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NEWS RELEASE

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**ARMSTRONG SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION AWARDS \$8,250 IN TEACHER GRANTS
Non-Profit Group Supports Educational Projects to Reach Nearly 3,350 Students**

FORD CITY—The non-profit Armstrong School District Foundation announced today that it is awarding \$8,250 in its second wave of Educator Innovation Grants for this school year. This second round of funding for 2009-2010 will enable innovative learning experiences for nearly 3,350 Armstrong School District students this school year.

Educators from across the Armstrong School District submitted numerous quality applications by the December deadline. In the end, the volunteer Armstrong School District Foundation Trustees decided to fund six projects. A team of trustees reviewed and scored each application on a multi-point scale, with criteria matching the grant application questions.

The awardees and their projects are described on the following page.

“This time, we had quite a number of quality applications,” said ASD Foundation President W. Bruce Hall. “We would have liked to have awarded monies to all of the proposed projects, but because of limited resources, we were able to award six grants this round.”

In fall, 2009, the Armstrong School District Foundation awarded four grants totaling \$4,000 which are already in place, enabling innovative learning experiences for nearly 1,200 Armstrong School District students this school year. Today’s round of grants is in addition to that.

The Armstrong School District Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to expanding educational opportunities for Armstrong School District youth. Since fall 2005, the Armstrong School District Foundation has awarded more than \$45,000 in educator grants. These grants have given teachers the means to do innovative programs benefiting approximately 11,000 students to date.

The money for these grants come to the 501c3 nonprofit Armstrong School District Foundation from employee payroll deductions, from community donors, and from an annual golf outing at Kittanning Country Club held each June. Future goals of the ASD Foundation—if financial support is available—include supporting new STEM education opportunities for students, supporting artists-in-residence programs, and supporting character education efforts in the school district, among many others.

For more information about the ASD Foundation, please visit www.asd.k12.pa.us/asdfoundation.

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| <p>District-Wide Project</p> <p>Grades 4, 5 and 6</p> | <p>Project: <i>Making Sense of Algebra with Hands-On Equations.</i></p> <p>Amount: \$2,000</p> <p>Benefits: Benefits 1,400 students district-wide in grades 4-6</p> <p>Lead Teacher: N. Sue Bowser, district math coach.</p> <p>Details: A grant of \$2,000 will purchase the Hands-On Equations System, which provides students with a definite visual manipulative (i.e., any educational object that students hold in their hands) that teaches about abstract algebraic concepts.</p> |
| <p>Kittanning Junior High School</p> <p>School-Wide Project</p> | <p>Project: I AM A STAR (Introducing A Math And Science, Technology AwaRd)</p> <p>Amount: \$2,000</p> <p>Benefits: Benefits approximately 391 seventh- and eighth-grade students at Kittanning Jr High School</p> <p>Lead Teacher: Teacher Christie Orlosky and Kittanning Jr High School STEM Teachers.</p> <p>Details: A grant of \$2,000 will help to increase interest among seventh- and eighth-grade students in STEM careers through meaningful, hands-on activities. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and is a major initiative in the Armstrong School District, as well as across the state and nation to help Americans become more globally competitive in scientific and technical innovation.</p> |
| <p>West Hills Intermediate School</p> <p>School-Wide Project</p> | <p>Project: Pulse Monitor Project</p> <p>Amount: \$1,250</p> <p>Benefits: Benefits 342 students in grades 5 and 6 at West Hills Intermediate School</p> <p>Lead Teacher: Teacher Brad Bowers</p> <p>Details: A grant of \$1,250 will help to purchase 30 pulse monitors for students in physical education classes. Pulse monitors bring the world of high-tech into physical education. They monitor students' heart rates and give instant feedback, thereby encouraging greater physical education student participation. Student data can also be loaded into a secure computer system so that each student can track his or her own progress over time.</p> |
| <p>District-Wide Project</p> <p>Grades 2 and 3</p> | <p>Project: Think Fun Mind Challenge</p> <p>Amount: \$1,000</p> <p>Benefits: Benefits 500 second- and third-grade students district-wide</p> <p>Lead Teacher: Math Coach Barb Carnahan</p> <p>Details: A grant of \$1,000 will help students become better problem solvers in mathematics through the use of four mind-challenging game sets that focus on seven specific problem-solving skills.</p> |
| <p>Ford City Jr-Sr High School</p> <p>Grade-Wide Project</p> | <p>Project: The Flip Between Education and Technology</p> <p>Amount: \$1,000</p> <p>Benefits: Benefits 566 students in grades 7-12 at Ford City High School</p> <p>Lead Teacher: Teacher Lisa Stroup</p> <p>Details: A \$1,000 grant will purchase 12 "Flip" video cameras that will be incorporated into a variety of multimedia projects in business education and computer science.</p> |
| <p>West Hills Primary School</p> <p>Grade Wide Project</p> | <p>Project: Lessons for the Benefit of the Visual Learner</p> <p>Amount: \$1,000</p> <p>Benefits: Benefits 150 kindergarten students at West Hills Primary School</p> <p>Lead Teacher: Teacher Pamela McCanna.</p> <p>Details: A grant of \$1,000 will purchase a document camera and projector which will allow teachers to model the use of manipulatives (i.e., any educational object that students hold in their hands) and also project the teacher's hand-held image on a large screen for an entire classroom of students to see. The goal is to have all students working simultaneously with the instructor while he/she is modeling an activity.</p> |