

EDUCATION MINNESOTA  
**FOUNDATION**



*for Excellence in Teaching and Learning*

## **Grant Programs**

*2012 Classroom, ESP, Higher Education and  
Affinity Grants and National Board for  
Professional Teaching Standards Scholarships*



## Classroom

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### Lacie Altermatt

*St. Louis Park*

Families and Early Literacy

**\$1,800**

The Families and Early Literacy project will allow staff to leave books with families, discuss the importance of early literacy, and encourage them to engage in shared reading opportunities with their infants and toddlers throughout their daily routines. This will help to narrow the opportunity gap for families.

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### Ariana Bealey

*Jackson County Central*

High-Quality Art Curriculum

**\$2,910.93**

The High-Quality Art Curriculum project will be able to provide all elementary students with the opportunity to learn from the Davis Explorations in Art textbook program. The textbook program includes a class set of grade-level student art textbooks for first through fifth grade, a teacher's edition book for each grade level, multimedia resources, large art reproductions and overhead transparencies.

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### Rachel Bergquist

*State Residential Schools*

Moose Lake Correctional Facility and Givens Foundation Collaboration

**\$2,500**

Up to four classrooms at the Moose Lake Correctional Facility will partner with Givens Literary Artists to enhance cultural understanding for all learners. Facility educators expect to enrich students' literary skills of reading, writing, speaking and critical thinking through examinations of African American texts.

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### Darin Bourasa

*St. Francis*

Math Club

**\$2,838**

Math Club will be a place where students can work in a small-group setting and understand their math concepts through the use of the Apple iPod Touch and numerous math apps.

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### Jessica Braaten

*Cambridge-Isanti*

iPad for Speech Language Learning

**\$830.82**

The iPad for Speech and Language Learning project facilitates, motivates and accelerates learning for students with speech or language disabilities. The iPad technology is innovative, versatile and engages even the most reluctant students to learn more difficult concepts. Use of the iPad in learning activities helps acclimate and prepare students with disabilities for a future workplace where one must be fluent in use of technology.

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### Corinn Butler

*St. Paul*

Reading for Confidence

**\$2,875.54**

Reading for Confidence is designed to meet the needs of special education students who have developmental cognitive disabilities. The goal is to increase these scholars' reading abilities through providing books that are classified as high interest and written for low-level readers.

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### Ivy Church

*Cook County*

Senior Show Coordinator

**\$2,000**

Senior Show Coordinator will be a self-sustaining book-making project that will be sold at a local art gallery. Proceeds will generate the funds necessary for the larger project of having each senior construct an individually designed book to showcase personal writings.

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### Thomas Cox

*Moorhead*

Interdisciplinary Exploration of HIV

**\$1,699.34**

Interdisciplinary Exploration of HIV is a seventh-grade biology and world geography project taught in three phases helping students analyze the social, economic and political challenges of stopping the spread of HIV in a single nation case study. Finally, in phase three, students will synthesize and negotiate between multiple international perspectives in a model United Nations Simulation where delegations from 15 nations will present oral arguments for an international plan of action to stop the HIV pandemic.

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### Jaime Dery

*St. Paul*

Inquiry Room

**\$3,000**

Inquiry Room involves creating a space within the school that provides students opportunities to independently engage in hands-on, minds-on science inquiry/exploration at different science stations. Each station includes materials for possible experiments, tools, background information and probing questions to get students thinking about the station.

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### Elaine DeVries

*Osseo*

Using Technology to Create an Extended Classroom

**\$3,000**

The Families and Early Literacy project will allow staff and students the ability to record video clips of their lessons/interactions in real-time moments of learning, allowing the classroom to extend to family caregivers.

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### Kathleen Dickinson

*Osseo*

There's an App for That!

**\$2,993**

The There's an App for That! project will be used to increase reading sight words and develop a love of reading for struggling learners. These tools will be used to increase performance levels of our young students who are performing below the grade level standard.

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### Jillian Doherty

*Centennial*

Transition from School to Career and Adulthood

**\$2,495**

The Centennial Adult Transition program incorporates iPad technology to assist students in career research, preparing students for their driver's exam, and expanding student involvement in the community through resume writing and completing job applications.

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### Marie Doherty

*Cambridge-Isanti*

#### Math Matters: Preparing Preschoolers for Math Success

**\$2,988.35**

Math Matters: Preparing Preschoolers for Math Success will teach early math skills. Math lessons using children's literature common to most preschool programs will connect to early math standards and build problem-solving and critical-thinking skills.

### Aaron Elickson

*St. Paul*

#### Reading Intervention Program

**\$3,000**

The Reading Intervention Program is for struggling middle school readers in grades 6-8. The goal is to improve individual reading comprehension skills, develop students' self-awareness and deepen their commitment to learning, contributing to closing the achievement gap and seeing improvement in student test scores.

### Michele Fairbanks

*St. Paul*

#### Ojibwe Language Scholars

**\$3,000**

The Ojibwe Language Scholars program will allow Ojibwe language students the opportunity to excel in learning a language that is at risk of extinction. By learning the Ojibwe language, students will also gain an understanding of Ojibwe culture and traditions.

### Susan Freeman

*Walker-Hackensack-Akeley*

#### WHA Elementary Choir

**\$3,000**

The WHA Elementary Choir will have students meeting weekly with peers to learn and practice selected material that will be performed for their school district, parents, community members and area school districts throughout the school year and in future school years. Participants will demonstrate growth in academic areas as a result of participating in the music outlet.

### Erika Gehring

*Mounds View*

#### ASD Sensory Room

**\$2,361.40**

The ASD Sensory Room will enable ASD students to reduce the time they are off task and out of class, enabling them to have greater success meeting their academic and IEP goals.

### Karinda Groothuis

*Montevideo*

#### Set Reading on Fire

**\$1,819.91**

Through the use of Kindle Fires in the classroom, reluctant readers will be motivated to become voracious readers. The Set Reading on Fire project will give students the opportunity to use the latest technology to interact with websites, apps, picture books and chapter books, increasing reading comprehension, accuracy and fluency.

### Linda Hjelmgren

*St. Paul*

#### Engaging the Reluctant Reader

**\$2,921.79**

The Engaging the Reluctant Reader project will increase scholars' reading abilities through intense tutoring with mentors. Through partnerships with local businesses and churches, the scholars most at need will meet weekly with tutors to read books at their level and focus on reading strategies.

### Jo Holen

*St. Louis County*

#### Take Home Learning Packs

**\$1,372**

The Take Home Learning Packs project will increase parent involvement and improve reading skills by providing take-home materials for students in the classroom. Each student will be provided with a take-home backpack filled with appropriate reading materials. Caregivers and students will be given instructions encouraging them to read and discuss the material in the backpack.

### Nancy Johnson

*St. Paul*

#### Using Cowriter to Maximize Performance of Struggling Writers

**\$2,000**

The Using Cowriter to Maximize Performance of Struggling Writers project will utilize word prediction, a tool that anticipates logical word choices as the student is typing. This tool will be used to inspire a variety of students who struggle to keep up in writing tasks, including but not limited to special education students, struggling regular education students, students with language issues and students with permanent or temporary motor issues.

### Susan Kaspar

*Cambridge-Isanti*

#### Balance Bikes and Confidence in Our Community

**\$2,401.50**

The Balance Bikes and Confidence in Our Community project intends to provide early childhood, kindergarten, first and second grade developmental adapted physical education (DAPE) students with the opportunity to master riding a two-wheel bike with increased independence through a more efficient and safe developmental motor sequence, leading to increased growth in confidence.

### Paul Keeney

*Anoka-Hennepin*

#### LEGO Serious Play Reflections

**\$2,551**

The LEGO Serious Play Reflections/LEGO Build To Express Reflections project will provide a hands-on manipulative to engage students in deeper levels of understanding of school topics as each student creates their own LEGO model of a particular item.

### Daryl Kehler

*Waseca*

#### LEGO Engineering

**\$3,000**

The project at Waseca Area Learning Center (ALC) involves using the LEGO Engineering curriculum to introduce engineering and related concepts to students in grades 9-12. The Waseca ALC is using this system to introduce engineering concepts to students by challenging the students with a situation, or problem, and then having them construct a machine that would solve the dilemma with the LEGO Mindstorms NXT system.

### Debi Konz

*Sauk Rapids-Rice*

#### ELL Students Memories

**\$2,446**

The ELL Students Memories project will have the English as a Second Language students write stories about their lives before coming to America and what their lives are like now.

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### Lisa Lange

*Brainerd*

#### Creating “Real” Readers in Classroom and Beyond

**\$700**

The Psychology Reading project entails improving classroom learning through student-driven discussion groups and engaging snapshots of learning. This opportunity to read two books based on contemporary issues from a psychology viewpoint allows students to talk, challenge and collaborate in nonthreatening environments within the classroom and through blogs set up on the district Moodle site.

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### Jana Larson

*Cook County*

#### Creation of the Circle: A Cultural Outreach Project

**\$2,140**

The Creation of the Circle: A Cultural Outreach project is cross curricular and cultural in nature and involves community volunteers, parents, local businesses, Grand Portage band members, an artist in residence and students working together to create a Native American cultural ground mural using native symbolism. Students will research and hear about the Ojibwa culture with the expertise/education from members of the Grand Portage Band.

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### Amy Lemke

*Cambridge-Isanti*

#### Teach Smart 2.0

**\$2,776.65**

The TeachSmart 2.0 project focuses on the TeachSmart 2.0 Learning System with early childhood special education students. It contains over 1,100 activities that are linked to state and national standards. The activities strengthen development in five key skill areas: phonological awareness, counting, number recognition, pre-writing, and social/emotional development.

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### Anne Lewerenz

*Minneapolis*

#### Reading to Achieve

**\$3,000**

Reading to Achieve is a summer library in a bag for fourth and fifth graders. Students will choose 10 to 15 titles at their independent reading level to take home over the summer, then return their bags when they return to school in the fall. The hope is to achieve a summer of reading for the students.

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### Michaela Ludwig

*Hawley*

#### Hidden in Plain View

**\$3,000**

Hidden in Plain View is an interdisciplinary writing project for seventh-grade students. It aims to facilitate the social-emotional transition into the seventh grade by introducing students to the mindsets used by effective learners; allows students to critically think about the ways in which literature and art can facilitate positive change in the world; and motivates students to produce quality writing because they will write personal narratives about issues relevant and meaningful to their lives.

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### Christine Michels

*Burnsville*

#### Literacy and Language

**\$2,032.52**

Literacy and Language provides a chance to include families in the development of CALP (Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency) in both English and their home language. This project seeks to connect families with students in first grade to leveled bilingual, dual language and nonfiction academic texts on a weekly basis.

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### Marisa Moe

*Burnsville*

#### Literacy at Home

**\$3,000**

Literacy at Home will help to create a connection between school and students' homes. With engaging activities, students and parents will work together to extend the literacy skills they have learned at school. By appropriately pairing these literacy activities with students' needs, the project will enrich and foster their academic growth.

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### Karen Mueller

*Osseo*

#### North View Jr. High Seating Alternatives

**\$3,000**

The North View Jr. High Seating Alternatives project will acquire therapy balls and standing desks for the students in need of seating alternatives in their classrooms.

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### Joseph Palke

*Mounds View*

#### Dancing for Your Health

**\$1,500**

Dancing for Your Health project will provide our students with an Xbox 360 Kinect system that has up-to-date dance moves they cannot only do during class, but also at home when listening to the radio as a form of exercise. In addition to the real-life relevance, we will incorporate graphing and other math skills to both show students that sports and physical activity involve math, and work within our new district initiative to improve math scores.

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### Margaret Paulson

*Montevideo*

#### Interactive Metronome

**\$1,640**

The Interactive Metronome is a computerized training program that improves an individual's temporal, or “mental,” timing by synchronizing hand and foot movements to a tone heard through headphones, with immediate feedback provided on accuracy.

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### Teryl Peterson

*DCUE*

#### Book Building

**\$500**

The Book Building project will have students create their own books that will be used in their poetry unit, an integrated project designed to improve reading and writing test scores among a designated group.

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## Classroom *continued*, Educational Support Professionals

### Genesee Rasmussen

*Inver Grove Heights*

Home and School EL Literacy Connection

**\$2,775**

The Home and School EL Literacy Connection program is a district-wide elementary project whose main goal is to improve overall reading skills, including fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and sight word recognition. Success is linked to building of school staff relationships with Spanish-speaking families and the increase of parental involvement outside of the school day.

### Dawn Schaefer-Stumpf

*Annamdale*

Effective Phonics with iPads

**\$2,690**

Effective Phonics with iPads will increase student learning in the area of reading, particularly in the area of “Word Work.” Students will use researched apps to practice “Word Work” and downloaded leveled stories to apply those phonetic skills as decoding strategies.

### Wendy Suddard

*Monticello*

Video Modeling

**\$520**

Video Modeling is a tool that will show the students what their behavior looked like in various social situations. The videos capture those skills that are going well and those skills that still need to be improved.

### Deb Sutor

*Fergus Falls*

“On est Ensemble” Fergus Falls/  
Cameroon Connection

**\$3,000**

“On est Ensemble” is a cross-cultural learning opportunity between students of Fergus Falls and Bertoua, Cameroon. In Fergus Falls, French students will be Skyping their friends on a monthly basis in the target language. In ninth grade cultural geography classes, students will exchange virtual bulletin boards and in photography classes, students will exchange photographs portraying life in their respective countries.

### Cindy Thurston

*St. Francis*

African Drumming + Dance + Math

**\$2,750**

African Drumming + Dance + Math will use iPads to explore using the garage band “app” as a way to show how math is integrated into musical beats. Those skills will then be used to present a performance of African drumming and dance to the whole student body.

### Marilyn Trouth

*Osseo*

Nemo Teaches Chemistry

**\$1,275**

With the Nemo Teaches Chemistry project, students will establish a salt water reef system in the classroom, teaching them the demands and challenges of balancing the environment of salt water fish and invertebrates.

### John Weimholt

*St. Paul*

Exploring Lake Superior

**\$3,000**

The Explore Lake Superior project will implement high-quality science lessons aligned to state standards and integrating science literacy. Topics include wave motion, weather, water quality, freshwater estuaries, plant and animal life of Lake Superior, and more.

### Katie Zuehlke

*Annamdale*

Mud Pies, Bugs, Raisins and Crystals:  
A Recipe for Successful Reading and Writing

**\$2,800**

“Mud Pies, Bugs, Raisins and Crystals: A Recipe for Successful Reading and Writing” begins by inviting kindergartners to participate in meaningful, hands-on science experiments to support the Minnesota kindergarten science standards. Through this project, students will increase their understanding of the Minnesota science standards, expand their reading and writing of high frequency words, and establish motivating and meaningful online content.

## Educational Support Professionals

*(awarded April and November 2011)*

### Bonnie Bouche

*Minneapolis*

Spanish Language and Culture Immersion

**\$1,000**

### Mary Beth Clark

*Osseo-ESP*

Smart Board Training

**\$935.04**

### Peggy Cobbins

*St. Paul*

Youth Employment Conference

**\$1,000**

### Emily Engel

*St. Paul*

Sign Language Interpreter Demand-Control Schema Training

**\$600**

### Mary Haller

*Osseo-ESP*

ESP Para Pro Training/Test

**\$965**

### Matthew Hustad

*Minneapolis*

CPR and First Aid Licensing

**\$1,000**

### Lisa McQuerter

*Osseo-ESP*

Responsive Classroom Training

**\$175**

### Lisa McQuerter

*Osseo-ESP*

Improving Behavior and Academic Success of Students with Autism and Asperger’s Syndrome Seminar

**\$800**

## Educational Support Professionals *continued*, Higher Education

### Heidi Morris

Duluth ESP - Clerical  
NEA ESP Conference

**\$1,000**

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### Karen Piepho

Osseo-ESP  
Responsive Classroom Training for  
ESPs

**\$839**

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### Susan Snyder

St. Paul  
National Sign Language Interpreter  
Conference

**\$1,000**

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### Ugonwayi (Patsy) Ugo

Minneapolis  
Emergency Life Responder, Life-Saving

**\$1,000**

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### Barbara Wokasch

Grand Rapids ESP  
Minnesota Autism Conference - ISD  
318

**\$1,000**

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### Kathleen Wold

St. Paul  
Youth Conference

**\$1,000**

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## Higher Education

*(awarded April and November  
2011)*

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### Israel Aladejebi

MSCF  
Professional Training Courses

**\$2,990**

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### Jeff Boushee

MSCF  
Confined Space Training

**\$2,995**

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### Lynn Bye

University Education Association  
(UEA)

Attend and Present at a National  
Conference

**\$445**

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### Soner Dogan

MSCF - Riverland  
Learning New Biotechnology  
Technique

**\$3,000**

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### David Echelard

MSCF-Winona  
International World Music Festival

**\$1,000**

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### Meg Heiman

MSCF-Vermilion  
Fusion 2012 Conference

**\$2,977**

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### Jill Holmes

MSCF-Riverland  
Maintenance of ACBSP Accreditation

**\$3,000**

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### Dan Janisch

MSCF  
Windpower 2012

**\$3,000**

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### Evan Johnson

MSCF  
Attend the Advanced Audio  
Storytelling Course

**\$2,350**

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### Melissa Lott

MSCF  
NOLS Alaska Outdoor Educator  
Course

**\$3,000**

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### Shannon Marting

MSCF - Inver Hills  
A Course at MSU - Mankato

**\$779**

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### Paul Richgruber

MSCF - Lake Superior  
WHA Conference - Beijing, China

**\$2,000**

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### Mary Ann Saurino

MSCF  
Attend Summer Institute "Making  
Connections"

**\$2,555**

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### Carie Statz

MSCF-DCTC  
Graduate-level Social Media Certificate

**\$2,000**

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### Janelle Wilson

University Education Association  
(UEA)

Conference Attendance

**\$1,533.52**

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## 2011-12 Affinity Grants

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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:

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### **The Advocates for Human Rights**

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

**\$5,000**

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### **African American Registry**

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

**\$5,000**

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### **Bell Museum of Natural History**

[www.bellmuseum.umn.edu](http://www.bellmuseum.umn.edu)

**\$7,500**

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### **Learning Law and Democracy Foundation**

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

**\$5,000**

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### **Minnesota Children's Museum**

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

**\$5,000**

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### **Penumbra Theatre Company Inc.**

[www.penumbra theatre.org](http://www.penumbra theatre.org)

**\$5,000**

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### **PFLAG - Twin Cities**

[www.pflagtc.com](http://www.pflagtc.com)

**\$5,000**

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### **The Works**

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

**\$5,000**

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## National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Scholarships

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### **Erik Brandt**

*St. Paul*

**\$1,000**

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### **Edna McKenzie**

*West Metro United Educators*

**\$1,000**

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### **Murna Rome**

*Albert Lea*

**\$1,000**

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### **Andrea Schueler Valley**

*St. Croix*

**\$395**

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## Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Board of Trustees

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EDUCATION MINNESOTA  
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*The union of 70,000 educators*

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