

**Dr. Dan Kahler Innovative Teaching Grants Program**  
**Recipients for 2017-2018**  
**Total Funding Amount: \$29,370.79**

**Three Teaching Grants (Total Funding: \$2,533.82)**

**The Maker in Me: Kindergarten Makerspace: \$592.48**

**Debra Williams, Bell Prairie Elementary School**

A classroom makerspace allows kindergarteners to become problems solvers, thinkers, creators and explorers while working together and sharing tools and ideas. Grant funds have paid for building sets, small motors, batteries and art materials, as well as journals that students use to plan and reflect on their projects.

**Stand Up for Learning: \$981.34**

**Shannon Shelton, Gracemor Elementary School**

Grant funds have purchased more alternative seating and desk choices in this classroom. Research shows students who use different seating score 22% higher on achievement tests than those sitting in regular chairs. At the beginning of the school year, students rotated through different options and completed surveys to determine which worked best for them. Evaluations will continue throughout the year.

**Classroom Flexible Learning Environment: \$960.00**

**Janet Braud, Maple Park Middle School**

This grant supports a student research project to transform an English classroom into a more flexible reading, writing and collaboration space, like one at ProAthlete, Inc. Students toured the business and talked to employees about alternative seating. Following research, students wrote proposals concluding that a more relaxed classroom space will improve their focus, productivity and achievement in school.

**Eight Site Grants (Total Funding: \$18,131.45)**

**Learning to Read One Book at a Time: \$2,500.00**

**Sarah Atkinson, Megan Burns, Shara Redshaw & Wendy Schirmer, Fox Hill Elementary School**

Sets of guided reading books were purchased for kindergarten classes to help students improve their reading scores. These books specifically support the needs of beginning readers by building site word vocabulary, phonics knowledge and the use of reading strategies. The books are well-written and illustrated to engage and motivate young readers.

**Robots to the Rescue: \$2,985.97**

**Carol Cobb, Nashua Elementary School**

To further develop students' interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities and careers, this grant paid for a lab that travels to classrooms, allowing students to practice coding with easy-to-use Ozobot robots. In addition to visiting classes, the lab enhances the media center's makerspace that already includes Dash and Dot robots. It also serve as another resource for the school's STEM club.

**Show Me a Good Book to Read!: \$2,945.05**

**Trena Morrison, Nashua Elementary School**

This grant purchased sets of high-quality Missouri Show Me Award and Mark Twain Award winning books. The goal is to motivate students to read more and ultimately improve their reading abilities. Students also may participate in a program that encourages them to read Mark Twain books and earn prizes, including free books and a pizza party with the librarian.

**Drumming Toward Our Goals: \$3,000.0**

**Deborah Bryson, Northview Elementary School**

Fifteen tubano drums expose students to rhythm, movement, improvisation, meter, timbre and ensemble performance. Research shows connections between rhythm and math and literacy, and physical drumming provides a kinesthetic, grounding experience that will improve and solidify these concepts. Students also learn about the rich cultural and historical significance of world drums.

**Eclipse Extravaganza: \$1,000.00**

**Michelle Beffa, New Mark Middle School**

This grant bought supplies for a full day of learning tied to the total solar eclipse on August 21. Student activities and investigations focus on the sun, solar system, light and energy, history of eclipse events and NASA data. Afterward, students demonstrate learning through group discussion, collaborative information sharing, developing models, and analyzing and interpreting data.

**Cultivating Collaboration, Creativity & Curiosity at the Library Media Center: \$2,200.43**

**Karin Anders, Maple Park Middle School**

A storage room in the library media center becomes a flexible learning environment with Apple TV access, a recording studio for audio/video projects, and whiteboard tables and moveable whiteboard walls to foster creativity and collaboration. Research indicates students achieve higher test scores with more visits to the library and when librarians collaborate with teachers to enhance learning experiences.

**Reading Intensive Labs: \$3,000**

**Chad Ryerson, North Kansas City High School**

Grant funds address the growing need for high school literacy instruction by purchasing novels, phonics kits and workbooks. Students who read at the 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade levels are placed in a reading intensive cohort and receive specialized instruction on letter sounds, sight words, fluency, phrasing and comprehension. The goal is to have all students read at a fourth-grade level or above.

**Partners in PRIDE Legacy: \$500**

**Pamela Wiltfong, Winnetonka High School**

This continuing grant supports Winnetonka's strategic plan and helps create a sense of PRIDE (Prepared, Respectful, Involved, Driven and Engaged) among its elementary and middle "feeder schools." Buses transport high school students to the feeder schools where they serve as mentors and tutors. Low-cost logo give-away items also are purchased for feeder school families.

**Three Career & College Readiness Site Grants (Total Funding: \$7,705.52)**

**LEGO My Science: \$2,980.52**

**Autumn Kastner, John Sipes & Daniel Johnson, Maple Park Middle School**

LEGO Educational products and Vernier data collection products provide students with engaging, hands-on lessons about coding and robotics, electricity, force and motion, space exploration, scientific inquiry, renewable energy and simple machines. The goal is for them to practice critical thinking skills using STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) knowledge and solutions.

**Vespa Innovation Prep – VIP Field Lessons & Life Labs: \$2,000.00**

**Ashley Bass, North Kansas City High School**

This continuing grant supports a freshman gateway program to target critically at-risk students who struggle with low reading and math scores, low attendance and discipline issues. The students visit colleges, complete community service projects and participate in character development activities to help them find their strengths and select possible career paths.

**WE OWN WORK! (WOW) Work Readiness Skills for the Functional Student Population: \$2,725.00**

**Dale Brown, Winnetonka High School**

Grant funds have expanded Griffin Grounds, a coffee shop run by students with intellectual disabilities. They learn job skills like product preparation, money handling, taking orders, making deliveries and working a schedule. The purchase of an ice machine has added ice coffee and tea to the menu, and a new commercial coffee cart gives students opportunities to practice sorting and stocking items.

**Culture of Excellent Grants (Total Funding: \$1,000)**

**Culture of Excellence Teaching Cadre Grant: \$500.00**

**Erin Nash, SAGE Teacher, Northland Innovation Center**

**Culture of Excellence Service Cadre Grant: \$500.00**

**In Memory of Trisha Jackson, Linden West Elementary School**