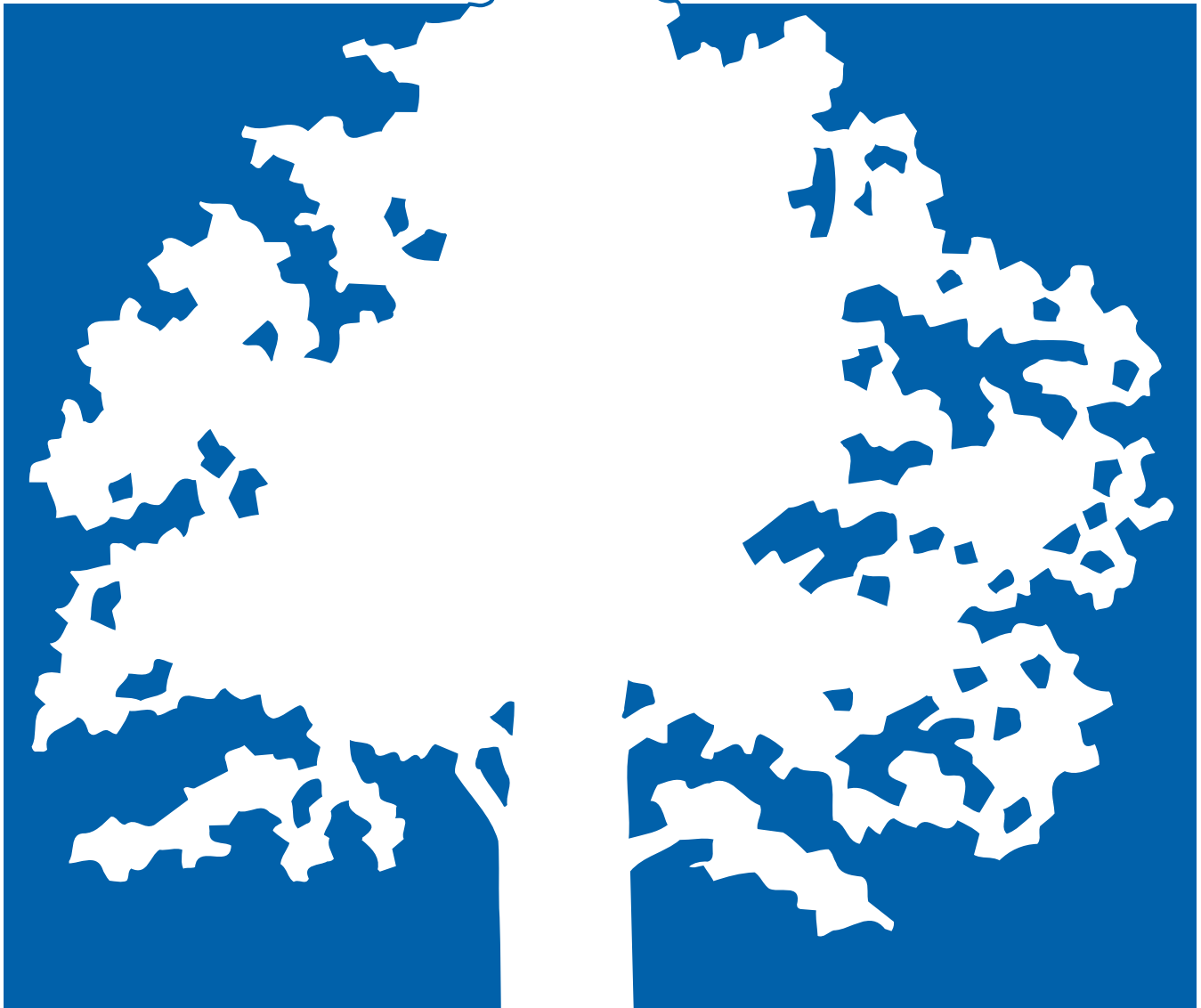


EDUCATION MINNESOTA  
**FOUNDATION**



*for Excellence in Teaching and Learning*

# **Grant Programs**

*Funded April 2018 – February 2019*



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

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## About the Education Minnesota Foundation

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Since 1992, the Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning has awarded thousands of grants and scholarships totaling over \$4.5 million to educators and nonprofit organizations that work to improve public education in Minnesota. The Foundation is primarily funded through dues from Education Minnesota members, and only those members may apply for a grant or scholarship.

Decisions about grants and scholarships are made by the Board of Trustees of the Foundation—teachers and support professionals who are Education Minnesota members. The Foundation’s day-to-day activities are carried out by the Foundation Director and Foundation Assistant.

[www.edmnfoundation.org](http://www.edmnfoundation.org)

## Classroom-Focused Grants

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Classroom-Focused Grants are intended for licensed personnel who work with students and wish to improve their practice and student achievement. Preference is given to projects that address the needs of diverse students or students at risk of failure, involve partnerships, have measurable or observable outcomes, and are replicable. These grants are awarded once per school year.

### **Sara Baskett**

*Education Minnesota Fillmore Central*

#### **Tiles for Smiles**

**\$2,987**

Tiles for Smiles is a project that will allow 175 students in grades 4-6 to create a ceramic tile for a collaborative community display with our city and/or the Veterans Home or cemetery in our city. With this project, I expect to accomplish these outcomes: Provide students with 1) the opportunity to contribute their artistic creations for the greater good of the population; 2) a personal connection to their community; 3) recognition of their artwork as having cultural value bigger than a one-time individual project, thereby increasing students' sense of self-efficacy.

### **Kelly Beckmann**

*Education Minnesota:*

*Heron Lake-Okabena*

#### **Footprints**

**\$3,000**

This grant will allow for the purchase of leveled reading materials to support students who qualify for Title I services or are on an individualized education program (IEP) at our school. Jan Richardson is the author of several books, including a new book on reading intervention. Literacy Footprints from Pioneer Valley books are based on Jan Richardson's models of reading instruction and reading intervention. This grant will support the purchase of Literacy Footprints for first grade.

From this resource, I will be able to work with the students in Grades K-2 who need intensive reading support to meet grade level reading expectations. My hope is to rapidly accelerate student reading growth with the addition of Literacy Footprints.

### **John Borup**

*Education Minnesota-Intermediate*

*District 917 Local 3904*

#### **Student-Centered Breakfast**

**\$2,723.80**

Our staff will implement a student-centered breakfast program once a week during our first-shift advisory period. Our school is a small, alternative high school that serves at-risk high school students. We provide credit recovery services for high school students from West St. Paul and the surrounding communities. Each week, we will teach our students how to plan, prepare, serve, and clean-up a meal. This meal will be all-inclusive, for all students will get to participate and eat. We feel that by implementing a breakfast program into our classroom curriculum, we can meet several basic student needs, such as providing our students with a complete meal and teaching our students basic life skills.

## **Lisa Brandon**

*Education Minnesota-Intermediate  
District 917 Local 3904*

### **Sensory Paths**

**\$3,000**

We will create two sensory paths in two of the hallways and one outdoors in the playground area at our school to assist students in self-regulation. We serve students kindergarten through twelfth grade with special needs. The sensory path is designed to help children use their bodies and environment to calm themselves. They use their muscles, breathing, and spatial awareness to completely absorb themselves in the sensory path and walk away from it as reset and refreshed. Students who have more challenges with physical movements can safely break down the movements and experience success every time. The paths are for any student who we serve in special education or any child who is in the general population. The sensory path is especially for students on the autism spectrum who store a lot of their anxiety and energy in their muscles. Moving around, taking a walk, or bouncing their leg is a way for them to work that out. Our goal is to improve emotional well-being through movement within and outside of school. Each classroom teacher and paraprofessional will be trained and supported by the occupational therapist and developmental adapted physical education (DAPE) teacher.

## **Karen A. Brettingen**

*Education Minnesota - Rocori*

### **R.E.D. Read Every Day Student School-to-Home Book Bags**

**\$1,500**

First-grade students will have an opportunity to choose books that interest them, and the books are highly engaging. Students are given a wide variety of both fiction and non-fiction books at their benchmarked, “just

right” level, and students are also given an opportunity to read and discuss books with peers daily, as I confer with individuals, provide guidance, support and suggest reading strategies to try. They do not, however, have access to “just right” and highly engaging books to take home. My goal is to provide a leveled classroom lending library of books, with special red backpacks, and guiding notes for parents/guardians to promote additional reading opportunities outside the school day, every day! By providing these school to home and back book bags, I anticipate students will spend more time reading, and having conversations about reading with an adult, and I also anticipate this will be reflected in higher reading scores. These students who have learned to read will then be better prepared for reading to learn when they encounter more rigorous texts in second grade and beyond!

## **Sarah Brower**

*Eden Prairie Education Association*

### **Diversifying Our Classroom Library**

**\$1,452**

As a special education teacher who supports students in the general education classroom, my co-teacher and I will build a classroom library that is reflective of the students we work with by: diversifying our classroom library, expanding literature options for students, including books from diverse authors and backgrounds, exposing students to different genres of literature, and forming book clubs built on student choice.

## **Amanda Brown**

*Pine City Education Association*

### **Alternative Seating in an Alternative Classroom**

**\$3,000**

I will provide students with innovative seating at our school. We currently have

standard tables and chairs throughout most of our school. During the 2016-2017 school year, we purchased rolling office chairs and adjustable height tables for one classroom along with pivoting stools. With this grant, my goal is to purchase more innovative seating for my classroom as well as other classrooms in our school. Students have expressed a desire these items, and I feel it will lead to increased productivity.

### **Erin Chapman**

*Centennial Education Association*  
**21st Century Skills Through Robotics**  
**\$3,000**

I will bring in 11 Sphero Robots and 11 LEGO Robotic kits into my classroom. In doing so, students will learn the 21st century skills of communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking. Students will also learn Common Core standards in all subject areas using both of these learning tools through project-based learning.

### **Cindy Crawford**

*Burnsville Education Association*  
**Yoga Calm to Improve Academic Experience**  
**\$1,260**

In Yoga Calm breathing exercises, simple yoga-based movement and social-emotional skill development activities help students reduce stress, develop self-control, and increase emotional stability. The effects of trauma and stress on both students and staff will be studied, and Yoga Calm tools and principles will be used. I will then teach these skills and principles to my students for their enhanced physical, mental, and emotional well-being with the goal of improving their academic experience. Additionally, I will also support and advise my fellow educators

in the use of Yoga Calm in their classrooms to build a stronger, more resilient and healthy school community.

### **Elizabeth Cromie**

*Tri-City United Education Association*  
**Flexible Seating**  
**\$2,824.55**

Our goal will be to use flexible seating options in all of our first grade classrooms in order to support the learning needs of our diverse population. We know that flexible seating helps keep students active and focused, helps promote engagement, boost student motivation, and improve behaviors. Most importantly, it gives students the opportunity to evaluate their own learning needs which is a skill students will use throughout their life.

### **Jenny Dalluge**

*Faribault Education Association*  
**Wobble, Bounce, Twist, Stand**  
**\$3,000**

My project will create an environment that promotes meaningful movement and increase student collaboration in a flexible seating model, where students have the multiple options of seat choice like a chair/cushion or stool for body movement during lessons and independent work time. These seat options are paired with different shaped tables, desks, or standing desks that create collaboration options for students to discuss class assignments. These two pieces of furniture together create a flexible seating model where students are in control of their movement while learning and collaborating with each other (student talk increases student learning), and instead of it being distracting is it funneled back into their class work!

## **Cahrene Dimick**

*Faribault Education Association*

**Nature Time**

**\$3,000**

This project involves an outdoor learning experience for children ages 2.5 to 5 years old with their parents/guardian. This class, called Nature Time will be a partnership between Faribault Public Schools McKinley Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and River Bend Nature Center (RBNC). The class will meet once a week for one and a half hours each time. The class will provide families with young children an opportunity to experience outdoor learning together in all seasons and weather, hands-on activities for children, and discussion time with informational material for parents about the importance of exposure to nature for their child's healthy development. The staff will involve an Early Childhood Teacher, an ECFE Parent Educator, a paraprofessional and a RBNC Environmental Educator.

## **Michelle Forrest**

*Dakota County United Educators*

**Adventures in Learning**

**\$3,000**

Adventures in Learning is a week-long summer program designed to meet the unique needs of English Learners (ELs) throughout the school district. The program's mission is to engage ELs in authentic experiences that enhance year-round learning. In designing this program, we carefully consider each experience to ensure that the learning and critical thinking skills practiced in our program extend to the home and school environments long after it is over. These experiences, such as field trips and hands-on technology projects, are opportunities to which many ELs rarely have access. This experiential learning also helps students engage

as a part of a learning community and provide opportunities for overall language development.

## **Mindy Foyer**

*Education Minnesota Jordan*

**Making Music with MakeyMakey**

**\$3,000**

Makey Makey is a hands-on and creative tool that can create music, and the tool makes connections to other subjects students study. Over the past few years our school has taken on a science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM)-based, creative learning focus. We are working on bringing learning to life with our students so they can be more hands-on with their experiences. After researching what this product can do, I feel this will add a new dimension to how my students create music, which is a big part of our music standards. I will use the product with my fourth graders to create pieces of music, musical instruments, or give them opportunities to come up with something on their own. I will also make this product available for classroom teachers to use in their own way.

## **Rebecca Gamache**

*Duluth Federation of Teachers*

**Magnificent Magnets**

**\$2,458**

As an early childhood educator of 23 years, I have worked hard to provide "loose parts" for children to explore and build on their SEM skills. My project, Magnificent Magnets, will help us gather some additional high-quality loose parts that can be used with the Magnet Wall or also in other areas of the classroom such as the block and sensory centers. Giving children a variety of SEM experiences will help them lay the foundational skills for later math and science learning. Loose



parts are materials that can be used in many different ways and often lead to children building many developmental skills.

### **Kassandra Gibbons**

*Education Minnesota Alexandria*

#### **Alexandria Art Month**

**\$2,744.81**

We will establish an Alexandria Art Month for our school district. During this month, there will be one art show a week at a different school within the district. The art show gives an opportunity for all art students to have their work displayed and seen by the public. The art department wants to provide more awareness and advocacy for our art programs and build support for our art students. We are thrilled to provide every student with the opportunity to be recognized for their hard work in our classes, and a public display is a great way to do that.

### **Jacob Hager**

*Faribault Education Association*

#### **Collaborative Nutrition Education**

**\$3,000**

At the Faribault Area Learning Center, at-risk students will be provided learning experiences focusing on cooking, healthy eating, and financial budgeting. The social studies department will collaborate with the vocational seminar department to provide a student-centered nutritional symposium. Students will get to experience opportunities such as grocery shopping on a budget, learning about nutrition education, and creating healthy food options. Through this experience students will be able to take their knowledge home to help create healthy and affordable eating options for their siblings and extended family.

### **Kari Hasz**

*Pine City Education Association*

#### **Waterway Explorations for At-Risk Youth**

**\$3,000**

Pine City Area Learning Center is located in Pine City, Minnesota, home to 3,000 acres of navigable waterways; yet many of the students at our alternative high school have never had the opportunity to explore the water up close. A small fleet of kayaks added to our current access to three canoes will enable our staff to increase our students' exposure to the outdoor resources in our community, teach water safety skills, and provide an experiential outdoor educational opportunity for multiple curricular areas.

### **Deana Haug**

*Bloomington Federation of Teachers*

#### **Focused and Flexible: Ensuring that Learning is Student-Centered**

**\$2,820**

I have been a teacher in Bloomington Public Schools for 20 years. During this time I have seen technology evolve from chalkboards to whiteboards to smart boards, and now to flat screen TVs which connect to a variety of devices. Not only have teacher presentation tools changed, but so have the ways in which students use devices to grow and learn. These changes have led me to work toward gaining 1-1 iPads for my second grade students. Our district has passed technology referendums over the years which have provided iPads for my classroom (at a 1:3 ratio). These iPads have been an invaluable resource to enhance my teaching, and I have received many hours of professional development to design lessons and activities for student learning. But one device to share between three students

is not enough. Having 1:1 devices for each of my students will allow for more student-centered learning in the classroom.

### **Sarah Henrich**

*Burnsville Education Association*

#### **Movement for Success**

**\$3,000**

This project will enhance student participation and motivation through motor breaks and activities. Research shows that movement activates and increases the brain and promotes learning. Movement activities and breaks vary greatly for students with disabilities, especially students with severe to profound developmental cognitive disabilities. With this project, I will be able to provide more movement and motor breaks for my students with developmental cognitive disabilities in order for them to participate and engage in academic and other activities more throughout their school day.

### **Karen Huberty**

*Dakota County United Educators*

#### **Mni Sota Makoce**

**\$3,000**

“Mni Sota Makoce” in the Dakota language means: land where the waters are so clear they reflect the clouds in the sky. Within the state of Minnesota, there are two federally recognized tribes of Native Americans: Dakota and Ojibwe. Sixth grade students learn about Native American culture through their Minnesota Studies classes, but the only learning students have is through their textbooks. The Dakota and Ojibwe tribes encompass a huge part of the history and creation of our state; and our students not only need to learn through a book, but they also need to experience first-hand the importance of customs, traditions, and oral history. Mni Sota Makoce will allow students to

hear from a Native American speaker who will share the importance of oral history; students will also create an Ojibwe bandolier bag and experience a new exhibit at the Minnesota Historical Society titled, “Our Home Native Minnesota.” These hands-on opportunities will allow our students to experience Native American culture firsthand.

### **Kelly Hyer**

*Education Minnesota Jordan*

#### **Passionate Readers**

**\$2,458.43**

This project will build support for all readers in my classroom by providing ample opportunities for students to grow as readers and ultimately and hopefully become passionate readers. The project provides three layers of reading support for my learners. The first will build a library of picture books to support reading instruction using the “Book-a-Day” format. This format inspires students with fun read-alouds to which they can easily relate. The second layer will provide us with a library containing a variety of high-interest, low-readability texts to support below-grade level readers who want to read chapter books but struggle to find them at their level. The library will also focus on multiple copy books to allow students to create book clubs with other students. Lastly, the project will support two collaboration stations where students can work together on a shared text to create projects or hold a book club seminar. These stations will allow multiple students to work together on one project, and then share their work with the class through Book Hook Presentations, book trailers, or even videos. The collaboration stations will also be used for global communications in the classroom by allowing our classroom Skype with our Global Read Aloud partners around the world.

## **Tanya Jackson**

*Duluth Federation of Teachers*

### **Spheros in the Classroom**

**\$3,000**

This grant will provide us with a Sphero Spark kit. Sphero is a durable and cost effective piece of technology with which students can learn to code. The Sphero creates an opportunity to incorporate computer science standards as well as engineering design principles into our curriculum, helping us meet the Minnesota State Science Standards. Embedding new technology and lesson designs into the curriculum promotes the twenty-first century learning skills of the 4 Cs: communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. My goal is to look beyond the curriculum and create new learning for my students and myself in order to engage students more deeply in the standards.

## **Shelbee Jaeger**

*Education Minnesota-Intermediate*

*District 917 Local 3904*

### **Supporting Inclusion through Electronic Language Access**

**\$2,885**

I am a special education teacher in the middle school resource program for students who are deaf/hard of hearing (D/HH). Students are referred to this program when their resident district is unable to meet their educational needs. One accommodation this program offers is electronic language access, and while this service is proven successful, the current assistive technology devices are limited and insufficient. The goal of this project is to develop a library of electronic devices for individual education program (IEP) teams to trial with students in special education to increase their general education participation and improve their comprehension of grade-level academic material.

## **Beth Kowski**

*Education Minnesota-Intermediate*

*School District 287*

### **One Book, One Community at SECA**

**\$3,000**

“One Book, One Community at SECA” will be a way to connect our students, their families, and our school. We will select a book with student/family input that the whole school will read. Students and their families will each get a copy, and the entire school community will be invited to read the book. Reading the book will culminate with a family event where we come together, possibly show a documentary, discuss the book, and participate in activities connected to the book. Families will be fed at the event, and we plan to have an incentive drawing for new books or gift cards to a bookstore for the families that come to the event. Ultimately our goals are to increase our students’ positive experiences with books and literacy, create family opportunities for reading together, connect families to community assets that supports literacy, and increase the time that students devote to reading for pleasure.

## **Shana Kwatampora**

*Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota*

### **Mirrors and Windows**

**\$3,000**

With Minnesota’s teaching force being primarily white (95.77 percent) and the student population at my school being primarily students of color (92 percent), I will bring in community members, authors, and various professionals as guest readers and speakers that reflect the diversity of our student body. Having mirrors is important for students for a variety of reasons, particularly when the curriculum—and teachers— are not reflective of their life experiences and communities (Bishop, 1990). This hole negatively impacts

engagement, success, and ultimately what students envision as possible in their lives. This project will allow for positive envisioning of what is possible for students' futures because of these role models they can look to and help build their confidence as learners to become and make an impact in the world around them.

### **Joseph Lorentz**

*Education Minnesota-Intermediate  
District 917 Local 3904*

#### **Alliance Education Center Food Shelf \$3,000**

Our school, Alliance Education Center, in partnership with The Open Door, will establish a food shelf within the building to expand food to more students and families. A space within the building has been delegated as the place where the food shelf will be housed, and storage shelves have been assembled. This grant will help offset the cost of the other materials needed such as refrigerators, freezers, storage bins, reusable shopping bags, scale, thermometer, and a step ladder. The Alliance Education Center Food Shelf will be provided food on a weekly basis from The Open Door. By hosting the food shelf, this will allow more food to be available for students and families at times when needed.

### **Sara Lueken**

*Faribault Education Association  
STEM For All*

#### **\$3,000**

Science, teaching, engineering, and math (STEM) occupations are a key part of the American workforce. As teachers, it is our job to train our students, starting at the elementary level, to be passionate about these areas of education. Skills such as critical thinking, innovation, and a focus on real-life situations must be taught and

encouraged in order to prepare our youth for endless possibilities they will have once they finish high school. All of the STEM-related activities that I will purchase, with help from the Education Minnesota Foundation, will encourage these skills. I will purchase Lego sets, Circuit kits, hand tools, Marble Run games, Magnatiles, and a Science Trivia game. My intended outcome is that all students—including girls, those with different abilities, those living in poverty, and ethnically diverse students—will have access to a STEM curriculum. All students will have a chance to use critical thinking and gain access to possibilities later on in life.

### **Amanda Markle**

*Education Richfield*

#### **SPOT Group**

#### **\$1,800**

An occupational therapist and I will implement a SPOT (speech language and occupational therapy) group in a center-based program within one of the elementary buildings we service. The group will meet daily and will be organized and run by us. Students will complete four activities each day including crafts, language-based worksheets, motor activities, kid concoctions, and various other activities. The anticipated outcome is increased involvement during language and occupational therapy sessions from students, as well as carryover of speech language and occupational therapy skills throughout the day and not just during planned sessions.

### **Anne Messerli**

*Education Richfield*

#### **Free Voluntary Reading Program**

#### **\$1,500**

I will implement a free voluntary reading (FVR) program in my Spanish classes. Students will be free to choose

the Spanish materials they would like to read, and there are no book reports, writing activities, or assessments. There are “share out” activities that we will do after FVR time so students can share their opinions, concerns, and other information on the material they are reading. This project will build a library of books for the FVR program that will encourage students to read and enjoy reading. Having more choices will also increase their confidence in reading Spanish as they will have more interesting things to read.

### **Melanie Nelson**

*Bagley Education Association*

**Crazy for Coding**

**\$2,966**

Coding can be hard—especially when it is new! Activities like coding robots and drones will allow students to experience the joy and exhilaration that coding and computer programming provides. It also helps them to think logically, problem solve, and learn that learning is fun. This grant will allow students to learn from others, offer choice in their learning, work in small groups, give students challenges, and let them become innovative problem solvers while asking questions and challenging what they see.

### **Kathy Oellerich**

*United Teachers of South*

*Washington County*

**Kitchen Chemistry**

**\$2,124**

Imagine being an 11th grader in a chemistry classroom of 36 students. Now imagine being one of the three or four students who struggle with the subject. The struggles can range from difficulties with reading, math skills, anxiety, language barriers, or a host of other issues students face. For those struggling students it is often

easier to just sit back, keep your mouth shut, and not try. But what if you can learn chemistry in an environment where struggling is the norm, and you can learn at your pace? Kitchen Chemistry takes all the topics taught in the average chemistry class and uses kitchen materials and food to explain the concepts. Students work in a kitchen lab setting (a regular chemistry classroom) working on concepts to gain the knowledge and understanding to be successful in chemistry.

### **Chad Palmquist**

*United Teachers of South*

*Washington County*

**Makin’ Music Nashville**

**Style with Jeff Dayton**

**\$3,000**

Nearly 80 fifth graders will get to experience a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity by participating in a musician-in-residence program with real-life Nashville songwriter Jeff Dayton. The program will allow students to learn about music and write a song with Jeff. Jeff is an accomplished guitar player, singer, and studio musician. He has toured and recorded with many well-known artists and has written, published, and sold many original songs. This grant will allow us to work with Jeff over the course of one week.

### **Holly Pemble**

*Education Minnesota-Intermediate*

*District 917 Local 3904*

**Increasing Accessibility for Students with Physical Impairments**

**\$2,525.99**

All students, regardless of functional ability, need access to a high quality education. The goal of this project is to increase students’ awareness of their disabilities, increase their understanding of accommodations they

need to succeed in the classroom, and improve their ability to advocate for themselves with educators and peers. We will achieve this by providing assistive technology for students with physical impairments and traumatic brain injuries. The degree of physical impairment may require assistance with academics, functional/adaptive skills, fine motor and/or gross motor. For these students, access is often the most significant challenge they face in a general education setting. They work harder than their peers to complete an activity with comparable quality and quantity; in some cases, they can't participate in activities with their peers. As a Physical/Health Disabilities Teacher and Traumatic Brain Injury Specialist, my role is to help adapt and modify curriculum to make it accessible to the student, and to work with teachers to modify the classroom setting or alter delivery to meet student needs.

### **Kristen Smith**

*Faribault Education Association*

#### **Reading With Colors**

**\$3,000**

“Reading with Colors” is a building-wide project aimed at increasing academic success, particularly for struggling readers at our school. We will implement the Irlen Method to address the needs of students who experience Irlen syndrome, a visual-processing disorder that impacts the brain's ability to process visual information.

### **Aaron Spindler**

*Education Minnesota-Roseville*

#### **Social Quest/iPad Initiation**

**\$2,932**

With technology and all of the amazing and innovative apps available, I will introduce my middle school students to this technology in the two years before middle school so that the technology

does not add to another difficult transition in their lives. We will be using Social Quest and other social story and communication apps to work on social skills, Google Classroom to create a secondary-like model for regular classroom assignments and work flow. My students will learn to use innovative tools to assist in project-based-learning and group work. Students' classwork and behavior performance will be directly linked to ClassDojo, and their parents will have access to the app so they can be informed of the work their children are doing and their behavior throughout the day.

### **Jason Swartwood**

*MSCF-Saint Paul College*

#### **The Saint Paul Lyceum**

**\$3,000**

This grant will support high school students who are historically underserved with scholarships to the Saint Paul Lyceum summer camp. The camp, hosted by Saint Paul College, will provide underserved high school students with a college campus experience and an opportunity to develop critical thinking skills by engaging them in reflection and discussion about a variety of philosophical questions of contemporary importance. Students will receive books and other materials, bus and parking tokens, and daily snacks. The camp is open to any public high school students in and the surrounding communities.

### **Brenda Szoka**

*Education Minnesota-Intermediate*

*District 917 Local 3904*

#### **The Places We Will Go**

**\$3,000**

For students with autism, access is often one of the largest challenges they face. These students typically are overcome

with social, emotional, behavioral, communicative and environmental barriers, and they have to work extra hard to focus on what they are being taught, let alone process the information that they are presented with. Students with autism often miss out on learning within their learning environments due to becoming overwhelmed with crowds, heightened sensitivity to lights, sounds, changes in their environments and schedules, and engaging in appropriate behaviors. In an attempt to address the lack of access to things in the public setting we are working to bring things into the classroom to help students gain exposure to experiences and subject matter in a smaller, quieter environment. In doing so, students feel safe and have greater control over their behaviors and emotions, which then increases their level of participation. Students have demonstrated that they have one thing in common: they are highly motivated by the use of technology. Using iPads, students have learned to use a variety of apps to aid them in their learning. I will help my students gain additional experiences that they otherwise would not have access to by virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) into the classroom. By using VR and/or AR information, access to the world will no longer be limited by the space of the classroom. It also allows students to stay in the classroom and provides a safe and familiar environment for learning take place.

### **Holly Thompson**

*Education Minnesota-Osseo*

**Club Crest View**

**\$3,000**

Club Crest View will consist of small groups of students choosing to come to the library during their recess time to create, build, play, collaborate, and learn new technologies that can then

be transferred into the classroom. Lego challenges, coding technologies, and hands-on science, teaching, engineering, and math (STEM) activities have already been funded. This grant will provide the resources to create even more station choices including a Cricut Maker machine and activities during this recess time. We also plan to extend the overall project into media center stations and PK-5 classrooms via morning work and other enrichment station opportunities during curriculum work.

### **Ann Zitzow**

*Frazer Education Association*

**Escape Rooms for Critical Thinking**

**\$950**

Escape rooms are a new and innovative way to engage students in problem-solving and critical thinking strategies. In this project, several escape room scenarios will be completed within the classroom as practice and students will be given work time for sensitive clue-solving. Students will be in different groups for each scenario and they will be encouraged to work as a team to complete the “game” in the set amount of time. Communication and teamwork are musts to be successful. Once the format has been practiced several times, the class will complete an escape room session at a professionally-run site.

### **Ann Zitzow**

*Frazer Education Association*

**Minnesota Zoo Research**

**& Oral Presentation**

**\$2,360**

I work with special education students who typically function significantly below their grade level peers. Writing is especially difficult for them due to organizational weaknesses, limited vocabulary, and poor written language skills. This project will allow students

to research a specific purpose using a variety of resources and then present their project orally in front of the animal they have chosen from the Minnesota Zoo website's animal listing. Students will use the Minnesota Zoo website to choose an animal they currently have, research it for the required points, create a project using written and visual aspects, and then present it at the zoo. Communication

### **Ann Zitzow**

*Frazee Education Association*

#### **Putting DAPE Skills into the Community**

**\$1,000**

Developmental adapted physical education (DAPE) offers the chance for students with physical delays to learn skills within a more individualized setting. Students learn activities and games at their own skill and interest levels. Being able to use those skills in the actual settings in a community setting is ideal. It is also important to have other students to challenge them. These additional students can be from other special education classrooms, as well as invitees from the regular physical education class or non-handicapped classmates as chosen by the DAPE participants. For this project we are looking at four specific skills moving from the DAPE classroom to the community setting: bowling, frisbee disc golf, mini golf, and soccer. Coordination between the DAPE instructor and low incidence case manager will be used.

### **Katie Zuehlke**

*Annamdale Education Association*

#### **On the Road Readers**

**\$3,000**

“On the Road Readers” is a summer reading program that will support kindergartners going into first grade to prevent a decline in reading levels from May to September. Students will borrow a backpack of books at their reading level and attend three special exchange nights/class gatherings where students will return their books and “shop” for new ones. Students will keep track of monthly reading on kid-friendly reading logs to earn special surprises at each exchange night. Class movie nights, play dates at the park, and bookstore visits will keep these kindergartners reading all summer! These summer motivators will improve students’ consistency in summer reading to ensure students are remaining at their current reading level or higher when assessed in the fall by their first grade teacher.



## *Second-Year Classroom Grants*

Classroom-Focused Grant recipients may apply for a second year of funding to extend their project.

### **Eric Cameron**

*916 Federation of Teachers,  
Local #3748*  
Making History with Legos Part II  
**\$2,550**

### **Casey Clementson**

*Dakota County United Educators*  
1:1 Tuning Initiative - Second Year  
**\$2,998**

### **Justin Hoelscher**

*Education Minnesota-Intermediate  
District 917 Local 3904*  
Sensory Garden at Alliance  
**\$3,000**

### **Karen Huberty**

*Dakota County United Educators*  
Reading With Our Military  
**\$3,000**

### **Kim Jirik**

*Education Minnesota Lakeville*  
Infant-Toddler Literacy Lending Library  
**\$3,000**

### **Jennifer Pelletier**

*State Residential Schools  
Education Association*  
Assistive Technology for Low  
Vision Music Learners  
**\$3,000**

### **Tanja Putman**

*Burnsville Education Association*  
Coding and Creating in Kindergarten  
**\$3,000**

### **Tanja Putman**

*Burnsville Education Association*  
Moving to Learn in Kindergarten  
**\$3,000**

### **Dawn Schaefer-Stumpf**

*Annandale Education Association*  
Calm and Caring Classrooms  
to Create Incredible Learning:  
Part 2 - The Expansion  
**\$2,687.54**

### **Kim Tiesma**

*Education Minnesota-Osseo*  
Fine Motor Olympics  
**\$1,520**

### **Katie Zuehlke**

*Annandale Education Association*  
If You Give A Kindergartener Yarn...  
**\$3,000**

## Professional Development Grants

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Professional Development Grants are intended to provide education support professionals (ESPs), higher education faculty of colleges and universities, and teachers with opportunities to take the lead in acquiring and sharing new skills and knowledge. These skills might include new instructional tactics, use of technology, or working with parents. These grants are awarded twice per school year—once in the fall, and again in the spring.

### *Classroom Teachers*

#### **Maureen Bechard**

*Dakota County United Educators*  
Surviving Middle School When  
You Are 13 and Neuroatypical  
**\$1,404.38**

#### **Dawn Blankenship**

*United Teachers of South  
Washington County*  
Social Thinking Clinical Training  
**\$1,500**

#### **Sara Brady**

*Education Minnesota Moorhead*  
Winter 2019 Art of Education  
Educational Conference  
**\$99**

#### **Nancy Burkhardt**

*Robbinsdale Federation of Teachers*  
Social Emotional Classroom for  
Centerbased EBD Students  
**\$1,500**

#### **Timothy Churchill**

*Duluth Federation of Teachers*  
OEMS Professional Development  
Institute - Connecting PLC,  
Assessment & Instruction  
**\$1,500**

#### **Tracy Detloff**

*Education Minnesota  
New London-Spicer*  
Minnesota Association for Children's  
Mental Health Conference  
**\$1,358.21**

#### **Anna Dutke**

*Prior Lake-Savage  
Education Association*  
Nature-Based Preschool Conference  
**\$1,200**

#### **Tamie Egge**

*Education Minnesota/  
Jackson County Central*  
Basic Interpersonal Communication  
Skills - World Language  
Proficiency Project  
**\$1,075**

#### **Jill Fast**

*Litchfield Education Association*  
Southern California  
Kindergarten Conference  
**\$1,500**

#### **Karri Fischer**

*Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota*  
Integrated Approach to  
Wellness 2 and 3  
**\$420**

**Laura Gillan**

*Education Minnesota Moorhead*  
State Autism Conference

**\$1,350**

**Jessica Gillespie**

*Education Minnesota-Osseo*  
World Language Best  
Practices at ACTFL

**\$1,500**

**Karen Huberty**

*Dakota County United Educators*  
The Road to Understanding  
ADHD and Executive Functions

**\$1,500**

**Bethany Janson**

*Minneapolis Federation of Teachers*  
Border Crossers: Talking  
About Race for Parents

**\$1,500**

**Tara Kennedy**

*Minneapolis Federation of Teachers*  
EL Calm

**\$1,110**

**Joyce Kiehn**

*Litchfield Education Association*  
Southern California  
Kindergarten Conference

**\$1,500**

**Dawn Kuechle**

*Eden Valley-Watkins*  
*Federation of Teachers*  
Southern California  
Kindergarten Conference

**\$1,500**

**Brad Landgrebe**

*Chaska Education Association*  
Meeting the Diverse Needs of Learners  
who Struggle with Complex Mental  
Health and Trauma Disorders

**\$1,420**

**Amanda Markle**

*Education Richfield*  
ASHA Connect Conference

**\$1,350**

**Anne Marie Martin**

*Education Minnesota-Osseo*  
ACTFL National Conference

**\$1,500**

**Valerie Matthews**

*Minneapolis Federation of Teachers*  
Border Crossers: Talking  
About Race for Parents

**\$1,500**

**Laurie Meyers**

*Minneapolis Federation of Teachers*  
Augsburg University Professional  
Development Week for Educators

**\$1,475**

**Shannon Nordby**

*Minneapolis Federation of Teachers*  
16th Annual Great Lakes  
Indigenous Farming Conference

**\$1,082.18**

**Jason Olson**

*Education Minnesota-Osseo*  
Modeling Physics Workshop

**\$1,200**

**Siri Peterson**

*Education Minnesota-Roseville*  
Teachers' College Reading and Writing  
Project Summer Writing Institute  
**\$1,500**

**Kristan Pfarr**

*Le Sueur-Henderson*  
*Education Association*  
7 Mindsets University Conference  
**\$1,500**

**Blake Plankers**

*Education Minnesota Moorhead*  
State Autism Conference  
**\$1,500**

**Erin Roeske**

*South St. Paul Teachers' Association*  
Southern California  
Kindergarten Conference  
**\$1,500**

**Anne Rohe**

*Minneapolis Federation of Teachers*  
Border Crossers: Talking  
About Race for Parents  
**\$1,500**

**Jenna Rowley**

*Chaska Education Association*  
Masters in Education  
**\$1,500**

**Mary Theresa Schmitz**

*Elk River Education Association*  
Trauma: Given its Stored in the  
Body, if I Move it and Heal it  
will it then RESTORE Practices  
to Connect Us to Ourselves, Our  
Colleagues, and Our Students?  
**\$1,500**

**Mary Theresa Schmitz**

*Elk River Education Association*  
Mindfulness, SEL & Neuroscience:  
Creating A Systemic, Sustainable  
Framework for Integrated Education  
**\$1,500**

**Cassandra Sheppard**

*Spring Lake Park Teachers United*  
NEA Conferences  
**\$1,500**

**Krista Steele**

*Education Minnesota Moorhead*  
State Autism Conference  
**\$1,428**

**Christine Valento**

*Duluth Federation of Teachers*  
NAEA Visual Arts Grant Proposal  
**\$1,187**

**Colleen Winters**

*Le Sueur-Henderson*  
*Education Association*  
7 Mindsets University  
**\$1,500**

*Education Support Professionals*

**Annette Davis**

*Robbinsdale Federation of Teachers*  
2019 NEA Joint Ethnic  
Caucus Conference

**\$1,500**

**Michelle Dennard**

*Education Minnesota Osseo ESP*  
The Urgency of Intersectionality

**\$1,500**

**Cayenne Dupay**

*Saint Paul Federation of Educators*  
Region III Interpreting Conference

**\$1,100**

**Becky Garrels**

*Education Minnesota Hutchinson*  
*Education Support Professionals*  
Continuing Education Training

**\$1,500**

**Joan Lancour**

*Education Minnesota Duluth*  
*Clerical Local 692-A*  
2019 NEA ESP Conference

**\$1,360**

**Amanda McKinnon**

*Saint Paul Federation of Educators*  
Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf  
Region III Conference 2018: Coming  
Together to Create Community

**\$800**

**Lisa McQuarter**

*Education Minnesota Osseo ESP*  
Techniques for Children with  
Emotional and Behavior Disorders

**\$678**

**Lisa McQuarter**

*Education Minnesota Osseo ESP*  
Children with ADHD and Self-  
Regulation Challenges

**\$1,001.89**

**Ingrid Miera**

*Education Minnesota Osseo ESP*  
How to Speak Up for Racial Justice

**\$1,366.28**

**Vanessa Murray**

*Robbinsdale Federation of Teachers*  
Trauma Practitioner Certification

**\$905**

**Ellen Olsen**

*Saint Paul Federation of Educators*  
2018 Registry of Interpreters for  
the Deaf Region IV Conference

**\$1,087.65**

**Sarah Pflugh**

*Saint Paul Federation of Educators*  
RID Region 3 Conference: Coming  
Together to Create Community

**\$850**

**Joan Roberson**

*Education Minnesota Osseo ESP*  
Certificate in Special and  
General Education

**\$1,500**

**Lindsay Schilling**

*Rochester ESP*  
2019 NEA ESP Conference

**\$1,500**

**Kelly Sloneker**

*Fairmont ESP Paras*  
Teaming up for Student Success

**\$1,500**

**Sue Snyder**

*Saint Paul Federation of Educators*  
Sign Language Interpreter  
Conference: RID Region IV

**\$1,087.65**

*Higher Education Faculty*

**Erica Berg**

*MSCF-MSCTC*  
NCLEX Camp for Nurse Educators

**\$3,000**

**Thomas Brown**

*MSCF-South Central College*  
Ag Finance Professional Development

**\$3,000**

**Erica Berg**

*MSCF-Minnesota State Moorhead*  
ATI Summit

**\$3,000**

**Mark Carlson**

*MSCF-Vermilion Community College*  
2018 ISKES Conference

**\$3,000**

**Lisa Bergin**

*MSCF-Minneapolis Community  
and Technical College*  
Culturally Responsive  
Evaluation and Assessment

**\$2,400**

**Christy Cook**

*MSCF-Northwest Technical College*  
Transcultural Approaches to  
Advance Health Care

**\$3,000**

**Jessie Breyer-Peterson**

*MSCF-Century College*  
National Institute on the Teaching  
of Psychology: Active Learning and  
Evidence-Based Approaches to Teaching

**\$2,550**

**Shannon Dahms**

*MSCF-MSCTC*  
Transcultural Nursing Society  
Annual Conference

**\$2,997.20**

**Gae Davis**

MSCF-Central Lakes College  
DWI Detection and SFST  
Instructor Course

**\$3,000**

**Jay Gerdin**

MSCF-Anoka Technical College  
Laser Weld Training

**\$3,000**

**Jennifer Gomez**

University Education Association  
Aesthetic Wisdom: Indigenous Arts  
and Intellectual Property Rights

**\$3,000**

**Anna Gryczman**

MSCF-Century College  
2019 D2L Fusion Conference

**\$3,000**

**Paula Gudmundson**

University Education Association  
Learning to Listen - Study  
and Performance of Oral  
Traditions of the Flute

**\$3,000**

**Tracy Hoffman**

MSCF-Anoka Technical College  
Attend Ethical Hacking Course

**\$3,645**

**Rahul Kane**

MSCF-Century College  
Human Anatomy and Physiology  
Society Membership and  
Annual Conference

**\$2,800**

**Robert Kilbourn**

MSCF-North Hennepin  
Community College  
Forensic Psychology Conference

**\$2,629**

**Robert Kilbourn**

MSCF-North Hennepin  
Community College  
Cognitive Behavioral  
International Conference

**\$2,750**

**Renu Kumar**

MSCF-Minneapolis Community  
and Technical College  
American Society of Microbiologists  
Microbe Meetings

**\$3,000**

**Rick Nelson**

MSCF-Century College  
Best Practices/Trends-Nutrition  
and Sport Careers

**\$2,810**

**Lynette Neppel**

MSCF-Northland Community  
and Technical College  
Enhancing Anthropology  
in the Classroom

**\$2,500**

**Steve Potts**

*MSCF-Hibbing Community College*

Mining the Archives

**\$3,000**

**Maura Smyth**

*MSCF-Century College*

Instructional Design Certificate

**\$2,646**

**Denise Reeser**

*MSCF-South Central College Mankato*

National Farm Business  
Management Conference

**\$1,945**

**Erica Stene Winkler**

*MSCF-Anoka Technical College*

Technical College Counselor  
Development

**\$1,950**

**Georgina Sampson**

*MSCF-Anoka Technical College*

Assembly on Education for Health  
Information Professionals

**\$1,863.90**

**Tamara Thell**

*MSCF-Anoka Technical College*

Attend the National Conference  
for Nurse Practitioners

**\$2,429.07**

**Ann Schroder**

*MSCF-Inver Hills Community College*

Internet Librarian Conference 2018

**\$1,444.30**



## Bruce Vento Science Educator Professional Development Grants

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Established by his colleagues, friends and staff, the Bruce Vento Science Educator Professional Development Grant supports educators who teach science as part of their day and want to acquire and share new skills and knowledge. Congressman Vento believed in supporting students and teachers and highly valued his role as an educator in shaping his world view. These grants are awarded once per school year.

### **Lisa Perkins**

*Education Minnesota-Freshwater*

*Education District*

**Lab Equipment**

**\$1,131.96**

## IMPACT Grants

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The Education Minnesota Foundation seeks to encourage and support broad-based efforts to inject meaningful, long-lasting change in the policies and practices that shape teaching and learning through the IMPACT Grant. Education Minnesota members team up with nonprofits who are agents in driving systemic change, and together they create innovative program designs and projects with the intent of positively impacting the learning experiences of Minnesota students. These grants are awarded once per school year.

### **Leslie Frosaker**

*Blackduck Education Association*

#### **Social Emotional Safety Project**

**\$15,000**

The Blackduck Public School District started an innovative program to create positive change at our schools by focusing on the social, emotional, and safety needs of students, families, and staff. The number of students and families who are experiencing trauma has drastically increased in our district, causing some students to be in a constant “fight, flight or freeze” mode. Our district will become a trauma-sensitive school by changing staff mindsets through education. After receiving expert consultation, our staff will learn how to teach students self-regulation skills, calming techniques, and social skills for school and life. This project will provide all elementary classrooms with beanbag chairs and weighted blankets to create “calming spots” within the classrooms and reduce the number of students being removed from classrooms. This grant will empower sixth grade students to be trained as mentors to help other students learn conflict resolution strategies as well. Using a new Teacher Resource Library, teachers will have access to highly recommended social and emotional learning (SEL) books and puppets to teach social skills. Students will build empathy by studying the writing of award-winning children’s author, Patricia Polacco,

whose stories emphasize kindness, acceptance, and positive relationships. Through collaboration with Education Minnesota members and experts in the SEL field, our district will drive positive change by providing a positive, safe environment where students can learn and excel.

### **Roberta Hernandez Rasmussen**

*Education Minnesota Roseville*

#### **Absent Narratives No Longer**

**\$15,000**

The Absent Narratives No Longer project will partner Central Park Elementary School and the Minnesota Humanities Center to increase racial equity mindsets and skillsets of K-6 teachers in an identified racially isolated school in order to build deeper relationships with students, resulting in more effective teaching and learner engagement. Our goal is to see race-based achievement disparities diminish as teachers grow their capacity to teach absent narratives and students see themselves reflected in the curriculum. In collaboration with the district’s professional development and equity departments, this project will also be a building-wide model for Roseville Area Schools (RAS) to support the implementation of systemic changes in the practices that accompany RAS’s focus on the curricular incorporation of absent narratives.

### **Stephen Szczodroski**

*Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota*  
**Community Engagement and  
Enrichment for At-Risk Students  
Using Mountain Bikes**

**\$14,950**

This project encourages alternative high school students to build healthy living habits. We will incorporate mountain bikes across the curriculum. Fortunately, our location is at the entrance of a prestigious paved trail

system in Coon Rapids. Mountain bikes will allow students in a variety of classes to bike to locations for educational opportunities that would otherwise not be possible do to transportation and time constraints. In addition, we will have a working relationship with the Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park that is a mile away, which is a 15-20 minute walk from the school to the visitor center; but with bikes students could get there in less than five minutes.

### *IMPACT Second-Year Grants*

IMPACT Grant recipients may apply for a second year of funding to extend their project.

### **Susan Bianchi**

*Bloomington Federation of Teachers*  
**Year 2--Resiliency 360: Embracing  
Mindfulness to Create More Active  
and Engaged Teaching and Learning**

**\$15,000**

### **Kelly Wilson**

*Education Minnesota Osseo*  
**Trauma-Informed and Restorative  
Practices Training**

**\$15,000**

## National Board Certified Teachers Scholarships

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The process to become a National Board Certified Teacher is demanding and complex. For members willing to commit to the process, the Education Minnesota Foundation offers scholarships to help offset the costs. Thanks to a generous donation from Tradition Mortgage, the Education Minnesota Foundation is able to award up to ten \$500 or five \$1,000 scholarships to applicants each year. These scholarships are awarded once per school year.

### **Andrea Butler**

*Mounds View Education Association*

**Mathematics: Adolescence  
and Young Adulthood**

**\$950**

### **Alicia Farmer**

*United Teachers of South*

*Washington County*

**Mathematics: Early Adolescence**

**\$1,000**

### **Thomas Cook**

*St. Paul Federation of Educators*

**Art: Early Adolescence through  
Young Adulthood**

**\$1,000**

### **Jennifer Funkhouser**

*St. Paul Federation of Educators*

**World Languages: Early Adolescence  
through Young Adulthood**

**\$1,000**

### **Mary Curto**

*Big Lake Education Minnesota*

**English Language Arts: Adolescence  
and Young Adulthood**

**\$1,000**

### **Jennifer Goetz**

*St. Paul Federation of Educators*

**Science: Adolescence and  
Young Adulthood**

**\$1,000**

### **Brian Durgin**

*Rochester Education Association*

**English as a New Language: Early  
Adolescence through Young Adulthood**

**\$1,000**

### **Tim Haneberg**

*Education Minnesota - Hastings*

**School Counseling: Early Childhood  
through Young Adulthood**

**\$1,000**

### **David Ellefson**

*Rochester Education Association*

**Science: Adolescence and  
Young Adulthood**

**\$1,000**

### **Elizabeth Hansen**

*St. Paul Federation of Educators*

**English Language Arts: Adolescence  
and Young Adulthood**

**\$1,000**

### **Melissa Jensen**

*Education Minnesota - Worthington*

**English Language Arts:  
Early Adolescence**

**\$1,000**

**Pamela Kohlhepp**

*Education Minnesota-Osseo*  
Exceptional Needs Specialist: Early  
Childhood through Young Adulthood  
**\$1,000**

**Jill Magnuson**

*Dover-Eyota Education Association*  
Literacy: Reading-Language Arts:  
Early and Middle Childhood  
**\$1,000**

**Susanne Maldonado**

*St. Paul Federation of Educators*  
English Language Arts: Adolescence  
and Young Adulthood  
**\$1,000**

**Kimberley Nichols**

*St. Paul Federation of Educators*  
Mathematics: Adolescence  
and Young Adulthood  
**\$1,000**

**Tasha Raymo**

*Education Minnesota - Worthington*  
Literacy: Reading-Language Arts:  
Early and Middle Childhood  
**\$500**

**Mark Renner**

*Columbia Heights  
Federation of Teachers*  
English as a New Language:  
Early and Middle Childhood  
**\$1,000**

**Lori Ringen**

*Rochester Education Association*  
Music: Early Adolescence  
through Young Adulthood  
**\$1,000**

**Greg Schoenbeck**

*Rochester Education Association*  
Mathematics: Early Adolescence  
**\$1,000**

**Julia Shepherd**

*St. Paul Federation of Educators*  
English Language Arts: Adolescence  
and Young Adulthood  
**\$1,000**

**Brandy Siddiqui**

*Minneapolis Federation of Teachers*  
Social Studies-History: Adolescence  
and Young Adulthood  
**\$1,000**

**R. Lee Stagg**

*St. Paul Federation of Educators*  
English Language Arts: Adolescence  
and Young Adulthood  
**\$1,000**

**Kelly Stroeing**

*Rochester Education Association*  
Generalist: Middle Childhood  
**\$1,000**

**Jamie Thompson**

*St. Paul Federation of Educators*  
Science: Adolescence and  
Young Adulthood  
**\$1,000**

**Laura Varley**

*Education Minnesota - Worthington*  
English as a New Language:  
Early and Middle Childhood  
**\$1,000**

**Michael Versland**

*Education Minnesota - Hastings*

Science: Adolescence and  
Young Adulthood

**\$1,000**

**Allison Zaccardi**

*St. Paul Federation of Educators*

Career and Technical Education: Early  
Adolescence through Young Adulthood

**\$1,000**

**Laura Willis**

*Rochester Education Association*

Generalist: Middle Childhood

**\$1,000**

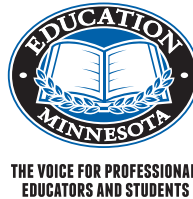
**Total projects and scholarships  
funded:**

**169**

**Amount funded:**

**\$343,155**

[www.edmnfoundation.org](http://www.edmnfoundation.org)



The benefit of union membership.

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651-227-9541 800-652-9073 Fax 651-292-4802  
[www.educationminnesota.org](http://www.educationminnesota.org)

*Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers,  
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3/2019

