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ABC EDUCATION FOUNDATION AWARDS 21 GRANTS
TO ABCUSD SCHOOLS

Cerritos, CA—January 13, 2017 – The ABC Education Foundation recently completed its fourth annual mini-grant program to return funds to schools in ABCUSD from Foundation fundraising efforts throughout the year. Nearly \$28,000 will be awarded at a January 23, 2017 presentation event at Cerritos Park East in Cerritos to support 21 programs at 18 ABCUSD schools, four special programs, and two that address district-wide needs. 2016-2017 grant winners include:

Education Mini-Grant Awardees:

- Five grants for Gahr High School:
 - (Deanna Bieloszabski): *Supporting Student Success via Wellness Newsletter, posters for every classroom, and Wellness Brochures*, at \$1,700
 - (Ana Sun): *Bringing the Physics Classroom into the 21st Century*, at \$1,700
 - (Quyen Vu): *Design Challenge, Engineering for renewable energy in AP Environmental Science*, at \$1,700

- (Adriana Salas & Wellness Team, Gr. Level 9-12): *Step to Wellness*, at \$1,700
 - (Tam Lam): *Carolina Digital Spectrophotometer*, at \$1,700
- Carmenita Middle School (Tyler Watts, Kathy West): *Small-Scale Sustainable Home Engineering Project*, at \$1,600
- Academic Services - Middle School Science (Paul Killian, Ashley Contreras): *Next Generation Scientist (NGS) Club*, at \$1,700
- Gonsalves Elementary School (Yonsu Pae, Kay Yoon, Patricia Zamorano): *What Tool Would Allow Students Access to 21st Century Learning?*, at \$1,700
- Juarez Academy of Engineering & Technology (Natalia Avila): *Coding, Critical Thinking, Create! LEGO Education WeDo 2.0*, at \$1,700
- Melbourne Elementary School (Heather Thimmes-Lopez, Sara Robinson, Tonnie Vu (K- Team)): *Get Kindergarten Moving*, at \$1,700
- Ross Middle School (Bill Mead, Richard Velasco): *Automation and Robotics Notebook Laptop Grant*, at \$1,700
- Safe Schools - Elementary & Middle School Wellness Coordinators (Sabrina Son with Wellness Coordinators from all Elementary and Middle Schools): *The Kindness Project: Community Wellness Interventions to Enhance Academic & Social Success*, at \$1,700
- Special Education Speech/Language Department (Barbara Vu Jepsen, Speech/Language Department & Special Day Class Specialists): *Promoting Language & Literacy: Bringing Core Thematic Literature units to Students with Unique Needs*, at \$350

- Whitney High School (Derek Jeans, Kevin Harp, Renee Olson): *Rand McNally Classroom Atlases for Middle School Social Studies*, at \$1,700

Special Mini-Grant Awardees:

- Two grants for Burbank Elementary School:
 - (Wendy Huang): *In Their Shoes*, at \$800
 - (Ericka La Tour): *California Missions*, at \$619
- Two grants for Cerritos High School:
 - (Alex Aronson): *Social Emotional Workbooks (SEW): "SEWing Together Social Emotional & Common Core Competencies,"* at \$800
 - (Jennifer Mai): *College Application Behaviors of High School Seniors*, at \$695
- Melbourne Elementary School (Jenny Hernandez, Jessica Chaidez, Colleen Garten): *Healthy Bodies, Strong Minds*, at \$800
- Artesia High School (Felicia Godinez): *Support for Advanced Placement United States History*, at \$800
- Ross Middle School (Richard Velasco): *Bridging the Gap Between the Digital and Physical World with 3D Printing*, at \$800

"This is our 4th year in awarding grants for the many talented ABCUSD employees," said Rachel Santos, ABC Education Board Member, ABCFT Recording Secretary, and PBIS Coach at ABC Unified School District who also chaired the Foundation's grants committee. "It is so gratifying to see how much expertise and professionalism is in action in the schools and classrooms of this district. The ABC family of

educators continues to prove their dedication to the students and families of the ABC Community with these grant projects. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labors.”

Education Mini-Grant requests were required to align with the ABCUSD Strategic Plan and California Local Control Accountability Priorities while Special Mini-Grants allowed for funding of projects of merit outside the plan. A total of \$22,350 was allocated towards the Education Mini-Grants and \$5,314 for the Special Mini-Grants. In November, a volunteer committee made up of both community members and educators spent over 40 hours reading 52 grant applications from 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 four 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 \$235,000 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. The Foundation also helped secure over \$3.5 million in additional grants for the district over the last several years. 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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