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## PRESS RELEASE

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*For Immediate Release*

### **PPIE Announces 2016 Innovative Grant Program Recipients**

**Pleasanton, CA / May 25, 2016** - Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation recently announced over \$52,649.00 in Innovative Grant Program awards to students and teachers at all levels of the Pleasanton Unified School District. Combined with the PPIE Giving Fund donation reported earlier this month, this brings PPIE's total donation to the Pleasanton schools for the year to \$622,649.00.

This year, \$4,375.00 was awarded for the Innovative Student Grant Cycle and \$46,274.00 for the Education Grant Cycle. Additionally, \$2,000 in Competition Team Grants for academic teams advancing to state and national competitions in the form of \$1,000 to each school were awarded to our comprehensive high schools.

Innovative Student and Education Grants are open to all students and administrators of the Pleasanton Unified School District. The grants 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 \$500 for student grants, and \$3,000 for education grants.

These programs directly impact students and educators of the district by providing funding for innovative projects falling in the "STEAM" categories of "Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics" that enhance existing curriculum. Money from the grant program also supports district-wide initiatives such as Project Lead the Way. The complete list of education and student grants can be found below.

"Increased use of technology in the classroom has inspired a wealth of ideas and projects from students of all ages and their teachers," says PPIE Executive Director Susan Hayes. "A program like this allows us to support their expanding world in direct alignment with our mission to enhance education for all students of the Pleasanton Unified School District."

The High School Academic Competition Grants are awarded by the PPIE Board of Directors to support school-sponsored academic teams advancing to state and national competitions. This year, the competition grant awarded to Amador Valley High School went to their DECA team heading to nationals this past spring. The competition grant for Foothill High School supported their Competition Civics Team for their first trip to the national "We the People" competition.

Every year PPIE receives a wide range of grant requests from a variety of schools. "One year we may receive ten grants from one school. The next year, that same school may not submit any," Hayes explained. To ensure applications are considered on a merit-basis, school names are removed from applications prior to evaluation.

Recognizing that supporting education comes in many forms, this year PPIE included grants for Diversity Day programming and The Hanger, a new district-wide program supporting all students and providing skills-based learning opportunities for special needs students.

The Innovative Grant Program exists thanks to the generosity of local companies and organizations. In particular, PPIE appreciates \$30,000 in funding from Oracle Corporation, a long-standing partner, which was earmarked for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math ("STEM") related projects. Other key donors were The Clorox Company, The Safeway Foundation, Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, Knights of Columbus, and Hines Management Company, which honors PPIE as a beneficiary of their annual golf tournament.

The entire list of Student and Education Grant awardees follows. Students and teachers interested in applying for Innovative grants can find applications online at [www.ppie.org](http://www.ppie.org). Companies interested in donating to the PPIE Innovative Grant Programs can email Susan Hayes at [executivedirector@ppie.org](mailto:executivedirector@ppie.org).

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## **PPIE 2016 Innovative Student Grant Awards**

### Art for our Hart - \$500.00

Hart Middle School  
Student: Allyson Juan  
Teacher: Jane Maker

### Game Creation Club- \$500.00

Hart Middle School  
Student: Maanas Shah  
Teacher: Andrea Swenson

### Telescope for Astronomy Club- \$500.00

Amador Valley High School  
Student: Joshua Ott  
Teacher: Drew Melby

### School Pride- \$500.00

Village High School  
Student: Emily Jones  
Teacher: Mario Hurtado

### Holidays for Seniors- \$400.00

Hart Middle School  
Student: Robert Gan  
Teacher: Nicole Langer

### Mathcounts Program - \$150.00

Hart Middle School  
Student: Mathi Raja  
Teacher: Caryl Daly

### Photography Club - \$400.00

Pleasanton Middle School  
Student: Rhea Dand  
Teacher: Christopher Ragg

### Speech and Debate Club- \$300.00

Foothill High School  
Student: Harsha Mudaliar  
Teacher: Lisa Fulton

### Science Olympiad- \$300.00

Foothill High School  
Student: Farrah Khoyloo  
Teacher: Brian Shackelford

### Model United Nations Mock Conference - \$300.00

Foothill High School  
Student: Mindy Lee  
Teacher: Michael Leitz

### Computer Science Competition - \$225.00

Foothill High School  
Student: Ahad Rauf  
Teacher: Shannon Sos

### American Mathematics Competition - \$150.00

Foothill High School  
Student: Andy Peng  
Teacher: Scott Gorsuch

### Olympiad Triad - \$150.00

Foothill High School  
Student: Bryan Chen  
Teacher: Mr. Martinez

## **PPIE 2016 Innovative Education Grant Awards**

### Full Steam Ahead with Project Lead the Way- \$2,640.00

Lydiksen Elementary  
Teacher: Linda Boveda

### Design Squad: Tinkering and Imagineering - \$2,000.00

Vintage Hills Elementary  
Teacher: Lynn Crawford

### Mobile Stem Lab - \$2,859.00

Vintage Hills Elementary  
Teacher: Tammy Creighton

### STEAM: Sensational Learning at Pre-School - \$2,500.00

Harvest Park Pre-School  
Teacher: Eileen Cristobal-Rodriguez

### Achieving English Language Proficiency - \$2,836.00

Donlon Elementary  
Teacher: JoAnne Eteve

### Using iPads to Build Health Skills - \$2,251.92

Amador Valley High School  
Teacher: Diane Farthing

### Chromebooks to Enhance Math Workshop - \$1,395.00

Lydiksen Elementary  
Teacher: Dina Gardner

### The Hanger - \$2,960.59

District Program  
Teacher: Paige Giglio

### Fast Plants for Biology - \$2,901.30

Amador Valley High School  
Teacher: Eugenia Kawashima

### A Garden for All - \$319.66

Mohr Elementary  
Teacher: CeCe McCarthy

Science and Engineering Practices Need Technology - \$2,250.00

Amador Valley High School

Teacher: Lata Mistry

Modeling and Simulation Computers - \$2,945.55

Lydiksen Elementary

Teacher: Eryn Neidle

Back to the Future - \$1,467.72

Donlon Elementary

Teacher: Lisa O'Connor

NGSS- Green Ninja Saves the Day! - \$1,893.66

Amador Valley High School

Teacher: Renee Ogle

Gardening with a View - \$1,000.00

Vintage Hills Elementary

Teacher: Jenifer Perazzo

Engaging Environment for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner - \$2,650.00

Vintage Hills Elementary

Teacher: Adam Randall

Creating Music through the Orff Method - \$2,995.68

Lydiksen Elementary

Teacher: Cathy Robertson

Diversity Day Funding - \$1,000.00

Village High School

Teacher: Russell Sato

Hands-on Science! - \$1,863.02

Amador Valley High School

Teacher: Amy Turner Bull

Coding with Dash and Dot - \$2,620.00

Lydiksen Elementary

Teacher: Linda Wu

Media Center Digital E-Book Collection - \$2,924.76

Village High School

Teacher: Mario Hurtado