



2017 Competitive Grant Recipients

Breakout EDU for ALL submitted by Bryan Lake, Beth Mears, Tara Olsen, Karla Schroeder, Paige Waggoner and Kathleen Carter from Urbana School District #116. The teachers describe Breakout EDU as an “escape room contained inside of a box.” Through an immersive, collaborative game platform, students will use classroom content to solve riddles and clues.

Find Yourself in a Book submitted by Rebecca Kasten from Westview Elementary. The goal of this project is to improve the foreign language book collection at Westview, filling it with interesting, current books in a variety of languages and at a variety of reading levels.

Sheet Metal Tool submitted by Kyle Thomas from Urbana High School. Funds will be used to purchase a 3-in-1 welding tool that allows students to fold, roll and create a variety of metal projects.

Young Leaders Service Learning submitted by Lisa Mosely from Westview Elementary. As part of this project, at risk 5th grade boys will identify plan and carryout community service projects. The goal is to develop leadership and empathy skills while improving the school.

Jewelry Art Studio submitted by Jamila Appleby from Stratton Elementary. Using professional tools in a design studio, students will create jewelry for a variety of purposes, including costumes.

Professionalism in the Workplace submitted by Michael Slagor, Laura Koterba-Buss and Michael Crossin from Central and Centennial High Schools. This multiple schools project will prepare students with disabilities for the workplace by providing them with work-appropriate attire or clothing needed for a job uniform.

Spotlight on Singing in New York submitted by Marian Wyatt from Central High School. While on a trip to New York City, Centennial choir students will participate in a 90-minute workshop with a vocal director from the Broadway musical Aladdin.

Makerspace in the Library submitted by Emily Pickell at Central High School. Funds will be used to start a STEAM-focused makerspace in the Central library where students can tinker during advisory and lunch periods.

Shadow Puppets of Bali and Java submitted by Grant Thomas of Barkstall Elementary. As part of this project, 3-5th graders at Barkstall will learn about Indonesian shadow puppets, then create their own.

The Next Scorsese? Equipping Students to Create Short Films submitted by Mark Foley from Urbana High School. Funds will be used to purchase a high-quality digital camera so students can shoot and edit footage to create a short film. In addition, students will storyboard their ideas, write up a "treatment," and present their film to the public through a Film Festival.

Swivl Robot and Swivl Cloud submitted by Deborah Stapleton and Christina Compesino from Dr. Howard Elementary. This project pilots a Swivl robot and cloud storage tool which makes learning visible and audible from anywhere in the classroom. The goal is to enable teachers and students to use video reflection as part of their classroom practice.

REAL Men Read submitted by Alyssa Petruzello and Leslie Martin at Dr. Howard Elementary. This project promotes a culture of literacy at Dr. Howard by bringing mentors into the classroom to read to students. It combines the Scholastic REAL program with volunteers from the C-U 1 to 1 mentoring program. Funds will be used to purchase books for the students to add to their home libraries.

Now You're Speaking my Language submitted by Cassandra Hall and Mary Linnenburger from Champaign Early Childhood Center. Funds will be used to record audio books in the home languages of dual language learning students. The goal is to increase access to content material in a language students understand.

Legos and Literacy submitted by Jaclyn Cross and Zach Cain at Edison Middle School. Students will study the book The Matilda Effect and use legos to design storyboards of what they are reading and writing. One goal of this project is to foster culturally responsive education and encourage content collaboration between English Language Arts, Science, and Engineering.

Authentic French Materials submitted by Liana Pasquini from Stratton Elementary. Funds will be used to purchase authentic French materials for students to use in Stratton's new French Dual Immersion Kindergarten classroom.

Universal UHS submitted by Jenna Finch and Yvonne Alvarez from Urbana High School. This project will place two large world maps on either side of the main entrance to Urbana High School. Every student will create a label with their name and country of origin and graduation year to create a permanent graphic representation of the schools rich international diversity and provide a better understanding of what it means to be a global citizen.

Experiencing Art: Student Curated Exhibit submitted by Carol-Lyn Comparetto and Ravyn Rodgers at Central High School. This project will provide advanced art students at Central with the opportunity and experience of planning and participating in an all student art show.

Balanced Literacy through Science and Social Studies Inquiry Units submitted by Sara Carrillo and Wendy Wirtz from Leal Elementary. Funds will be used to better equip dual language classrooms at Leal with Spanish resources to support student learning in core content areas, specifically science and social studies.

American Identity Spectrum Painting submitted by Rusty Clevenger from Dr. Williams Elementary. As part of this project, students will critique and learn about Modern and Contemporary American painters and create a composition expressing their own unique American identity.

Franklin Fit Center submitted by Amanda Taake and Matt Black from Franklin Middle School. Funds will be used to convert an empty classroom at Franklin into a Fitness/Activities Center with TRX suspension fitness equipment. The goal is to make students stronger and introduce them to a type of fitness they may not have the opportunity to experience outside of class.

Placing Language Learning in Student's Hands submitted by Rebekah Hoffman from Wiley and Yankee Ridge Elementary Schools. This project encourages language learning at home by providing duplicate sets of classroom games and manipulatives that students can check out and use with their families.

Utilizing a Self-Sustaining Food Source submitted by Michelle Greear at South Side Elementary and Chris Gratkins at Stratton Elementary. This multiple schools project introduces students at South Side and Stratton to hydroponics. Students will work as part of a team to propagate cuttings, create a self-sustaining food source, and learn about the positive impact vertical agriculture can have on climate change.

Be Happy submitted by Joni White from Urbana High School and Katrina Reber from Urbana Middle School. As part of this project, students will work to build and maintain a beehive near the Urbana high school and middle school campuses. The project provides a working lab which encourages joint collaboration between students in different grade levels, encourages school and community connections and promotes the repopulation of honeybees.

Congratulations to the authors of our winning COMPETITIVE grant proposals!