



16700 Norwalk Boulevard, Cerritos, CA 90703 – 526-926-5566

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CONTACT: TERRI VILLA-MCDOWELL  
(562) 926-5566, ext. 21150

ABC EDUCATION FOUNDATION AWARDS 18 GRANTS  
TO ABCUSD SCHOOLS

Cerritos, CA—December 10, 2013 – The ABC Education Foundation recently completed its first annual mini-grant program to return funds to schools in the ABC Unified School District from its fundraising efforts throughout the year. Over \$20,000 will be awarded this month to support 18 programs at ABCUSD schools.

Schools in ABCUSD submitted Education and Special Mini-Grant applications to the Foundation between August 26 and November 15, 2013. Education Mini-Grant requests were required to align with the District's strategic plan while Special Mini-Grants allowed for funding of projects of merit outside the plan. A total of \$15,000 was allocated towards the Education Mini-Grants and \$5,000 for the Special Mini-Grants. Each Education Mini-Grant allowed a maximum of \$2,500 per mini-grant while the Special Mini-Grants allowed a maximum of \$1,000 per min-grant. In November, a committee of two former ABCUSD administrators; ABC's IT director; a board member from a local credit union; three park superintendents and the Foundation's executive director met and read through 37 grant applications (27 Education Mini-Grants and 10 Special Mini-

Grant requests) from 12 schools or programs within the district. Over \$50,000 in funding was requested by schools and programs from the 37 applications.

“Selecting the winning grants was a challenging process,” said Rachel Santos, ABC Education Board Member and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Leal Elementary School who also chaired the grant committee and development of the program. “We created an anonymous process to score each mini-grant based on merit, then lined up our top scoring mini-grants to see where they were located in the district. We were pleased to find that our merited winners also represented schools in all parts of our district.”

The Foundation approved a total of \$20,504 for these first mini-grants. Each grant is a one-time award and future funding will need to be applied for annually. The ABC Education Foundation hopes to make the grant awards an annual process with grant awards going up in size, as the Foundation's fundraising efforts mature. Please read below for the 2013-2014 grant winners:

**Education Mini-Grant Awardees:**

1. Achieving Academic Success Through PE, Melissa Lundby, Soli Roebuck, Carol Pacheco, Dianne Kiedrowski, Carina Nickerson, Nixon Academy for \$1,860
2. Peers Assisting Student Success, Scott Nyquist and Long Hua, Carmenita Middle School at \$1,339
3. Social Play at Pretend City, Melissa Peterson, Early Intervention Program at \$1,500

4. The Niemes Nature Center Plant Refresh, Fran Barron, Niemes Elementary at \$1,860
5. Participation in the National History Day Competition, Chad Laines, Fedde Middle School at \$1,000
6. A Day at the L.A. Zoo, Marlies Harris, Juarez Elementary at \$454
7. Rolling to the L.A. Zoo, Roger Okazaki, Juarez Elementary at \$411
8. Exercising Our Way to Excellence, Cory Loebel, Stephen Kelemen, Gina Mitskus, Carmenita Middle School at \$1,860
9. Art of Stagecraft, Craig Spratt, Leal Elementary at \$1,860
10. Off to a Learning Adventure, Cecilia Lopez-Saucedo, Sandra Recoba-Leal, Connie Karimi, Tammy Talvy, Niemes Elementary at \$1,500
11. Robotics for All, Krystle Kimura, Tiffany Moreno, Bragg Elementary at \$1,860

**Total for Education Mini-Grants: \$15,504**

**Special Mini-Grant Awardees:**

1. Blocks, Reema Suleiman, Child Development Program, \$500
2. Robotics Education, Fadia Breik, Whitney High School, \$1,000
3. ABCUSD 2nd Annual Reading Olympics 2013, Melissa Valentine, Kennedy Elementary, \$50
4. Library Shelving, Karan Raley, Niemes Elementary, \$950
5. Zero Waste Lunch Program, Jeanne Kumagai, Nixon Academy, \$500
6. Science Olympics, Ken Yoshikawa, Carmenita Middle School, \$1,000
7. Science Program, Kristina Whiteman, Nadja Ellis, Nixon Academy, \$1,000

**Total for Special Mini-Grants: \$5,000**

Questions about the ABC Education Foundation or its grant application process can be directed to Terri Villa-McDowell, Executive Director of the Foundation at (562) 926-5566, ext. 21150.

### **About the ABC Education Foundation**

The ABC Education Foundation was founded in February 2012 to support district programs in jeopardy due to budget cuts. Since its inception, the Foundation has held multiple fundraisers, including a 2K/5K Fun Run and Wellness Fair, a Golf Tournament and two Ragnar Relay race fundraisers. The Foundation has funded over \$80,000 in programs for ABC schools including support for two school backpack initiatives, the ABC Reading Olympics, two summer camps—one for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and one for developmentally disabled youth, a pedestrian safety public education campaign, the ABC Secondary Band Festival and PIP on Wheels, an early intervention social emotional program. It has organized a committed Board of individuals representing business and education who donate their time, finances and expertise to ensure that every ABC student and every ABC school succeeds.

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