatable cycle of measuring, graphing, analyzing, and drawing evidence-based conclusions, Physical Science and Advanced International Certificate of Education Environmental Management students will strengthen scientific reasoning and data literacy through engaging labs and STEM activities. Their findings will culminate in a student-created campus data map that reveals environmental patterns and prepares learners for advanced coursework and future Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics pathways.

STEM on the Green: Engineering a Student-Built Miniature Golf Course

▸ **Todd LaVogue / The Conservatory School At North Palm Beach**

This project will challenge students to become engineers, designers, and architects of change as they design and build a modular, playable miniature golf course. Throughout the school year, students will apply Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) concepts and the engineering design process to create, prototype, test, and improve original golf holes and obstacles. During the spring Project-Based Learning theme, Architects of Change: Building a Greener Tomorrow, students will take the challenge further by incorporating sustainable design, repurposed materials, waste reduction, and environmental problem-solving into their creations. The result will be a reusable, student-built STEM experience where learning is designed, built, tested—andplayed!

Roar Into Reading: A Prehistoric Literacy Adventure

▸ **Shannon Solis / Village Academy on the Art & Sara Jo Kobacker Campus**

Students will participate in a year-long project that integrates literacy, science, research, and creativity through the study of dinosaurs. Guided by a dinosaur-themed novel, students will take on roles such as authors, researchers, paleontologists, and museum curators while engaging in hands-on learning. The project will conclude with a Jurassic Discovery Museum showcase, where students present their findings and discoveries.



At Amazon, we're committed to helping more children and young adults have the resources and skills they need **to build their best future.**

In partnership with **Education Foundation of Palm Beach County** we're working to provide the tools and building blocks students and teachers need to reach their full potential.

To learn more, visit aboutamazon.com

amazon

GOTEACH! STEM INNOVATION AWARDS

$5,000 CLASSROOM GRANT AWARDS

Spatial AI Storytellers: A New Film Curriculum for Creative Identity and Ownership in the Age of Generative AI

▸ **Daniel Suarez / Boca Raton Community High School**

This project will introduce a first-of-its-kind five-stage production pipeline to Boca Raton Community High School's Film program, teaching fifty students to move from hand-drawn storyboards through generative AI imagery, three-dimensional model creation, and immersive spatial viewing on Apple technology. At each stage, students will be explicitly taught to direct AI, critique the results, and revise the work until it reflects their own creative vision—building the technical fluency and creative identity that today's film, animation, and immersive media industries require. The curriculum mirrors workflows currently used by studios such as Walt Disney Imagineering and represents a significant leap beyond traditional two-dimensional film instruction. Upon completion, a complete, replicable curriculum model will be shared with Palm Beach County film educators, extending the impact beyond a single classroom and a single school year.

Falcon Robotics: Soaring Beyond Barriers

▸ **Matthew Shea / Forest Hill Community High School**

This project will transform the engineering classroom at Forest Hill High School into a student-led startup where Title I students gain hands-on technical experience. Utilizing Autodesk 3D CAD modeling, Java coding, and Agile industry workflows, team members will design, build, and program a competition-ready robot to compete in the regional FIRST Robotics Competition. By eliminating financial barriers associated with specialized hardware and travel expenses, this grant will enable underrepresented students to participate while fostering long-term interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics careers.

Small Steps, Big Discoveries: Highland's Immersive STEM Experience

▸ **Deanna Jones / Highland Elementary School**

This project will transform standard classrooms into dynamic, hands-on environments, such as the Highland Hospital and simulated multi-biome ecosystems where abstract science and mathematics concepts come to life. By stepping into the shoes of doctors,

Continnued on next page >>>

architects, wildlife biologists, and engineers, students will engage in experiential learning aligned with state standards. Integrated hands-on activities will emphasize applied third-grade mathematics, volume measurement, circuit design, and environmental science while using technology to broaden real-world exposure. Ultimately, this program will empower students to explore diverse STEM careers, deepen concept retention, and build a strong foundation for lifelong academic success.

RISE Academy "Go Green 2027 with Greenhouse Gardening"

▸ **Eric Hollander and Jacqueline Major / Intensive Transition South**

Transitioning from classroom hydroponics to a large-scale outdoor garden, this student-led agricultural micro-enterprise project will empower alternative education students to take full ownership of their learning. Students will step into professional roles in the workforce—such as Project Managers and Irrigation Technicians—to engineer, build, and maintain a living ecosystem. By integrating agricultural science with practical mathematics and technical reading, this hands-on program aims to boost academic learning gains. More than a garden, this initiative will build career readiness, strengthen school pride, and provide fresh produce for the community.

Palm Beach Gardens Investi-Gators

▸ **Tammy Albano / Palm Beach Gardens Community High School**

This project will provide students with immersive, hands-on learning experiences that connect science, criminal justice, and career exploration. Grant funding will support forensic science laboratory kits, student participation in Criminal Justice Day at Keiser University, and experiential learning opportunities for approximately 150 students throughout the 2026-2027 school year. Students will engage in authentic forensic investigations, interact with industry professionals, and explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics as well as public safety career pathways through real-world applications of forensic science.

Empowering Students and Teachers Across Science Research Programs

▸ **Rachel Wellman, Margarette Marturano, and Mary Fish / Palm Beach Lakes Community High School**

This project connects science research teachers from Palm Beach Lakes Community High School, Seminole Ridge Community High School, and Spanish River Community High School to empower students to produce independent research projects and science fair presentations. Through this project, instructors will effectively teach data management,

analysis, and interpretation using the online platform DataClassroom. This project will also provide essential experimental materials and presentation supplies, such as poster creation tools, reusable tri-fold science fair boards, and lab supplies for each research program.

LEGO Science Kit Initiative

▸ **Stacie Adeyemo and Shawnte Urias / Palm Springs Elementary School**

This project will transform the Science Fine Arts rotation at Palm Springs Elementary by integrating hands-on LEGO® Education STEM kits into the second through fifth-grade curriculum. By mapping rigorous engineering lessons aligned directly with Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking Science Standards, the program will create an innovative, tactile learning environment that bridges the science proficiency gap for students. Through collaborative, inquiry-based design challenges, students will develop essential 21st-century skills such as communication, collaboration, and problem-solving while mastering complex scientific concepts.

From Books to Bots: Coding the Future

▸ **Amy Ramsdell and Kathleen Simpson / Pierce Hammock Elementary School**

This project will transform the Pierce Hammock Elementary School library into an interactive robotics and coding lab for every K–5 student. Using Marty and Dash robots, students will learn coding, computational thinking, engineering design, and problem-solving through engaging, hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) challenges. These experiences will strengthen digital literacy, prepare students for technology-rich learning and computer-based assessments, and reinforce science, math, and engineering concepts. By making robotics accessible to every child, this project will inspire curiosity, creativity, collaboration, and innovation while preparing students with the essential STEM skills needed for success in school and beyond.

Pandabots

▸ **Donna Tam and Nurieka Johnson / Poinciana Elementary School**

This program will provide students in grades three through five with hands-on opportunities to design, build, code, test, and improve LEGO robotic solutions. Through collaborative engineering challenges, students will strengthen their problem-solving, creativity, teamwork, and confidence while exploring future STEM Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics careers. Students will apply the engineering design process to authentic challenges, learning to view setbacks as opportunities to refine their ideas and innovate. The project will cultivate curiosity, persistence, and technical fluency while empowering young learners to see themselves as the creators and problem-solvers of tomorrow.

Forensic Fridays

▸ **Patricia Leazier and Diane Martin / SouthTech Academy**

This project provides hands-on forensic investigations in which students will apply Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics while addressing the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in rigorous, real-world contexts. Students will collect and analyze evidence, interpret data and graphs, use technology, apply mathematical reasoning, and develop evidence-based conclusions. These inquiry-driven experiences will strengthen critical thinking, collaboration, problem-solving, and scientific reasoning skills while making complex concepts relevant and accessible to diverse learners.

Future-Ready Learners: Advancing Digital Fluency Through STEAM Innovation

▸ **Kristin DeLaTorre and Todd LaVogue / The Conservatory School at North Palm Beach**

This transformative Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) initiative will expand equitable access to technology-rich, hands-on learning for elementary students. By integrating iPads with existing lab technologies, students will build digital fluency, coding, and computational thinking skills through collaborative investigations, virtual and augmented learning environments, digital art, multimedia projects, and age-appropriate exploration of emerging artificial intelligence tools. The program will foster creativity, responsible technology use, teamwork, and problem-solving while preparing every learner for future academic opportunities and careers in STEAM-related fields.

Virtual Reality Explorers: Immersive STEM Experiences in the Media Center

▸ **Kathy Suarez / Village Academy on the Art & Sara Jo Kobacker Campus**

Through immersive virtual reality experiences, students in grades three through five will travel to outer space, dive beneath the ocean, walk among dinosaurs, and discover the wonders of science all without leaving the Media Center. By blending innovative technology with hands-on, curriculum-aligned learning, this project will spark curiosity, strengthen literacy and science skills, and encourage critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration. Virtual Reality Explorers will transform the Media Center into a gateway for discovery, giving every student the opportunity to experience learning in exciting new ways and imagine a future filled with endless possibilities.

We're empowering families to navigate digital wellness.

Through investments in initiatives to promote healthy digital habits, we're helping people of all ages to build a positive relationship with technology, with confidence.



verizon

GOTEACH!
FINLIT INNOVATION AWARDS

$5,000 CLASSROOM GRANT AWARDS

Cents & Sensibility: Empowering Exceptional Learners with Financial Life Skills

▸ **Marissa Kase, Kavita Rambharose, and Sophia Fredman / Congress Middle School**

Through this project, students will dive into the world of financial literacy through adaptive instruction related to money identification and math, transactional and banking skills, budgeting and daily decision-making, as well as consumer safety and employment skills. Students will create budgets, identify needs vs. wants, create lists, compare prices, make transactions, check receipts for accuracy, and understand how to make change. They will also develop a basic understanding of how banking works, giving these students financial life skills for future independence.

The FinFluencer Frontier: Project Pioneers

▸ **Emily Sleezer and Osma Castro / Conniston Community Middle School**

This cross-curricular program integrates financial literacy with social studies concepts across two schools. Through a series of club meetings, students will build practical knowledge in budgeting, banking, saving, investing, insurance, and digital scam awareness while also strengthening historical research skills. Using the National History Day framework, students will investigate major turning points in financial history and create projects that demonstrate how economic events such as the development of the United States banking system, the Great Depression, and the growth of global trade have shaped individuals, communities, and society. Hands-on simulations, financial literacy activities, primary-source research, and project-based learning will help students connect historical content to real-world financial decision-making.

Money Smart from the Start 2.0

▸ **Ally Van Valkenburg, Olivia McCoy, Elizabeth Sheppard, Jennifer Rivara, and Diana Weintraub / Diamond View Elementary School**

This project provides students with the opportunity to embark on a journey of entrepreneurship while building financial literacy skills through a classroom economy. Throughout the school year, students will identify real-world problems, design innovative solutions, build prototypes, test products, and receive feedback that will ultimately lead to the development of their own businesses by the end of the school year. Once all businesses are created, the students will run their own marketplace as a culminating activity. Throughout their entrepreneurial journey, students will partake in a classroom economy to help them understand the real world in a financial sense.

Using a School Store as a Model for Real World Financial Literacy

▸ **Lynn Moran and Meghan Shamdasani / SouthTech Academy**

This project will transform financial literacy from a classroom requirement into an authentic, student-led enterprise. By modernizing the existing school store with a point-of-sale system, students will gain hands-on experience in retail technology, inventory management, financial record-keeping, and customer service. Participants will also prepare for the Intuit Personal Finance certification, earning a valuable industry credential, and extending their learning through peer-led financial literacy outreach to middle school students. Together, these experiences connect work-based learning, career readiness, and community impact while equipping students with practical skills for lifelong financial success.



Tillman Fiber

Empowered Educators. Brighter Tomorrows.

Tillman Fiber is proud to support the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County's GoTeach! Classroom Grant Awards and the extraordinary educators who turn ideas into opportunity.

Congratulations to the 2026 GoTeach! Classroom Grant Award recipients!



CONNECTED PEOPLE | GREATER OPPORTUNITIES | STRONGER COMMUNITIES

EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

The Center for Public School Excellence and Innovation

FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES



THANK YOU

2026 GOTEACH! PARTNERS

EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

GRANT FUNDERS

School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program

CONSORTIUM OF FLORIDA EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS

FLORIDA EDUC8 SUPPORT EDUCATION

STILES NICHOLSON FOUNDATION

verizon

LexisNexis® RISK SOLUTIONS

Gold Coast FEDERAL CREDIT UNION Come to the Coast for More

EVENT SPONSORS

amazon

Tillman Fiber

United Healthcare

PNC BANK

CELEBRATE THE GREAT

Proudly Presented By

EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT PALM BEACH COUNTY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2027
CENTER FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION
1515 BARTON ROAD | LAKE WORTH BEACH, FLORIDA
5:00 PM WELCOME RECEPTION
6:00 PM AWARDS CEREMONY



Brilliant things come to those who raise their hand.

At PNC, we celebrate those members of our community who help make it shine more brilliantly. Thank you for the difference you make every day.

PNC BANK | BRILLIANTLY BORING SINCE 1865™

Brilliantly Boring since 1865 is a service mark of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

©2026 The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. All rights reserved.
PNC Bank, National Association. **Member FDIC.**

Gold Coast
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Come to the Coast for More

LAUNCHING INNNOVATION, SHAPING FUTURES

Thank you for being
the voice and vision of
learning in our community!



The brightest futures start with you! Gold Coast FCU is proud to be the grant funder for the GoTeach! FINLIT Innovation Award for the 2026 GoTeach! Classroom Grant Awards.

We invite you to Come to the Coast for *MORE* financial solutions for educators and educational programs.

LAUNCHING INNOVATION

Gold Coast FCU celebrates and congratulates the
2026 GOTEACH! CLASSROOM GRANT AWARD RECIPIENTS

EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER NCUA

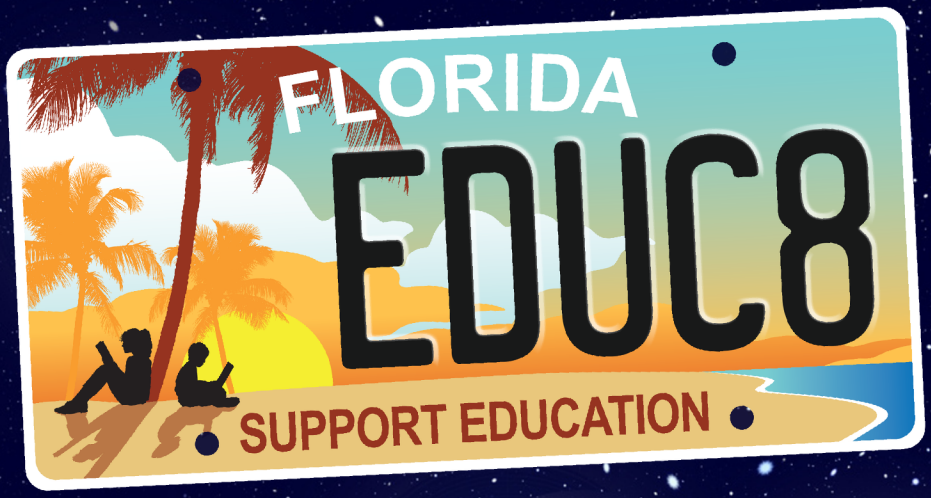
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



Through your generous support, the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County can continue to provide FREE essential classroom resources to teachers in approximately 100 Palm Beach County public schools, along with funding for innovative educational programs.

DONATE TODAY

DRIVE EDUCATION TO NEW HEIGHTS



$20 from every Support Education license plate goes directly to support schools in Palm Beach County

Classroom Innovation **School Supplies** **Scholarships**

Enrichment Programs **Support For Teachers**