



ABC Unified School District
**Education
Foundation**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ABC EDUCATION FOUNDATION TO AWARD OVER \$38,000
IN MINI-GRANTS ON JANUARY 30TH**

Cerritos, CA—January 29, 2018 – The ABC Education Foundation recently completed its fifth annual mini-grant program to return funds to schools in ABCUSD from Foundation fundraising efforts throughout the year. Over \$38,000 will be awarded to support 30 programs at 17 ABCUSD schools (plus one program affecting all ABCUSD schools) at a January 30, 2018 presentation event at Cerritos Park East in Cerritos. 2017-2018 grant winners include:

Aloha, Juarez, & Willow Elementary Schools

- Education Mini-Grant, \$1,900 (Eveline Huh-Willow Principal; Danielle Saldavia-Aloha Principal; Christine Balbuena-Juarez Principal) *BEST Mentoring Program - Building Excellence & Success for Today & Tomorrow*

BRIDGES: BRIDGE Academy, Haskell Middle School, Kennedy STEM Academy

- Special Mini-Grant, \$900 (Eddie Hernandez) *Building Responsible Independent Determined Goal-Oriented Engaged Students (BRIDGES) Community Based Learning and Positive Reinforcement Incentives*

Carver Academy

- Special Mini-Grant, \$366.03 (Winnie Lee) *“Learning to Cook, Cooking to Learn” Providing Students with Special Needs Real Life Skills to Succeed*

Cerritos High School

- Special Mini-Grant, \$482.01 (Amy L. Huang) *Training & Resources for Promoting Student Wellness*
- Special Mini-Grant, \$888 (Viki Yamashita) *Restore & Relax*

Fedde Middle School

- Special Mini-Grant, \$900 (John Laird & Tien Vo) *Daytime Astronomers*

Furgeson Elementary School

- Special Mini-Grant, \$900 (Oralia Rojas and Ana Ashkar) *Let's Play*

Gahr High School

- Sue Rausch Grant & Education Mini-Grant, \$2,380 (Darren Loney) *Time for a "Tune Up"*
- Education Mini-Grant, \$1,900 (Carolyn Howlett, Monica Saldana) *Math Matters and So Do You! Visit our High School Math Center Today*
- Education Mini-Grant, \$1,900 (Alice Huang) *What Are the Numbers? Targeted Math Intervention*
- Education Mini-Grant, \$1,900 (Kerry Grover, Suzy Gonzalez) *Proposal for a 3D Printer*
- Education Mini-Grant, \$1,900 (Kerry Grover, Rachael Edson, Sarah Alonzo) *Outdoor Totem Poles - Large Scale Sculpture Project*
- Special Mini-Grant, \$900 (Christina Moreau) *ACT (AVID Connect Team) Leaders*

Juarez Elementary School

- Education Mini-Grant, \$1,900 (Stephanie Luna- Primary SDC; Skylar Lenox Ibarra- Social Worker; Christine Balbuena-Principal) *Improving Classroom Behavior and Increasing Self Management Schoolwide with Sensory Intervention Resources*

Melbourne Elementary School

- Special Mini-Grant, \$900 (Sara Robinson) *Benefits of Play in the Kinesiology Lab*

Niemes Elementary School

- Education Mini-Grant (funded by Employees Community Fund of Boeing), \$1,900 (Gabriela Monterosa-Ibarra) *5th Grade Engineers Bring Designs to Fruition*

- Education Mini-Grant, \$1,000 (Paige Larkin) *Readers Become Leaders*
- Education Mini-Grant (anonymous donor), \$244.71 (Tricia Hora) *Movement to Music*

Nixon Academy

- Education Mini-Grant, \$1,100 (Kristina Whiteman) *Walking Classroom Walk Kits*
- Education Mini-Grant, \$600.41 (Nadja Ellis) *Ancient Egyptian Mummification Lab*
- Special Mini-Grant, \$900 (Dianne E. Kiedrowski) *Flexible/Alternative Seating*

Palms Accelerated Learning Academy

- Education Mini-Grant, \$2,000 (Nataly Navarro) *Taking 21st Century Learners into Virtual Reality*
- Special Mini-Grant, \$900 (Jennifer Germata) *Starting a Maker Space*

Safe Schools Program

- Education Mini-Grant, \$1,072.50 (Tina Porter) *Intern Play Therapy Project: Play is the Conversation of Children and Games Provide the Words*
- Education Mini-Grant, \$1,900 (Kendall Fuijoka) *Teaching and Supporting Socio-Emotional Learning*

Stowers Elementary School

- Education Mini-Grant, \$1,900 (Kristin Andaya) *Enhancing Every Child's Educational Experience: Releasing the Artist Within*

Willow Elementary School

- Special Mini-Grant (funded by Ernie Nishi, ABCUSD Board of Education), \$800 (Monique Erece) *Imagine the Possibilities Through Dramatic Play*

Wittmann Elementary School

- Education Mini-Grant (partially funded by Employees Community Fund of Boeing), \$1,900 (Lucy Pineda, Leigh Tomooka, Cybil Vidal, Miguel Marco---Principal) *Robotics/Drone Racing Team*

Whitney High School

- Special Mini-Grant (funded by Employees Community Fund of Boeing), \$900 (Aileen Perry) *Probeware & Sensors for Active Data Collection in Science*

- Special Mini-Grant, \$900 (Eamon Marchant) *Hands-On Earth Science*

Ernie Nishi, ABCUSD School Board Member, participated in the grant reading process this year with other community members, district employees, and ABC Education Foundation Board Members.

“The Foundation mini-grant program is one of those programs that makes you wish you were back in school to experience these wonderful teachers with creative ideas,” said Ernie Nishi. “It is part of our “special sauce” that creates a real partnership between the community and teachers. For those who don’t like government but want to contribute in a real way—this is the ideal program. It’s not just the money, because of how it motivates teachers and treats teachers like the professionals that they are--the Mini-grants program enables the District to excel far beyond the influence of the monies that are granted. ”

On January 30th, the ABC Education Foundation will be hosting its annual Donor Recognition and Grant Awardee Event from 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm. The event will be held at the Cerritos Park East Malibu Room at 13234 E. 166th Street, Cerritos, CA. Financial and in-kind donors and sponsors that supported the ABC Education Foundation in 2017 will be honored during the event and checks will be distributed for the 2017-2018 grants to the schools. Each grant awardee will speak about how their funds will be used to benefit students in ABCUSD. To RSVP, email hsummers@abcdfoundation.org or call 714-270-2570.

About the ABC Education Foundation

The ABC Education Foundation was founded in 2011 to support ABCUSD programs in jeopardy due to budget cuts. From inception through 2017, the Foundation has funded over \$270,000 in programs for ABC schools, the majority given to schools through an annual grant program as well as their annual school backpack initiative. The ABC Education Foundation also provides educational opportunities for local students through their Enrichment Academy, where all funds raised also support ABCUSD schools. The Foundation also helped secure \$3.5 million in additional grants for the district over the last several years.