

Press Release:

Title : Healdsburg Education Foundation Awards over \$20,000 in 2009 Mini Grant Awards

Release: Immediately

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For Immediate Release

The Healdsburg Education Foundation (HEF) has announced it is granting over \$20,000 in 2009 Mini Grant awards to Healdsburg Unified School District (HUSD) and Alexander Valley Unified School District (AVUSD) teachers for innovative educational initiatives that will directly meet local student's needs and enhance motivation and learning.

Applications are judged for innovative qualities, response to high priority needs and the potential for effectiveness. Individual teachers can apply for up to \$500 or partner jointly with other instructors using the same budget cap per teacher.

The HUSD received over \$18,000 to fund 32 projects that will further the educational goals of the District. Some of these projects include:

Healdsburg Elementary School

- Field Trip to the Sonoma County Agricultural Fair for all 1st Graders
- Touchmath teaching materials for the Developmental Kindergarten Program
- Visual Support Instructional Materials for Special Day Class Teacher

Fitch Mountain Campus

- 4th Grade Fieldtrip to Sacramento to the State Capitol for Ms. Peteriet and Robinson's classes
- High Interest English & Bilingual books for the FMC Library
- Field Trip for Ms. Shamim's 5th Graders on the Tall Ships in SF Bay

Healdsburg Junior High

- Earth Week coordinated by the school's Green Teen Group
- Online Research Database for Middle School Students
- Worldly Wise Vocabulary Development Materials for Resource Specialist/English Language Learner Instructor
- Fieldtrip to the King Tut and CA Academy of Sciences for Ms. Read and Mr. Anderson's 6th Grade Classes
- Counseling Materials for Students regarding drug and alcohol issues

Healdsburg High School

- Naviance College & Technical School Online Database Guidance Program
- HIV/AIDS Educational Conference
- Printmaking Materials for Art Department
- Support for Math Steeplechase Event

Marce Becerra Academy

- Consumer Economics Materials
- Science & English Supplemental Materials

The Alexander Valley Unified School District received \$1,200 in grant funds for three projects, which include:

Alexander Valley School District

- Family Math Night
- School-wide Reading Night
- Spanish Materials for Spanish Enrichment Classes

In making grant determinations, HEF consults with the HUSD and AVUSD to first ensure that the proposed grants address the educational goals of the Districts, and to also make certain that public funds are exhausted prior to expending private donor funds. Judy Velasquez, Mini Grant Committee member explains, "As the state continues to deny adequate funding for our schools, the Mini Grant program restores some of the extras we have lost over the years and supports teachers in pursuing experiences for their students that would otherwise be unavailable."

Funds for the Mini Grant program are generated from community and parent donations through HEF's Annual Fund campaign and numerous fundraising events, such as the Healdsburg Historic Homes Tour, which is produced by the American Association of University Women and will be held on Sunday, May 2, 2010.

The Healdsburg Education Foundation has been providing support and resources for HUSD and AVUSD schools since 1985. For more information on the Mini Grant program, donating to support student learning and activities, or any other HEF related matters, please contact Pamela Swan, Executive Director, (707) 433-1223 or pswan@hefschools.com.