



Press Release

Orange County Education Foundation and Wells Fargo Award Teacher Innovation Grants

April 25, 2016

The Orange County Education Foundation's (OCEF) Prize Patrol struck again! On Friday, April 15, members of the Foundation and Wells Fargo officials surprised thirteen Orange County teachers with grants to support innovative classroom instruction.

Orange County Education Foundation president John Reid, Superintendent Dr. Brenda Tanner, School Board members, Wells Fargo Branch Manager Veronica Lucas, , and Wells Fargo Community Development Officer Penny McPherson celebrated the outstanding teachers in Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) by awarding the grants to recipients in person. Teachers were surprised to see the unannounced guests and were grateful to receive the funds to support their students.

Orange Education Foundation grants included seven ranging from \$150 - \$600, awarded from the Foundation's Teacher Innovation Grant fund. They were divided into four clusters: grades K-2; grades 3-5; grades 6-8; high school. The Foundation also awarded a Judge's Choice Award in the amount of \$500 and the "Eminence in Education" or "Triple I (Involve, Inspire, Invigorate) grant for \$1,000.

The Ernestine Reid Fund for Innovative Teaching and the Paul Cogar Teacher Innovative Grant Fund both awarded \$250 grants.

The Wells Fargo Western Virginia Teacher Grants Program awarded \$15,000 to teachers in OCPS. These grants were created to act as a catalyst for educational opportunities that support academic enrichment and encourage positive change in the education environment.

Orange County High School teacher, Pa'Trice Day-Owens describes the emotions of many of the teachers. She said, "I am so grateful to be working in Orange County Public Schools. The support teachers receive from our community and business leaders is amazing! I was speechless and in tears when presented the award."

The April, 2016 recipients of the Orange County Education Foundation's Teacher innovation Grants include the following:

Grade pre-K – 2 Cluster

Andrea Thomas, Locust Grove Elementary School – Raised Flower Beds

Jessica Johnson and Megan Aylor, Locust Grove Primary School – Boogie Down and E-Write

Grade 3-5 Cluster

Tina Faulconer, Orange Elementary School – Let it Grow

Pamela Wayne, Locust Grove Elementary – Fire Up Learning

Middle School Cluster

Katherine Hogsten, Prospect Heights Middle School – Inspirational Wall Decals

Walter Bryant, Alternative Education – Discovering Leadership through Flight

High School Cluster

Lindsay Chesmar, Orange County High School – Document Cameras to Enhance Math Instruction

Judge's Choice

Amy Taylor and Christina Heath, Unionville Elementary School – LEGO Builds Learners

Paul Cogar Teacher Innovative Grant

Kate Smith, Locust Grove Elementary School – Teaching Empathy and Kindness through Literature

Ernestine Reid Teacher Innovative Grant

Lisa Yager, Orange Elementary School – Full STEAM Ahead: 3-D Printing

Triple I: Eminence in Education

Sharon Mohrmann, Orange Elementary School – Let’s Take a Magic Carpet Ride with Aladdin

The April, 2016 recipients of the Wells Fargo Grants include the following:

Locust Grove Middle School

Jennifer Arameish - Literature Circles

Susan Garnett and Steven Bolas - Field Trip: Washington, DC; symphony performance and visit to gallery

Locust Grove Elementary School

Pamela Wayne – Kindles

Locust Grove Primary School

Jessica Johnson and Megan Aylor – E-Writers

Megan Dempsey – I-Pads

Jennifer Ortman - Chromebooks

Charity Paeschke - Kindles

Evan Straub – Projector Equipment

Janice Wilson and Nick Sodano – Summer Reading Project

Unionville Elementary School

Amy Taylor and Christina Heath – Lego Math

Orange County High School

Lindsey Chesmar – Document Cameras

Pa’Trice Day Owens – Economics and Personal Finance Program and Professional Development

Julie Kusnerik – College Tours

Orange Elementary School

Jordan Aylor – Projector Equipment

Lisa Yager - 3-D Printing

Sharon Mohrmann – Theater Production

Alicia Dick – Headphones for Math Online Program

Katie Heatwole - Books

Christa Clore-Edmonds – Professional Development

Jenny Potter - Books

Brittany Shifflett – I-Pads

Ann Bush – Books

Prospect Heights Middle School

Ashley Agee – Math Materials

Ruben Castandeda - Tenor Saxophone

Betsy Hamilton – I-Pads

Alternative Education

Walter Bryant – History Field Trip

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Further information about the Orange County Education Foundation may be obtained by visiting the Foundation’s web site at <http://www.ocedfoundationva.org/>, or by contacting Matt Benefield, Treasurer, at info@ocedfoundationva.org or (540) 661-4550. Further information about the OCEF TIG program may be obtained by contacting Renee Honaker, Instructional Coordinator of Special Programs and Services rhonaker@ocss-va.org or (540) 661-4550.



Walter Bryant, Alternative Education Teacher, received a \$444 grant for his *Discovering Leadership through Flight* project. Pictured are OCEF Board member Sam Kessler, Walter Bryant, OCEF President, John Reid, and OCEF Board member Melissa Anderson.



Lisa Yager, TTRT at Orange Elementary, received the \$250 Ernestine Reid Teacher Innovative Grant to help fund 3-D printing at her school. Pictured are OCEF Member Melissa Anderson, Ernestine Reid, Lisa Yager, and OCEF President, John Reid.