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# Press Release

## **Eudora Schools Foundation Announces 2015 Teacher Excellence Grant Winners**

**Friday, Oct 2, 2015; Eudora, KS:** The Eudora Schools Foundation announced Friday that they reached a \$20,000 milestone at this year's Teacher Excellence Grants award ceremonies. Since inception in 2006, the ESF has funded over 41 projects totaling more than \$24,000 in classroom grants across the district and this year's grant winners put the foundation over the \$20,000 benchmark in funding educational initiatives. The funds are requested by teachers for innovative programs that enhance students learning and success in the classroom.

"We support teachers, who are innovative and create an environment to engage our students to realize their full potential. This would not be possible without the support of the community and the dedication of the board members," said David Barnhart, ESF President, "We look forward to the positive impact these grants will have on our students."

This year, nine grants will be awarded as a result of the Foundation's fundraising efforts through the Teacher Excellence Grant program. Every teacher has the ability to submit grant requests that are reviewed and approved by ESF board members. Eighteen applications were received and grants were awarded to the schools in the following amounts:

Eudora Elementary: \$1,246  
Eudora Middle School: \$3,427  
Eudora High School: \$1,453

The chosen projects will have a beneficial effect on students across the board from K-12 and Special Education. Some grants proposed include funding for STEM projects, books and advancement curricula, health initiatives, career and college readiness, and common core education.

Individual school grants and award winners which were presented in a ceremony at each school are listed below:

### Eudora Elementary Schools

- Race to the Top Books & Board Game – allows all EES students the opportunity to practice much needed social skills and supports their development of emotional intelligence. Students enjoy this game by being able to talk out social situations, physically move their bodies and problem solve emotional scenarios. These skills are essential in these students becoming college and career ready. Grant Winners: Ashley Golay, Cindy O'Reilly, and Brenda Wiley
- Flash Master – allows 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students the opportunity to work and master their math facts based on their current performance level with in a variety of different computerized formats. Students are excited about the technology aspect with this device and excited about challenging themselves to beat their current level. In doing so, students will be fluent in math facts and thus equipped to handle more difficult math problems in the coming academic years. Grant Winner: Heather Moore
- MP3 Players for WEBS Classrooms – allows students in this behaviorally intensive setting to have a digital library by having MP3 players at their desk. Students involved in this setting due to associate disabilities often possess accompanying deficits that correlate with said negative behavior. Reading to students, such as this, becomes difficult and often times, near impossible given student behavior. Allowing students to interact with technology such

as audiobooks on MP3 Players, they are much more prone to read for longer periods and therefore increase their reading ability. Grant Winner: David Powers

- Boys Town Books – allows special education teachers and speech language clinicians to use these set of books when working with students with significant social deficits. These books are designed to help younger or more challenged students to visualize how their behavior affects self and others. Because these skills can be shared and learned in a story format, children recall the new skills more readily. Grant Winners: Rosemary Pratt, Meghan Othick, Danielle Medlock, and Teri Maynard

#### Eudora Middle School

- Weather Lab – enhances the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science classroom by allowing students to connect with hands-on weather tools that physically show them the phenomena they are studying. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be actively working together outside, taking weather observations with their own tools with the goal to analyzing current weather and interpreting their data to make future predictions. Grant Winner: Paul Kaldahl
- Read & Ride – promotes a school-wide initiative to increase student health levels and to elevate academic achievement in reading through a “bike lab”. The Read & Ride program consists of a room of exercise bikes for class-wide use. Other schools with Read & Ride labs have seen dramatic results including higher reading scores, lower Body Mass Index levels, and significant increase in reading interest. Grant Winner: Mitchell Tegtmeier
- Algeblocks – allows middle school students the ability to learn and understand math concepts more easily with a hands-on approach. This would allow students who may have difficulty with algebra concepts to conceptualize, visualize, and manipulate these blocks as another pathway to learning the material. Grant Winner: Rebecca Clark McMullen

#### Eudora High School

- Vernier Monitor – enables high school physics and chemistry students to learn and understand more about nuclear processes. One example of a classroom application is to have students use the radioactive monitor on their own skin to see live readings and better understand how carbon dating is used to determine the approximate age of organic materials. Grant Winner: Morning Pruitt
- Wacom Intuous Drawing Tablets – provides high school science students the ability to use technology to promote a more kinesthetic and creative learning style to interact with course material in a way that is more meaningful and relevant to them. Instead of simply filling out worksheets and labeling diagrams, students will have chance to create their own representation of structures and process that are discussed in class. Grant Winner: Eric Magette

#### ABOUT THE EUDORA SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The Eudora Schools Foundation raises funds to enrich student experience, reward teacher excellence, and make our schools the very best. We are a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) that generates resources, builds relationships, and champions public education. Founded in 2006, the Foundation exists to enhance the quality of education through partnerships with the community. Gifts and income to the Foundation will be returned to the school community regularly and invested for the future. Expenditures are primarily directed toward enhancing classroom instruction and impacting the broadest number of Eudora students.