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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation Announces 2015 Innovative Education Grant Recipients and Competition Grant Awards

Pleasanton, CA / June 3, 2015 - Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation recently awarded the 2015 Innovative Education Grants, awarding almost \$40,000 to 19 educators from a variety of elementary, middle school and high schools in the Pleasanton Unified School District.

PPIE offers Education Grants for Pleasanton Unified School District employees to fund projects that are student-focused, promote creativity and innovative thinking, and offer expanded learning opportunities to students. Grant requests are accepted in amounts up to \$3,000 to supplement, but not replace, district funding.

Thanks to the generosity of local companies supporting the Innovative Grant Program, in particular Oracle Corporation for their grant of \$30,000 for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math ("STEM") related projects, and The Clorox Company for granting the program \$5,000, PPIE was once again able to fund close to half the requests received.

"For the second year in a row, the foundation received a record number of grant requests," said Executive Director Susan Hayes "We are grateful to our corporate partners who support this program. They recognize innovation can be explored at all ages and all grade levels. Their participation also extends to the grant committee, where they bring insight and enthusiasm to the process." The list of Innovative Education Grant Awards follows.

This spring, PPIE also awarded Competition Grants to our comprehensive high schools. These grants support school-sponsored, non-athletic programs, clubs and teams advancing to regional, state and national levels. A grant in the amount of \$1,000 was awarded to Amador Valley High School's Competition Civics Team, and Foothill High School awarded \$500 to their Debate Club and \$500 to Model United Nations.

"The reality is that the more successful these academic teams become, the higher the out-of-pocket costs required to continue in the competition process. PPIE is honored to help offset those costs to support these hard-working students," said Hayes.

The PPIE Foundation Student, Education and Competition Grant Programs have awarded over **\$900,000.00** in grants to date throughout the Pleasanton Unified School District. Companies interested in donating to the PPIE Innovative Grant Programs can email Susan Hayes at executivedirector@ppie.org.

PPIE Foundation Innovative Education Grant Awards 2015

TEDx Amador Valley High School

\$2,850.00 – Erik Scherer and Amber Carrion, Amador Valley High School

Funds support an official TEDx event for freshman slated for September, 2015.

Creating a 21st Century Classroom

\$2,500.00 – Wendy Connelly, Amador Valley High School

Funds support transitioning to modular-style classroom

Interactive Document Camera

\$770.00 – Michael Leitz – Foothill High School

Funds support enhancing student writing with interactive document camera

Alisal Library Re-Design

\$2,990.95 – Elizabeth Shakelford, Alisal Elementary School

Funds infrastructure improvements for library re-design

Robotics and Automation- Solving Real World Problems

\$2,714.00 – Linda Boveda, Lydiksen Elementary School
Funds 10 iPad Minis for Project Lead the Way STEM projects

Engineering Earthquake Applications

\$2,992.40 – Laurie James, Amador Valley High School
Funds purchase of Earthquake simulator “shake table” for Project Lead the Way

Digital Electronics Workshop Kits

\$2,921.20 – Cheri Weinhagen, Hart Middle School
Funds purchase electronic circuitry workshop kits to be shared with all three middle schools

Anatomy Clay

\$1,698.02 – Diane Farthing, Amador Valley High School
Funds purchase Maniken Models for kinesiology projects

Bringing Zoology to Life

\$2,541.76 – Francisco Garcia- Foothill High School
Funds provide lab supplies and models for zoology projects

Protein Models

\$2,182.86 – Lata Mistry, Amador Valley High School
Funds support modeling projects in alignment with new standards

STEM Teacher Training

\$1,500.00 – Kristin Mulhern, Alisal Elementary School
Funds support Project Lead the Way Training at elementary level

Bringing Anatomy to Life through Hands-On Dissection

\$1,200.00 – Renee Ogle, Amador Valley High School
Funds provide project supplies for hands-on project and student video tutorial

Supporting NGSS with Tablets in Chemistry

\$2,050.00 – Paula Simms, Amador Valley High School
Funds support purchase of tablets and projector for modeling and virtual exploration

Biographies in the 21st Century

\$1,478.48 – Carol Digirolamo, Alisal Elementary School
Funds support purchase of chromebooks for online literacy research to bring user ratio to 2:1

Welcome NGSS and Common Core

\$2,827.10 – Amy Turner Bull, Amador Valley High School
Funds to purchase tablets to convert data collection from single computer to multiple users aligned with life science standards

Bringing STEM to Alisal with Project Lead the Way

\$1,500.00 – Cassandra Fuller, Alisal Elementary School
Funds purchase iPads to support launch of Project Lead the Way curriculum at the elementary level

3D Printers- From Tortoise to Hare – Project Lead the Way

\$2,756.00 – Warren Jensen, Pleasanton Middle School
Funds purchase three Robo 3D Printers for the 3 middle school Project Lead the Way Gateway to Technology classes.

iPads and Movie Cameras for Journalism

\$1,500.00 – Kathy Nichols, Pleasanton Middle School
Funds purchase iPads for enhancing video reporting projects for The Imprint, online newspaper.

Digital Video – The Next Generation

\$2,005.00 – Yoko Oda, Pleasanton Middle School
Funds purchase VIXIA HF R500 Video Cameras for collaboration in video journalism.