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ABC EDUCATION FOUNDATION AWARDS 29 GRANTS
TO ABCUSD SCHOOLS

Cerritos, CA—January 12, 2016 – The ABC Education Foundation recently completed its third annual mini-grant program to return funds to schools in ABCUSD from Foundation fundraising efforts throughout the year. Almost \$35,000 will be awarded to support 27 programs at 17 ABCUSD schools at a January 25, 2016 presentation event at Cerritos Park East in Cerritos. 2015-2016 grant winners include:

Education Mini-Grant Awardees:

- Two grants for Niemes Elementary:
 - (Gabriela Monterosa-Ibarra): *Seeing Heroes Like Me in Literature*, at \$1,500
 - TK-6, Science (John Zawacki, Kathleen Irvine): *Aquaponics in the Garden*, at \$1,700
- Two grants for Juarez Elementary (plus a shared grant with other elementary schools below)

- (Hui-Chien Chang, Skylar Lenox): *Creating a Resilient Community, One Classroom at a Time*, at \$999.25
- (Michelle Joyce, Heather Mendoza, Renae Steward): *Friday Electives-Career Technical Education for Elementary*, at \$1,700
- Two grants for Gahr High School:
 - (Jackie Burneson): *Vernier Probes for AP Chemistry*, at \$1,700
 - (Steve Alfi, Scott Gordon, Monica Saldana): *19th Annual AP Calculus Camp-- Student Scholarships*, at \$1,700
- Two grants for Artesia High School:
 - Science 9-12 (Kathy Chaffins): *Renewable Capture the Energy of the Wind*, at \$1,700
 - Artesia High School and Special Ed., Adult Transition (Nathan Rogers-Madsen, Inderjit "Pinky" Uppal): *VoTechoical Avenues: Computers for Mapping and Work Skills*, at \$1,700
- Two grants for Cerritos High School:
 - (Lily Lee & Denise R. Weuve): *Visiting Instructors/Author Series*, at \$1,285
 - 9th Grade AVID (Britni Rebolgar): *AVID Collaboration for College Readiness*, at \$991.83
- Melbourne Elementary (Jenny Hernandez): *Kinesthetic Initiative for Social and Emotional Development*, at \$1,700
- Bridges Program, Spec. Ed, PK-12 Mental Health (Kristin Guerrero, Malia Igarra): *Building Responsible Independent Determined Goal-Oriented Engaged*, at \$1,700

- Willow Elementary, 4 gr - ELA, Math, Science (Theresa Ahmad, Melinda Lopez): *CoreAtlas: An Instructional Approach to Common Core Success*, at \$1,000
- Juarez Elementary, Wittmann Elementary, Elliott Elementary, Burbank Elementary - Gr. 4-6 (Robert Grishkoff): *Musicians Connect-A Dress Rehearsal Field Trip*, at \$1,145
- Palms Elementary (Aileen Azucenas, Tracy O'Maley, Martha Aguliar): *The Peace Path-A Conflict Resolution Tool*, at \$1,275
- Carmenita Middle School (Tyler Watts, Kathryn West, Kalon Hinds): *Aquaponic STEM Garden*, at \$1,700
- Tetzlaff Accelerated Learning Academy, 7-8 gr. Project Lead the Way Elective (Tyler Courdy, Lora Walters): *Computer Grant for Robotics and Design Classes*, at \$1,700
- Hawaiian STEM Academy, 5-6 gr. (Denise Keckeisen, Joel Garcia, Julie Park, April Martinez): *Youth Voices in Grants*, at \$1,280

Special Mini-Grant Awardees:

- Carver Academy (Winnie Lee): *UNIQUE Learning System: Age-Appropriate Curriculum with Special Needs*, at \$432.36
- Niemes Elementary (Greg Lewis): *After School Robotics Program*, at \$995
- Palms Elementary (Jerry Howell): *"3-BE" MURAL*, at \$1,000
- Cerritos High School (Alan Jepsen): *The Things They Carried Project*, at \$816.48
- Artesia High School Children's Center (Reema Suleiman): *Symbolic Play*, at \$700
- Stowers Elementary (Sheila Marker): *Chromebooks for Kids*, at \$950

- Hawaiian STEM Academy (Denise Keckeisen): *Secure Celebrations*, at \$848
- Gahr High School (Allison Chatman): *What's "App-ening" in the 21st Century*, at \$1,000
- Juarez Elementary (Jennifer Holmes, Natalia Avila, Irene Orozco, David Franklin): *Ed Camp #CONNECT*, at \$690

"We have a very tight systematized grant process," said Rachel Santos, ABC Education Board Member and PBIS Coach at ABC Unified School District who also chaired the Foundation's grants committee. "The teachers and staff of this district continue to show how a little bit of financial backing can deeply impact their student's learning experience. The grant readers and donors can see the creativity, detailed plans, and positive outcomes teachers can provide with just a little support."

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 \$26,476 was allocated towards the Education Mini-Grants and \$7,431 for the Special Mini-Grants. In November, a committee read 47 grant applications from 23 schools or programs within the district. Questions about the ABC Education Foundation or its grant application process can be directed to Rachel Santos at ABC Unified School District, (562) 926-5566, ext 21574 or Heather Summers with LBS Financial Credit Union at (714) 270-2570.

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 three 2K/5K Fun Run and Wellness Fairs, two Golf Tournaments, the District's 50th Anniversary Gala and four Ragnar Relay race

fundraisers. The Foundation has funded over \$200,000 in programs for ABC schools including support for an annual school backpack initiative, pedestrian safety public education campaigns and the Primary Intervention Program, 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. ###