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NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jonathan Szish, School and Community Relations Coordinator, 724-763-5268

## **ARMSTRONG SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION AWARDS \$7,000 IN TEACHER GRANTS Non-Profit Group Supports Educational Projects to Reach Nearly 830 Students**

FORD CITY—A mid-school year boost of funding from the Armstrong School District Foundation's educator grant program will benefit nearly 830 students with innovative educational opportunities this school year.

Now in its third year, the educator grant program continues to grow thanks to generous support from teacher payroll deduction, community donors and an annual golf outing. This offering featured various levels of grant funding, such as \$500 grants for a classroom project, \$1,000 grants for grade-wide projects, or \$2,000 for school-wide projects.

In total, the ASD Foundation awarded \$7,000 in grants in this historic, "middle-of-the-school year" offering. It came only four months after the Foundation awarded \$3,500 in educator grants in a fall offering supporting teacher projects that benefited 1,600 students.

"We didn't want to wait until fall, 2008, to make our next round of awards," said Bruce Hall, ASD Foundation President. "We were fortunate to have additional monies from our generous donors, and so we wanted to make an immediate impact."

The grant winners were recognized today at teacher in-service, which was held at Lenape Heights Golf Course. They are:

- 1) **\$500 Classroom Grant:** "Model Bridges," by teacher Eric Gromley, Elderton High School. The project will benefit 50 Elderton High School students in grades 7-12 with a four-week activity about structural engineering principles building balsa wood bridges.
- 2) **\$500 Classroom Grant:** "Brain Drain Games," by teacher Christie Orlosky, Elderton High School. The project will benefit 40 Elderton High School students in grades 10-12 with a hands-on activity to build a Congo Bypass (a vehicle for moving through a serpentine course) and a Shufflepuck (which will launch an object that must precisely hit a target).
- 3) **\$1,000 Grade-Wide Grant:** "Sewing Geometry," by teacher Barbara Patton, Kittanning Junior High School. This project will benefit 175 to 190 Kittanning Junior High School students in grades 7 and 8 with hands-on activities that teach geometry, sewing and community service.
- 4) **\$1,000 Grade-Wide Grant:** "Tissue Engineering Activities," by teachers Christie Orlosky and Laurel Glover, Elderton High School. The project will benefit 60 Elderton High School students in grades 10-12 with hands-on activities that simulate protocols and strategies that tissue engineers use.
- 5) **\$2,000 School-Wide Grant:** "Piano Lab," by teacher Jo Ellen Stockdale, Dayton Elementary School. The project will benefit 141 Dayton Elementary School students in grades 4-6 with hands-on, state-of-the-art piano instruction that they may not otherwise be able to access.
- 6) **\$2,000 School-Wide Grant:** "Secondary Wellness Activities," by Christie Orlosky and Wellness Team Members, Elderton High School. This project will benefit 353 Elderton High School students in grades 7-12 with after-school intramural sports, a walking challenge for students and faculty and after-school aerobics/strength classes.

The ASD Foundation is a non-profit arm of the school district dedicated to expanding educational opportunities for youth. During holiday break, a team of the foundation's volunteer trustees reviewed a number of quality applications submitted by teachers, and chose the recipients using rating sheets that match criteria listed in the applications.

Future goals of the ASD Foundation—if financial support is available—include starting a district-wide student jazz band, supporting a local astronomy observatory in which students get priority telescope scheduling, creating an activity center in the district, supporting an enrichment summer school, and providing support for artist-in-residence programs, among many others.

For more information about the ASD Foundation, please visit [www.asd.k12.pa.us/asdfoundation](http://www.asd.k12.pa.us/asdfoundation).

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