



2019 Competitive Grant Recipients

Interactive Music submitted by Erin Anderson at Dr. Preston Williams Elementary. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students will be exploring music through performance, composition and movement using scarves, ribbons and musical instruments.

Mock Interviewing 101 submitted by Robin Bedwell at Urbana High School. With guidance from experts, high school students will be developing their own career readiness portfolio including resume, completed job application, interview tips and participate in mock interviews with expert feedback.

Exploring Local Ecology and Agricultural Systems submitted by ESL teachers Lucia Black and Nicole Fitting at Edison Middle School. This project aims to give students opportunities to participate in local community agricultural and nature resources. The students served by this project are high-risk, low literacy and have suffered trauma and stress of recent immigration. They are often prone to less inclusion in instruction because of their emerging literacy and English language skill deficiency. Students will make several visits to Fowler Farm as well as trips to the UIUC Pollinarium, Anita Purves Nature Center, and Meadowbrook Park to learn about the natural ecosystems of Illinois. Providing the students with these opportunities will help students reconnect with their roots while making new connections with this region.

Books Like Me submitted by Christopher Brunson from Franklin STEAM Academy. Funds from this grant will be used to purchase novels for all reading teachers at Franklin. Novels with LGBT+ characters and narratives will be available to students looking for titles that include them. Fostering a love for reading while also creating a sense of safety, acceptance, and increased self-worth is the core value of this grant.

School-wide Sensory Interventions for Children Affected by Trauma

submitted by Mindy Borden at Garden Hills Academy and Nancy Yeagle at Thomas Paine Elementary. Funds would allow for training of general education teachers who are currently not included in special education training or supports. Additional funds will be used for calming/safe corners in all classrooms so that children have a safe place to retreat in order to continue learning.

Literacy Runway: Third Grade Fashion Show submitted by Rusty Clevenger and Tracey Maxey of Dr. Williams Elementary. The art teacher guides each third-grade student to create his or her unique costume based on a yearly literary theme. This year's theme is Charlotte's Web. After reading the story together, students select a character and develop a hat or mask representing their reflections of that character. During the Annual 3rd Grade Fashion Show, each student showcases their character interpretation on the runway for the entire school.

Building Positive Impact Through Visual Culture submitted by Lucy Christianson from Franklin STEAM Academy. Funds will be used to provide materials which allow students to produce art work for display throughout the school and on Instagram. Students will be producing a visual culture that represents positive images of their school environment as they deepen their school identity.

Increasing Student Learning and Engagement Through Technology

submitted by Kristin Cortelloni from Kenwood Elementary and Dana Lamkin from Champaign Early Childhood School. Funds will be used to purchase instructional apps and iPads for speech and hearing students from Pre-K through high school. Students will be able to use the tools to learn about hearing assistive technology, write stories, and learn about the words and language that are used in their classroom subjects.

Glass Slumping submitted by Josh Doniek of Centennial High and Carol-Lynn Comparetto of Central High. Funds will provide materials and instruction for students to explore new techniques and experiences in the visual arts.

Biodiversity and Ecology at Fowler Farm submitted by Laura Hlinka and Kevin Erlinger at Urbana Middle School. Students will explore, investigate and measure aquatic and soil ecosystems by determining sites and taking samples at Fowler Farm.

Building Resiliency through Choice Coping Skills and Strategies

submitted by Sarah Lim from Jefferson Middle School. Funds will be used to purchase resources; respite chairs, sensory fidgets, and headphones to help students process trauma, build motivation, understand perspectives, and discover healthy ways to manage stress.

Creating Podcasts and Videos submitted by Katelyn Liss from Booker T. Washington STEM Academy. This project funds technology for students to write, develop and produce podcasts to share their ideas, and ownership of learning with their peers and families.

Rat-a-tat-Tap! submitted by Cara Maurizi M. L. King Elementary and Jennifer Heaton Yankee Ridge Elementary. Funds will be used to purchase shoes and flooring to teach tap dance to 5th graders across four different Urbana elementary schools.

Krannert Center Performance Tao: Drum Heart submitted by Karinsa Moline from South Side Elementary. All 4th Grade students will go on a field trip to Krannert Center to experience Japanese taiko drumming that includes a high level of patterned, athletic movement as well as traditional elements of Japanese theater, dance, and language.

Calming Corner for All submitted by Lisa Mosley from Westview Elementary. Funds will purchase materials for every classroom to build their own Calming Corner. The designated space will allow students to utilize manipulatives and practice techniques to calm themselves and return to learning with their peers.

Understanding History: Being Japanese during WW II submitted by Alyssa Pavlakis and Naomi Mang from Urbana High School. Funds will be used to purchase class sets of "*Farewell to Manzanar*" -- junior level reading material to enhance reader interest and engagement.

Makerspace Materials for the Library at BTW submitted by Joy Price from Booker T. Washington STEM Academy. Funds will be used to purchase STEAM related materials such as robots, stacking and chain reaction puzzles and board games.

Trauma Sensitive Classrooms submitted by Savanna Robison from Urbana Early Childhood Center. Funds will be used for social emotional teacher training and materials to create Safe Places for students processing trauma in school.

Enriching STEAM Lab submitted by Kari Suratt and Marisah Garcia from Thomas Paine Elementary. Funds will be used to purchase STEAM materials for the pilot STEAM Lab maker space at Thomas Paine. Students will be able to explore with building brick kits, Legos, straw construction kits, and magnetic tile building blocks.

STEAM Challenge Day! submitted by Kristine Scheu from Barkstall Elementary and Jennifer Leach from Bottenfield Elementary. Funds will be used to purchase supplies for each team of participating 4th grade students. In preparation for this cross-school challenge, students will become better problem solvers, engineers, and use the engineering design process to create 3 different projects in preparation for a spring Challenge Day at the Champaign Library.

Weighted Blankets submitted by Whitley Tate from Jefferson Middle School. Funds will be used to purchase weighted blankets to help students control emotional anxiety and help to promote self-regulation in a positive way.

Sensory Regulation submitted by Emily Tidemann and Teresa Sooley from International Prep Academy. Funds will be used to purchase materials that meet student sensory needs and help them regulate their sensory inputs. Materials include wiggle cushions, finger fidgets, and weighted lap pads.

Never Bored with Keyboards and Ukels! submitted by Meagan Tipton from Yankee Ridge Elementary and Angela Wyatt from Thomas Paine. Funds will be used to purchase musical instruments, and expand an existing program to include 300 elementary students. Second graders will continue to learn keyboard skills and 4th graders will gain exposure to ukuleles in preparation for opportunities to participate in the 5th grade strings program offered in Urbana.

Surveying the Community submitted by Michelle Turner and Diana Friedmann from Wiley Elementary. Funds will be used to purchase STEAM materials to learn about water filtration, magnets and electricity, model building, area resources, and how to improve their designs and processes. Two second grade classrooms will be investigating and developing a model for their new community. Berns, Clancy & Associates will provide project perspective on the role of engineers and a field trip is planned to see engineering in action at the Children's Museum, and Bloomington Zoo.

Sound, Music and the Human Body submitted by Todd VanSteenhuysen from Stratton Academy of the Arts. Students will learn the physics of how the ear works and how sound and music travel to the ear and brain. Funds will be used to purchase technology for students to examine their own ears and learn how music affects their ears and brains.