



Partners in Education Awards 27 Teacher Grants

2006 Grants Now Total \$100K

June 19, 2006 – Palo Alto, California – Palo Alto Partners in Education today announced its second round of 2006 teacher grants, awarding \$47,254 to 27 projects proposed by teachers across the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD). This month's grants follow the foundation's awarding of \$52,000 to 40 projects in February 2006, increasing its total awards for the year to nearly \$100,000.

Established in 1987 by Partners in Education's predecessor organization, Palo Alto Foundation for Education, the teacher grants program makes awards of \$300 to \$3,000. Grants are made to teachers at all levels who propose innovative classroom projects. Funded projects this month include curriculum development; music classes and instruments; and classroom technology and equipment, such as books, software and cameras.

The foundation's teacher grants committee received 47 applications, with a total requested amount of \$87,468. It made five awards to teachers at the elementary schools, seven to teachers at the middle schools, 12 to teachers at the high schools and three to district-wide programs.

At Barron Park Elementary School, for example, the foundation funded materials for a project entitled "Phonological Foundations for Reading and Spelling." At Jordan Middle School, Partners in Education funded a proposal to purchase fuel cell car kits for 8th grade Science. At Palo Alto High School, the foundation funded additional textbooks for the class "Our Constitution."

Kristy Garcia, an English teacher at Gunn High School and advisor for the Gunn student newspaper, received a grant to buy AP Style Guides and Adobe software for her journalism class. She commented, "I was really pleased to receive the grant. The class set of AP Style Guides will help keep my staff on track when it comes to following proper journalistic style. The Adobe software will also allow more of my staff to work on page layout, which means my students will be able to work more efficiently on The Oracle each month. It's wonderful to have this extra resource to support a program that so many students on campus benefit from."

Since its inception, the teacher grants program has awarded more than \$1 million in 38 rounds of teacher grants. Al Russell, Partners in Education board member, heads the teacher grants committee, and has been involved with the teacher grants since the program began. He commented, “2006 has been a very successful year for the grant program. We received a record number of grant applications (110+) and approved as many as possible with full or partial funding.”

Partners in Education

Palo Alto Partners in Education is a nonprofit 501(c)3 foundation dedicated to sustaining extraordinary public education in Palo Alto. In March, the foundation donated \$1.89 million to the Palo Alto Unified School District to augment its 2006-07 budget. That donation will be allocated directly to the principals at each of the district’s 17 schools on a per-student basis. For more information, please visit www.papie.org or contact Simone Coxe at simone@bando.com.

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