Grant Programs

Funded April 2024 – March 2025

EDUCATION MINNESOTA

FOUNDATION



for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

affiliated with

EDUCATION MINNESOTA

THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

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About the Education Minnesota Foundation

Since 1992, the Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning has awarded over 2,500 grants and scholarships totaling over $6.5 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, and one retired member. The Foundation's day-to-day activities are carried out by the Foundation Director and Foundation Assistant.

www.edmnfoundation.org

Classroom-Focused Project Grants

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.

Lynnae Anderson

Education Minnesota - Lakeville

Sensory Motor Room Project

$2,171.77

This project is focused on providing a space for students to improve gross and fine motor skills and regulate their emotions and body. This year we added two special education programs to our building (ASD and EBD). We do not have equipment available for the needs of the program students to regulate their bodies and work on their motor skills. In addition, we have students outside of the program who would benefit from a sensory motor room as well. Our hope is that by providing a place for students to self-regulate and work on motor skills, that their time in the classroom would increase as well as their academic growth. Our greater purpose is to provide a room that is calming, therapeutic and restorative.

Mesay Doyamo

Education Minnesota-WIllmar

Food Science and Nutrition

$3,000.00

The purpose of this project is to create a community-focused foods program that integrates hands-on learning through units such as food safety, culinary skills, exploring global cuisines, and sustainable food systems. This program will engage our diverse student population, including EL and special education students, by fostering collaboration, cultural awareness, and practical life skills. By receiving this grant, we aim to increase student engagement, improve culinary proficiency, and enhance students' understanding of food systems through experiential learning. The project will also extend beyond the classroom, allowing students to share their knowledge and skills with the local community, creating a lasting impact.

Brianna Havir

West St. Paul Federation of Teachers

Design Masters

$3,000.00

The purpose of this project is to bring a unique project-based learning experience to the 7th and 8th graders at Heritage E-STEM Middle School. The projects are called "Design Masters." Two distinct student-led projects will empower students to apply their knowledge and skills to create physical representations of their learning. The first is the Rube Goldberg Machine, which involves engineering a chain reaction machine to complete a specified task. The second will be the Human Body project, in which students will design a working model of a body system or organ. Students will establish and manage a STEM store as part of the projects. This immersive experience will empower them to use "Science Bucks" to purchase supplies. This will reinforce the concepts of budgeting, fiscal responsibility, and the empowerment that comes from achieving goals through effort. Students will work together, support each other, learn from mistakes, and celebrate successes. We want our students to see themselves as engineers, mathematicians, and scientists.

Nichole Markworth

Lac Qui Parle Education Association

Harmony in Action

$3,000.00

The purpose of this project is to use instruments to introduce students 3rd through 6th grade to instruments, as well as begin to read music. Throughout this project, the plan is to have students perform individually, in small groups and in large groups. They will perform for myself, their peers, teachers and parents. I hope to instill a passion for music in our youngest musicians and hopefully foster this love through their years in music.

Lisa Mayer

Intermediate Dist 917 Local 3904

School Vegetable Garden

$3,000.00

In the garden space, I plan to establish a patio that will serve as an outdoor classroom that provides a calm, engaging, and flexible space for students to learn, relax, interact with nature, and provide a place for Story Circles. Gardens spaces engage Indigenous roots and traditions by preserving and cultivating native plants, fostering sustainable practices, and honoring cultural knowledge passed down through generations. Gardening and landscaping engage students in practical applications of science and math, while experiencing a sense of pride and accomplishment. The garden also supports inclusion by catering to diverse learning needs and offering students of all abilities the chance to engage in meaningful, tactile experiences.

Jodi Perelman

Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and ESP

ASL Day at the MN Zoo

$1,500.00

The purpose of this grant is to have my ASL students learn with ASL students from other schools, teaching each other about animals while using ASL. Once a year the Minnesota Zoo host ASL (American Sign Language) Day. The Zoo designates which school gets which animal to do research and present about their animal all in ASL. ASL High Schools students from the metro area go and teach each other about different animals. Watching students teach each other about animals is one of the most rewarding ASL field trips. The students are using real life skills and teaching each other what they have learned.

Lynn Richardson

Education Minnesota - Roseville

Classroom Plant Science

$1,140.00

In this project, I intend to create a classroom plant science unit that incorporates hands on learning with plant science. I teach modified science lessons in a self-contained special education classroom with a focus on work experience and functional academic skills. This project will involve planting seeds, tending them, learning the science of plant growth, and learning the skills needed for plant nursery work. The outcome will be the ability to identify the basic requirements for a plant to grow, rate interest in working in a nursery, and increase social communication skills around growing plants, selling plants, and selling vegetables.

Thomas Rosengren

Education Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City

Backstage Ready: Makeup Mastery and Dressing Room Expansion for Theatre Success

$3,000.00

This project addresses a critical issue in our theatre department: overcrowding in the dressing room and lack of makeup training for students. This project aims to solve these problems by engaging theatre students in creating video tutorials on stage makeup techniques and product recommendations while also designing and building a secondary dressing room equipped with mirrors, makeup tables, and appropriate lighting. By empowering students with the knowledge and tools for professional makeup application and providing more space to change comfortably, this project will support growth of our theatre program, enhance students' performances, and foster collaboration and self-training within the department.

Marla Schroeder

Education Minnesota - Willmar

Yoga and Mindful Living Course (2025-26 school year)

$3,000.00

The purpose of this project is to execute a 9-week course with students and provide proper and safe physical practice for all with yoga props and a focus upon moving the body and stilling the mind. This new course offering is a direct result of action-based research conducted in the classroom in 2019-2020 and students' positive response to instruction. Students need movement for healthy bodies and strategies to manage their energy and time, to create and sustain mental focus, and to reduce anxiety and increase coping strategies.

Paul Tinerella

Intermediate Dist 287

Empowering Students Through Innovation

$2,986.00

Using 3D imaging and 3D printer technology, this project aims to design and replicate adapted tools and materials to meet the educational needs of students with physical and motor impairments while actively involving students in the design and creation process as part of their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and Transition goals (Post-Secondary Education & Training, Employment Training, and Independent Living). These adaptations, developed at a fraction of the cost of commercial solutions, address challenges such as long waiting times and limited availability. Through the South Education Center (SEC) 3D Design & Printer Lab, students will participate in prototyping, testing, and refining tools tailored to their needs, fostering not only accessibility but also skill-building and ownership of their learning journey. This collaborative approach enhances accessibility while driving measurable improvements in student engagement, independence, and preparation for future goals

Shannon Wendel

Intermediate District 917 Local 3904

TESA Occupational Skills Expansion

$2,601.88

The purpose of this grant is to expand and enhance the business offerings for the Occupational Skill course for my students. In doing so, we'll include more students and build upon their vocational skills. This course is offered at The Transition Education Services Alternative (TESA) program on the Dakota County Technical College campus with Intermediate School District ISD 917.

Katie Zuehlke

Annandale Education Association

Finger Muscle Lab

$3,000.00

Our project, "Finger Muscle Lab", will provide daily, hands-on fine motor work to strengthen young finger muscles in an engaging and developmentally appropriate way. In recent years, personal observations and educational research note a decline in kindergarten students' fine motor skills. This important life skill not only provides legible writing but also plays a critical role in early literacy development, focus, and spatial awareness.

Second-Year Classroom-Focused Project Grants

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

Erica Hess

Marshall Education Association

PAES Lab

$2,983.87

Christa Sherman

Marshall Education Association

Kindergarten - 1st Grade Reading Intervention Tools

$2,371.04

Katie Zuehlke

Annandale Education Association

Performing + Collecting = Understanding

$2,995.00

Professional Development Grants

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

Caitlin Barnier
North St Paul Maplewood Oakdale Education Association
Group member(s): Emily Galle-From
The Reading League Conference
$4,000.00

Barb Barrett
United Teachers of South Washington County
Group member(s): Kate Buhr
Equipping Excellence: Empowering Instructional Coaches to Impact Transformative Teaching
$4,000.00

Megan Berres
Centennial Education Association
Group member(s): Pam Rehnelt, Dave Thomas, and Kathryn Vadnais
MAAP Conference Professional Development
$3,939.54

Alisha Bolfing
Burnsville Education Association
Group member(s): Ryan Jones
NAEA National Convention PD
$3,988.00

Janessa Brackett
Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and ESP
American School Counselors Association National Conference
$2,000.00

Juana Caballero-McGill
Fisher Education Association
Conductors Collegium - Band Conducting Symposium
$2,000.00

Niesha Conley
Rochester Education Association
Association of Recovery Schools Conference
$1,639.00

Michelle Constine
Dakota County United Educators
Certificate in Educational Technology
$1,185.00

Nina Cook
Mounds View Education Association
Teaching Media Literacy Skills in a Fake News World
$295.00

Natalee D'Amore
St. Paul
School Counseling Support for Students
$1,568.77

Margaret Dayvis
Robbinsdale Federation of Teachers
2025 LGBTQ+ Social Justice & Leadership Conference
$2,000.00

Amber Delliger
Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota
Foundations in Algebra Support
$2,000.00

Tracy Detloff
Education Minnesota - New London-Spicer
MACMH's Child & Adolescent Mental Health Conference
$1,729.20

Tracy Detloff
Education Minnesota - New London-Spicer
School Behavioral Health Conference
$1,689.95

Sarah Donovan
Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota
Professional Development with NCTM
$1,584.00

Sara Fidler
Education Minnesota - Monticello
Group member(s): Nathan Rowe
National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Conference 2025
$4,000.00

Becky Gamache
Duluth Federation of Teachers
Play Empowers Retreat
$1,500.00

Jennifer Goetz
St. Paul
Teaching Astronomy with Rubin Observatory
$1,170.00

Tim Hackbarth
St. Croix Education Association
Building Bridges Between Gen Ed and Sped
$2,000.00

Katie Hoaglund
Education Minnesota Fairmont
Diverse Perspectives in Music Education Coursework
$500.00

Karen Huberty
Dakota County United Educators
Group member(s): Maureen Bechard
Middle Level Learners: AMLE 2024
$3,430.00

Jacqueline Johnson
Luverne Education Association
Special Education Mediation
$2,000.00

Colette Kastner
Hopkins Education Association
Group member(s): Sara Lacey
Building Thinking Classroom
$2,187.94

Kate Kennealy
St. Paul
Group member(s): Renee Brasuhn, Kendall Doom and Hannah Navarro
Children's Mental Health Conference
$4,730.00

Lisa Kent
Education Minnesota-Intermediate District 917 Local 3904
Group member(s): Jeanne D'Aloia
Improving Language and Literacy for Death/Hard of Hearing Students with Language Deprivation
$2,178.00

Kristen Larson
Elk River Education Association
ACUNS Conference and Korea-town Diasporic Communities in Japan
$2,000.00

Willy Leafblad
Lake City Education Association
Group member(s): Eric Stashek
The 78th Midwest Clinic - International Band and Orchestra Conference
$3,914.18

Doug Long
St. Croix Education Association
Group member(s): Angie Holupchinski
Impacting Educator's Instructional Practice to Influence Student Achievement
$4,000.00

Marina Lundell
Eden Prairie Education Association
Literature and The Fantastic
$2,000.00

Nicole Martinson
Education Minnesota - Osseo
Charting the Cs: To Literacy and Beyond
$914.10

Melanie Meyer
North St Paul Maplewood Oakdale Education Association
Group member(s): Michael Haldorson
Supercharge your Classroom with UDL and Blended Learning
$990.00

Paola Morantes-Villalobos
Education Minnesota - Osseo
Group member(s): Alexis Jurkovski
WIDA Conference
$3,980.00

Kamala Niffenegger
Burnsville Education Association
Catalyst Coaching
$2,000.00

Andrew Oldenburg
Mounds View Education Association
Spanish Lesson 2.0
$1,800.00

Melissa Raymond
White Bear Lake
Multisensory Math Instruction
$975.00

Elizabeth Schoenecker
New Prague Education Association"
Group member(s): Jenn Larson
NAEYC Annual Conference
$3,998.00

Beverly Sharp
Rochester Education Association
Group member(s): Kimberly Miller
LEARN ZERO TO THREE Conference
$4,000.00

Anna Sletten
Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and ESP
Group member(s): Jennifer Loepfe
Supporting Gestalt Language Processors at School
$1,770.00

Gina Toso
Dakota County United Educators
American Choral Director's Association National Convention
$1,717.00

Emily Vos
Education Minnesota-Proctor
Group member(s): Theresea Hansmeier
Educational Leadership Summit
$4,000.00

Chantanita Wilson
St. Paul
Group member(s): Cheng Her
Pre-K Coach Professional Learning
$3,918.00

Anne Xavier
Education Minnesota - Roseville
Group member(s): Taryn McGovern and Tavarra Price
Literacy for All Conference
$1,957.60

Anna Zappetillo
Education Minnesota Lakeville
Conscious Discipline Institute
$1,849.00

Yvette Zeece
Wayzata Education Association
The Problem of the Color Line: Atlanta Landmarks and Civil Rights History Professional Development Program
$2,000.00

De Zhang
St. Paul
WIDA Annual Conference
$1,996.00

De Zhang
St. Paul
Attending the NABE and MnABE conferences in 2025
$2,000.00

Education Support Professionals

Cayenne Dupay
St. Paul
Group member(s): Angelina Roslik, Ellen Sutton, Sue Snyder and Alaina Wages
Hands Up Conference 2025
$7,363.95

Brianne Oachs
Mounds View Education Association
Group member(s): Erica Marshall and Stephanie Greene
SoR for Students with Learning Disabilities
$5,419.38

Higher Education Faculty

Anita Gaul
MSCF - Minnesota West Community and Technical College - Worthington
St. Francis Xavier Academy: An American Indian Boarding School on the Prairie
$2,239.26

Becky Groseth
MSCF - Anoka-Ramsey Community College
American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges Conference
$2,995.00

Jessie Breyer-Peterson
MSCF - Century College
Redesigning Developmental Psychology: Lifespan for Improved Student Outcomes
$3,000.00

Renu Kumar
MSCF - Minneapolis Community and Technical College
ASMCUE and ABRCMS Conference
$3,000.00

Alejandro Maya
MSCF - Minneapolis Community and Technical College
2024 AEPE International Congress on Spanish Language Pedagogies, Interculturality, Linguistic Identities, and Globalization
$3,000.00

Jennifer Stauffer
MSCF - Minneapolis Community and Technical College
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) Conference
$3,000.00

Erica Stene Winkler
MSCF - Anoka Technical College
Counselor Development Professional Supervision
$3,000.00

Jolene Sundlie
MSCF - Saint Paul College
24th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology: Criminology goes East
$3,000.00

Gae Davis
MSCF - Central Lakes College
National Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference
$3,000.00

Justin Hauer
MSCF - Century College
ACCA Annual Conference
$2,079.00

Rebecca Johnson
MSCF - Northland Community and Technical College
Professional Counseling Licensure Supervision
$2,600.00

IMPACT Grants

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. Using innovative program designs and projects, and in partnership with agents most likely to assist in driving these changes, the Foundation ultimately expects to positively impact the learning experiences of students in Minnesota. These grants are awarded once per school year.

Ron Hustvedt Jr.

Elk River Education Association

EREA Cohort on Historical Recovery

$15,000.00

Members of the Elk River Education Association (EREA) will collaborate with Dr. Yohuru Williams and staff of the Racial Justice Initiative (RJI) at the University of St. Thomas to educate and empower teachers on the process of historical recovery as a foundational step to making change, eradicating barriers and empowering educators. Through a cohort model, interested EREA members will engage in a spiraled professional development process focusing on historical recovery (the revisiting, and at times revealing or exposing, of past historical circumstances and events) in order to develop ways to take proactive measures that improve individual teaching practices along with schoolwide and districtwide supports for students and educators.

Katie Murphy-Olsen

Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and ESP

Exhibit Touring with Afghan Students

$14,700.00

Using a trauma-informed approach to storytelling, Minneapolis teachers built a partnership with Green Card Voices to carefully collect first-person accounts of the diverse journeys of 30 Afghan high school students. Using those stories, the exhibit ,"My City Was a Sparkling Jewel, '' was created for teachers, fellow students, community members, museum-goers, politicians, and government workers to learn about the incredible life journeys of some of the recently arrived youth from Afghanistan in both written and oral format. With the support of the IMPACT Grant, these students are now able to tour along with the exhibit and share their personal stories first-hand with visitors.

Second-Year IMPACT Grants

Anna Dutke

Dakota County United Educators

Outdoor Learning for All

$15,000.00

National Board Certified Teachers Scholarships

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 scholarships to applicants each year. These scholarships are awarded once per school year.

Amy Oseguera

St. Paul

Generalist - Middle Childhood

$1,000.00

Cynthia Pick

Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and ESP

Literacy: Reading–Language Arts - Early and Middle Childhood

$1,000.00

De Zhang

St. Paul

English as a New Language - Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood

$1,000.00

Total projects and scholarships awarded:

80

Amount funded:

$240,239.43

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The benefit of union membership.

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