

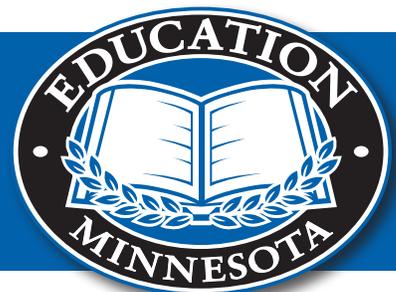
EDUCATION MINNESOTA
FOUNDATION



for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Grant Programs

2010 Classroom, ESP and Affinity Grants



Classroom

Heather Alden-Pope

St. Paul

Project Connection

\$3,000

Project Connection is a school wide mentor program whose aim is to reduce absence and improve behavior. Creating and building on mentoring relationships that affect decision making will be one of the expected outcomes from regular interactions in a variety of activities — from carving pumpkins to stocking the local food shelves. Increased family involvement will be facilitated by organizing family events and providing transportation. Data regarding attendance, behavior and community involvement will be monitored.

Susan Bobolink

St. Paul

American Indian Attendance Improvement

\$3,000

The **American Indian Attendance Improvement** project will bring the importance of school, community and parent involvement into play to boost attendance in grades K through six. By providing a variety of incentives for students and their parents (family nights, bingo, field trip and small rewards for the students), American Indian student attendance is targeted to increase by school and community partners. Improving attendance and thereby increasing opportunities for learning are expected to help decrease the achievement gaps between white and American Indian students at the Magnet School.

Allison Butterfield

Greenway

Partners in Science

\$1,200

Partners in Science will bring high school students into elementary classrooms as mentors to share hands-on science lessons. Elementary students will have more science learning opportunities: high school students will undertake leadership roles and experience teaching as a career option and teachers from both levels will foster team work. High school science teachers and students will prepare multiple lessons and science kits for optimal hands-on experiences for the younger students. Surveys of students, teachers and parents will be assessed at year's end to determine project effectiveness.

Roxanne Carlson

Cambridge-Isanti

Give Me A Break!

\$3,000

Students with autism, cognitive delays and sensory integration disorders will be instrumental in an action research project — **Give Me A Break!** will give students opportunities throughout the day to experience different stimuli in a controlled and comfortable setting and learn appropriate coping strategies—in the Break Room. Teachers will equip the room with a variety of items and track whether use of the facility decreases inappropriate behaviors. Collecting data about student behaviors throughout the day, monthly team and quarterly staff meetings to assess the data will be used to determine the impact of the Break Room on student behaviors.

Bert Chamberlain

Moorhead

Global Positioning Systems Across the Curriculum

\$2,846

Teachers using **Global Positioning Systems Across the Curriculum** and with community involvement will integrate technology into physical education, geography and art lessons. With GPS, students will increase activity levels, study ancient geo/biomorphs of Peru and relate their findings to modern uses of art. The project team and students will interact with the community by assisting special needs children with homework and use of the GPS. Students will design a promotional pamphlet on GPS and create a presentation for parent teacher conferences. Assessments, data collected from the GPS itself and observations will be used to evaluate the program and the possibility of expansion in to other curricula.

Tricia Christopher

Jackson County Central

Leveling the Playing Field

\$3,000

Classroom and Title I teachers will collaborate to increase the appropriately leveled reading practice for struggling first and second graders. With **Leveling the Playing Field**, students will receive their own tote bags containing teacher-chosen selections as well as their own choices from both fiction and non-fiction offerings. Parents, volunteers from FRED (Fathers Reading Every Day) and the community and paraprofessionals will work daily to

increase reading time and improve reading skills. Frequent monitoring through DIBELS assessment and NWEA testing will be used to track student progress against a baseline and adjust reading choices.

Steve Cox

St. Paul

Who Built the Capitol?

\$3,000

Students in St Paul classrooms can look out their windows and see Minnesota's capitol building. But do they know **Who Built the Capitol?** This project will focus their attention on the lives and artistry of the workers, their heritage and history. Seventh and eighth grade students will work with an artist-in-residence, learning research methods for the production of a video; field trips and History Day projects will be part of their learning experience in U.S. History class. Literacy skills research, mastery of writing and media skills will be assessed for students by a team of educators.

Cindy Crawford

Burnsville

Reader's Theatres Build Literacy

\$1,432

Reader's Theatres Build Literacy will address the need to improve vocabulary, fluency and comprehension for all struggling readers, especially students with limited English proficiency. Scripts appropriate for reading levels will provide additional oral reading opportunities and adding performances for parent involvement will further strengthen the home-school connection. A variety of reading and language assessments (MCA-II, NWEA MAP, AIMSweb, TEAE/SOLOM) will be used to measure outcomes.

Julie L. Daly

Burnsville

Teaching Reading and Language with Social Studies

\$2,139

Using social studies topics and appropriately leveled, non-fiction reading materials, this project will allow English Language Learners to move beyond the functional English syllabus and into content rich curriculum. **Teaching Reading and Language with Social Studies** will help students meet Minnesota state standards in social studies and improve their reading comprehension, fluency and vocabulary. Standardized test scores and teacher observations will be used to evaluate student progress.

Susan Dempsey

North Branch

Book Bags with Power Poetry

\$1,755

Book Bags with Power Poetry will be designed to engage first graders with hands on activities that will encourage reading practice. Starting with a story, each bag will include manipulatives, skill sheets and an interactive creative writing component. Students will be encouraged to work independently and with family to improve reading fluency. Oral fluency assessments will be used as benchmarks. Teacher observations and family surveys will gauge the impact of the project.

Marie T. Doherty

Cambridge-Isanti

Motor Madness

\$3,000

Children aged 3-5 years with special developmental delays will benefit from a motor skills “center” approach. With dedicated equipment and materials, the **Motor Madness** project will include educators meeting monthly to devise lesson plans and goals for students. Student progress will be monitored through formal assessments of motor skill development as well as other areas.

Susan Dunne-Laughland

Rochester

InSciEdOut: Change Science Education in MN

\$2,991

Using a constructivist approach to learning science, **InSciEdOut** teachers will team up to *engage, explore, explain, elaborate and evaluate* with elementary students. This new approach to addressing school, state and national science standards brings re-imagined and re-aligned curriculum from an ongoing partnership with scientists and science educators. Teachers will track MCA II science scores to assess improvements for both fifth and eighth graders.

Kelly Falch

Renville County West

Integrating Learning, Improving Test Scores

\$2,295

Integrating Learning and team teaching between science and English classes will engage students in deeper understanding of science concepts, enhancement of vocabulary and use of literary elements. Using student-centered approaches

such as Socratic seminars, students will apply their learning to promote meta-cognition and critical thinking. The expectation is that this integrated approach will have a positive effect on MCA II science and English test scores.

Wayne Feller

St. Croix

Ripple Effect

\$2,780

A **Ripple Effect** is intended when new technology is added to the Second Step™ Violence Prevention Curriculum used in this school district: a Learner Response System will make student voices and opinions immediately “heard”; video productions will encourage students to role play; digital art will be added to school web sites to display the principles of the program as created by students. Data collected through the LRS will be analyzed to gauge improvements in social skills through opinion and observation queries.

Angie Gamades

Chaska

Dog Biscuit Fundraiser

\$2,675

Students with disabilities in cognitive, physical, medical, communication and social areas need enhanced learning opportunities to make post-secondary transitions. This opportunity to create and implement a fundraising program will provide numerous real-life learning options. Students will have specific daily tasks that collectively will create and continuously provide funds for future events through the **Dog Biscuit Fundraiser**. Meeting IEP goals and objectives will be assessed to monitor skill development.

Natalie Giese

Inver Grove Heights

21st Century Writer’s Workshop

\$2,895

This **21st Century Writer’s Workshop** looks quite a bit different from previous years. Improving student writing skills needs an electronic layer that allows for simultaneous visual sharing and immediate feedback. With a document camera and projector and iPods for podcasting students will see and follow along as the writing unfolds. Surveys to gauge student interest and motivation for writing will be used throughout the year to determine engagement; writing samples for academic ability will be examined to assess student strengths and weaknesses and inform teaching.

Penny Grimsley

Pillager

Dance to a Healthier Lifestyle!

\$2,810

Elementary students will have access to alternate forms of exercise with **Dance to a Healthier Lifestyle!** Incorporating the Dance Dance Revolution program into physical education classes will de-emphasize competitive traditional sports and focus students on fitness for the future; using the Wii gaming system provides both activity and incentive. A family night event is planned to strengthen family connections in the move toward more physical activity as family fun. Students will learn to monitor their own heart rate, quickness and coordination and will be surveyed for their perceptions and new learning.

Karinda Groothuis

Montevideo

Create Mathematicians in the Kitchen!

\$1,220

Create Mathematicians in the Kitchen! brings a portable kitchen cart (built by high school industrial technology students) to elementary students learning number sense, fractions and measurement. By practicing what they learn, the students will integrate these lessons into reading, social studies, science and health—with nutrition, culturally diverse recipes and safety in each unit. Students will be assessed for fractions and measurement skills on pre- and post-test.

Karen Hammel

Minneapolis

Parenting for Peace

\$3,000

At Transition Plus, special education students have elected to focus on **Parenting for Peace**, combining a parenting skills program with a “break the cycle of violence” curriculum. Family violence is self-perpetuating and 50 percent of the school’s students are parents. Their choice of the PeaceJam Curriculum will allow them to explore the concept of family violence and take steps to prevent it. A variety of parenting techniques and strategies will be shared with students.

Deb Hanson

Burnsville

Independent Readers

\$3,000

Independent Readers need access to a variety of appropriately leveled books. To complement the Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.) program at this elementary school, classroom libraries will be enhanced to include many more titles. Students are expected to increase their reading time, reading comprehension and critical thinking skills with more access to materials. An innovative addition to this project is the Readers Notebook where students will write a letter each week to their teacher and receive a response; the letters will provide an opportunity to monitor improvements in student reading and writing skills.

Suzanne Hayden

Burnsville

Incorporate Drama in the Reading Experience

\$1,314

To Incorporate Drama in the Reading Experience, students will use Reader's Theatre scripts to improve and demonstrate their skills. The opportunity to practice and perform will include parents and motivate students to develop group problem-solving skills. Enhanced oral reading complemented with carefully chosen props will heighten the drama for these third graders. Surveys given before and after the performances will be used to gauge student interest, self esteem and group work capacity.

Randi Henning

Dakota County

Yoga Calm

\$851

The Yoga Calm program applies the traditional practices of yoga to some of the myriad challenges facing educators. Specially designed activities include yoga-based movement, nervous system regulation techniques, social/emotional skill building, relaxation and story telling. By establishing a classroom practice, this team expects significant positive effects on students' development of general physical, mental and emotional health. Surveys and data review for trends in achievement will be used to analyze progress.

Tammy Hickey

South Washington County

Germ City

\$3000

Tammy Hickey is a licensed school nurse who will oversee implementation of the *Germ City: Clean Hands Healthy People* program across the district. Children will experience a visual representation of effective handwashing and its impact. The goal of this program is to reduce absenteeism of both students and staff and replicate research from other districts in the nation that demonstrates its success at reducing the number of absences by approximately 50 per cent. Data will be tracked, examining absence rates and sickness reports for the previous and the project years, especially taking into account the impact of flu outbreaks.

Constance L. Knott

Westbrook-Walnut Grove

21st Century Technology and an Ancient Art Form

\$2,000

All junior high students will have opportunity to learn music by being musicians--creating, composing and playing alone and as groups. Students will individually master guitar or keyboard and develop composition skills with special software. Starting with individualized instruction, students will eventually work in groups to create ensemble pieces — their songs, made with *21st Century Technology and an Ancient Art Form*.

Kristin Kohner

South Washington County

American Sign Language Video

\$2,994

This American Sign Language Video Project will bring new technology to high school students working to improve their language skills and develop cultural competencies. ASL students will use FLIP cameras and video editing to create ASL-based music videos—translating from English to American Sign Language. Students will develop team work skills in this collaborative project. Students will use rubrics to self evaluate and analyze their work.

Michael Koppy

Lake Superior College-MSCF

Start to Finish: Shredder

\$1,500

From Start to Finish, this Shredder operation will be a student learning project. With collaborative efforts from the manufacturing industry, students at Lake Superior College will research, design and build a one-of-a-kind Styrofoam Shredder. Students will experience real life manufacturing as part of their Integrated Manufacturing Program. They will unveil their shredder in a public presentation.

Heather Leach

Albert Lea

Kick Start Kindergarten

\$3,000

Kick Start Kindergarten is a collaboration with the Albert Lea school district to provide screening and early intervention for school readiness. With materials provided by this grant, students identified for intervention will be invited to participate in a special pre-school student-centered session where they will develop academic and social skills. Parents will be supported and involved through special informational sessions and take-home literacy bags. Teachers will enhance their professional growth through research and planning, data collection and review and evaluation of this program's effectiveness. Both formative and summative student data will be collected and examined to determine the summer session's effectiveness and its future offering by the district.

Veronica Lunde

St. Cloud

N-Spiring Math

\$3,000

N-Spiring Math will allow math teachers to interact and receive feedback about student proficiency immediately. An electronic student response system (SRS) with a paired calculator will have special applications in Algebra 2 classes. All students will actively engage in presenting their work while teachers will have options to adjust lessons and include items for multiple learning styles. The SRS has built in data analysis which will form part of the project assessment.

Staci Marich

Walker-Hackensack-Akeley

The Elementary Entry

\$3,000

The Elementary Entry will be the new school newspaper and one of the cornerstones for supporting student success in reading, writing and publishing. This project will supply the materials students need to publish their daily writings; it will enable them to share their activities and events with the community through the school newspaper. Surveys, observations, standardized test scores and writing rubrics will be used to gauge this project's impact on students and the community.

Jan McFall

North Hennepin Community College, MSCF

Musical Vocal Training

\$1,560

Musical Vocal Training is an innovative approach to improving English language and pronunciation. With explicit instruction via vocal music and respiratory training, adult students will improve their college level speaking and comprehensibility. With improved pronunciation as a measurable outcome, vocal training will become part of the college-level speaking and listening course. Grant funds will be used to support curriculum development at North Hennepin Community College.

Jeff Miller

South Central College-Faribault, MSCF

Construction Management Day

\$3,000

Graduates in the Construction Management and Field Supervision program must be able to estimate, plan and schedule, prepare and organize sites, procure materials and understand bidding principles. To facilitate this learning, a scenario-based project competition will be launched at South Central College. Students will prepare for real-world situations and professional presentations associated with the construction industry on Construction Management Day. Surveys from students and industry partners will be used for feedback and future planning.

Melanie Nelson

Bagley

Centered on Learning

\$2,977

Centered on Learning will enable students to meet state standards that require students to learn and demonstrate their understanding of real-world concepts. In this kindergarten class, students will be introduced to learning centers and have opportunities to work in small groups, improving specific math, literacy and social skills. An educator-developed comprehensive assessment, parent surveys and student portfolios will be used to gauge effectiveness of the learning centers approach.

Donna Ohlgren

Osseo

Go Graphic: Boys Book Clubs

\$1,500

Go Graphic will be used as one way to encourage and entice young men to read or read more and simultaneously expand their literary connections to the curriculum. Graphic novels are often checked out of the library and many more titles are needed to keep up with demand and keep reluctant readers reading. Informing other teaching staff about using this new curriculum enhancing medium is an additional goal for this project. Three part data collection (student assessment, surveys, circulation statistics) will be used to monitor efforts to increase reading levels and enjoyment.

Lynette Olson

Windom

SMART Technology for Special Ed

\$2,188

Special education students will benefit from technology that promotes interaction with their materials and thereby become motivated, actively engaged learners. SMART Technology for Special Ed will challenge students to tap into their learning styles and challenge teachers to apply strategies for multiple learning styles. Interdisciplinary projects will be planned with regular classroom teachers to bridge students' learning. A variety of measures will be used to gauge effectiveness throughout the school year — MCA II reading and math scores, IEP goals, multiple reading assessments.

Cindy Owen

Southwest Star Concept

Life Skills for a Lifetime

\$1,500

Special needs students will work toward self-sufficiency with Life Skills for a Lifetime. A teacher-designed course, it will provide the basics of personal hygiene, job searching, investigating post-secondary

school, grocery shopping, cooking and cleaning so that students can look forward to more independence. Teacher observations will form the basis of an evaluation of the class's effectiveness.

Julie Pederson

East Grand Forks

Living Large in East Grand Forks

\$2,425

Living Large in East Grand Forks is a transitional skills program for students who need adaptive daily living skills as they move toward adult life. Skills like shopping, cooking and cleaning will be enhanced with experience in a newly outfitted model apartment. Students will also travel within the community building self confidence and awareness of the community's resources. Various transition instruments will be used throughout the year to gauge student learning: individual observations and interviews will be conducted.

Beth Perra

Mounds View

Sensory-based Classroom

\$3,000

A Sensory-based Classroom will be the focus of this grant. It will fund the equipment necessary to provide a sensory approach to teaching and learning for emotionally and behaviorally challenged students in a K-5 level IV facility. Students will improve their coping skills, ability to calm and focus themselves during other functional parts of their day. Student behaviors will be tracked as an objective way to gauge the learning center's effectiveness.

Steve Potts

Hibbing Community College, MSCF

Remembering the Past, Moving into the Future

\$2,900

Remembering the Past, Moving into the Future will investigate a period of American history too often left untouched — the Vietnam War and the fall of Saigon. In this project, students will train to become interviewers and collect the oral histories of many people touched by that war. Technical and human relations skills will be engaged to record the stories; a project web site will be created and teacher informational workshops will be organized at the completion of the project. Surveys of knowledge, attitude and skill will be administered to students before, during and after the project work.

Kari Rise

St. Paul

We Are All Woven Together

\$2,575

We Are All Woven Together will use weaving, textile traditions and storytelling to honor the many ethnicities of this high school and give students opportunities to embrace and demonstrate cultural awareness. With hands on, student-centered arts activities and interactions with local and indigenous artists, students will focus on Peruvian geography, art, storytelling, music and dance. Pre- and post-assessments and student, parent and artist surveys will be used to gauge the project impact.

Kevin Schneider

Sleepy Eye

Student Response System

\$3,000

The *Student Response System* is an immediate feedback technology that brings classroom interaction to all students. With immediate student response capability, teachers will be better able to monitor and adjust their lessons to reach all students. Heightened engagement and more direct individualizing for students are expected improvements in the learning environment. The SRS technology will be shared among staff, giving more students access to this learning tool. Student progress will be gauged by reviewing standardized test scores from baseline (fall) to spring.

Nancy Seivert

Robbinsdale

Classroom in Movement

\$2,643

Using the natural inclination of children for physical movement, the **Classroom in Movement** program will help teachers use balance, rhythm and movement for positive impact on third graders. Improved learning through readiness and ability to focus and pay attention are the targeted outcomes; measureable increases in learning are the ultimate goal. Expected benefits of the program include physical, cognitive and social improvements such as improved physical condition, decreased stress levels and heightened awareness of multiple learning modalities.

Cory Sheldahl

United South Central

Interdisciplinary Uses for Graphing Calculators

\$3,000

Interdisciplinary Uses for Graphing Calculators will bring visual representations to abstract concepts in algebra and science. Graphing calculators will become one more item in the repertoire of technology tools for teachers and students to take beyond math class—for example, students might learn about climatology patterns in science class and how to visually represent them in math class. Comparisons of MCA II scores before and after implementing this plan will be made.

Kevin Sheridan

Dakota County

Bam! Keep Fit Body and Mind

\$3,000

BAM! Keep Fit Body and Mind is a walking literary club that will give elementary students additional choices at recess and after school. High interest literature will be available in audio format so that at risk readers will have more opportunities to access popular reading selections. Adding pedometers combines a cardiovascular component with the intent of improving fitness levels while building literature rich context. Student reading levels, standardized test scores, frequency of use and physical fitness aspects will be monitored throughout the year.

Amy Wise

South Washington County

iListen

\$3,000

iListen will provide opportunities for kindergarten through second grade students to use listening centers to improve reading fluency by following along with fluent readers. With iPod technology struggling readers will have more exposure to supported reading, reading at and above level; parent support will be solicited in the form of home practice and making recordings. Various standardized test scores will be tracked throughout the year (Benchmark, MAP-NWEA, MCA II) and students will provide feedback with journals.

Kristi Wobbema

Roseville

FH Comics Support Struggling Readers

\$3,000

Supporting Struggling Readers is no laughing matter with FH Comics. Reading and creating their own comic books and graphic novels will be the focus of this comics club where students who struggle or avoid reading will come together to enjoy this new genre. Students will learn to draw, illustrate and balloon, use graphic organizers and ultimately publish their creations both in hard copy and to the school's web site. Student assessments (MAP, AIMSweb, Benchmark) will be monitored as well as surveys from students and their recommending teachers.

Nicholas Zimmer

St. Paul

Repeated Readings Method

\$2,993

Using the Rigby Guided Reading selections, first and second graders will be given opportunities to take home and practice their reading skills. This **Repeated Reading Method** will encourage ESL students to build their sight word vocabulary, develop a sense of story and improve English language structures. Baseline data will include reading rates (words per minute and errors in word recognition) with repeat assessments every three weeks to gauge student progress.

Katie Zuehlke

Annandale

Expert Museums

\$2,875

Kindergarten with Ms. Zuehlke will become a place to develop academically while allowing the natural curiosity of this age to guide. Using guest experts (builders, doctors, ballplayers, librarians) as models, students will learn how they became experts and choose their own area of interest. They will be guided by fourth grade mentors as they ask questions, research and record their new learning. Each student will create a technology-based project to display and share their new expertise and add to the class "**Expert Museum.**" Reading comprehension is a targeted area of assessment.

Educational Support Professionals *(awarded April and November 2009)*

Jeanne Bakke

Minneapolis

40 Assets: A Continuous Process

\$1,000

Building on their previous work with the Search Institute, an ESP team attended the Summer Search Conference, learning how to promote more positive relationships between ESPs, administrators and students.

Anthony Baysah

Minneapolis

Strategies for Diverse Learners

\$1,000

In continuing education classes at Mankato State University, Anthony will learning Skills and Strategies to establish positive learning environment for EBD students. These skills will be shared with program team members, students and the community through day to day interactions.

Colleen Bevans

Minneapolis

CPR and First Aid

\$1,000

Fourteen staff members who work with the Minneapolis Kids program will be trained in CPR and First Aid. By bringing instructors to the district, more staff can be trained and maintain their certification. These skills allow ESPs to provide safe conditions and handle emergencies for children.

Therese Dzuck

Duluth

NEA ESP Conference

\$1,000

Improved communication and leadership skills can boost efficiency in office management and therefore provide superior professional services for staff and students. The NEA ESP Conference provides sessions specifically geared to improving these skills. Frontline clerical and support staff are frequently the 'first exposure' and enhanced skills will improve trust and satisfaction of the public.

Karla Ehlers

Robbinsdale

Dipping Deeper into Immersion

\$1,000

Bringing language and culture information to a language immersion team will improve staff and student-staff relationships. Increased knowledge of the immersion practices, improved communication skills

and a better understanding of second language acquisition will be topics for discussion and "dipping deeper."

Lisa McQuerter

Osseo

Read Naturally Seminar

\$505

The Read Naturally Program uses progress charts and manipulatives to improve fluency. A one day seminar will provide implementation skills for Lisa and enable her to share those skills with her team. ESPs will use skills more effectively in their interactions with students.

Lisa McQuerter

Osseo

Reader's Theater

\$525

Motivating special education students to read will be one of the topics at the ESP Reader's Theater seminar. Lisa will share the materials and special techniques learned at the seminar with her reading team and ESP colleagues.

Ingrid Miera

Osseo

ESPs Collaborating in PLCs

\$860

English Language Learners (ELL) support professionals will engage in purposeful collaboration with classroom teachers as they join grade level Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). After training in the principles of PLCs, they are eager to start and with the help of this grant, they will buy materials, training time and receive compensation for their work.

Julie Muklebust

Duluth

NEA ESP Conference

\$1,000

This conference is specifically designed for support professionals who want to update their various job-related skills. Julie's special interests include enhancing her clerical and technical skills within a union supported environment.

Ellen Olsen

St. Paul

Registry of Interpreters (RID) Conference

\$950

This conference, the RID, is an opportunity to learn and improve skills for sign

language interpreters. Sessions such as Fingerspelling and Tri-Lingual Interpreting will add to the repertoire of skills needed by ESPs and teachers who work with culturally diverse students with hearing loss. This grant provides part of an opportunity for two ESPs to collaborate within the district.

Karen Piepho

Osseo

Intercultural Development Program

\$1,000

The Intercultural Developmental Inventory is a tool that can heighten self-awareness related to the multicultural environment of classrooms. After training and online access to the inventory, ESPs will receive a school profile and additional cultural training. This grant is a collaborative effort among ESPs at the Edinbrook Elementary School.

Kim Pohl

Osseo

Intercultural Development Program

\$1,000

The Intercultural Developmental Inventory is a tool that can heighten self-awareness related to the multicultural environment of classrooms. After training and online access to the inventory, ESPs will receive a school profile and additional cultural training. This grant is a collaborative effort among ESPs at the Edinbrook Elementary school.

Christine Quinn

Minneapolis

Language Development

\$1,000

Special Education Assistants (SEAs) work with English language learners who also have language disorders. To better understand the challenges their students face, the SEAs will sponsor a training session and provide materials about language development.

Sue Snyder

St. Paul

Registry of Interpreters (RID) Conference

\$950

This conference, the RID, is an opportunity to learn and improve skills for sign language interpreters. Sessions such as Fingerspelling and American Sign Language will add to the repertoire of skills needed by ESPs, interpreter interns and teachers who work students with hearing loss. This grant provides part of an opportunity for two ESPs to collaborate within the district.

2009-10 Affinity Grants

The Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning also includes the Affinity program — opportunities for nonprofit organizations to partner with us to bring high-quality professional development and instructional materials to our members. Twice a year (November and April), the Board considers applications. Preference is given to organizations that are nonprofit, charitable organizations or professional associations and to programs that have a broad, general appeal — working toward our mission of promoting vision, best practices and achievement. During this past year, the Foundation was proud to provide assistance to these organizations and programs:

Advocates for Human Rights

<http://www.mnadvocates.org>

\$5,000

Jewish Community Relations Council of MN and Dakotas

<http://www.minndakjrc.org>

\$5,000

Minnesota Children's Museum

<http://www.mcm.org>

\$12,500

Minnesota Humanities Center

<http://minnesotahumanities.org>

\$20,000

Minnesota International Center

<http://www.micglobe.org>

\$10,000

Minnesota Opera

<http://www.mnopera.org>

\$8,500

Minnesota State Bar Association

<http://www.mnbar.org>

\$4,500

Pro-Choice Resources

<http://www.prochoiceresources.org/birdsandbees.php>

\$10,000

Temperate Forest Foundation

<http://www.forestinfo.org>

\$3,500

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