

Hartford Education Foundation
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City Teachers Awarded Grants For Classroom And School-wide Projects

Hartford Education Foundation Announces Its Winter 2004 Teacher Grants And Newly Elected Members Of Its Board Of Directors.

14 lucky and creative Hartford teachers will receive grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 to help them fund classroom enrichment in arts, literacy, science and physical education.

“We are pleased to be able to award a second round of Teacher Grants this year, bringing the total to \$50,000 of grants in our first year of operation,” said Marie Dalton-Meyer, HEF’s Executive Director. “69 Hartford teachers received Teacher Grants this school year for a wide array of innovative projects. Teachers and principals are responding enthusiastically to this new funding resource for projects that motivate students and spark their imaginations. HEF is committed to raising the funds and making these Teacher Grants annually.”

Other good news is that HEF received funding for one of the 14 Teacher Grants from United Technologies Corporation. Scott Ruel’s afterschool science/engineering club at Sanchez School will be building fuel cell kits and exploring concepts of electronics, physics, chemistry and algebra. “UTC is a natural partner on a project to learn about fuel cells – HEF is delighted UTC is sponsoring this \$1,000 grant”, said Dalton-Meyer.

Other innovative projects include Kathleen Golnik’s at McDonough Elementary School, where she will be able to explore the art of printmaking with 4th, 5th and 6th graders with the supplies provided by the HEF Teacher Grant.

Another teacher at Sanchez School, Marilyn Ponte, will be creating murals in the playground with students from 5th and 6th grades. The murals will celebrate the culture of the Park Street area and the Puerto Rican heritage shared by many Sanchez students.

Merle Cantor Rimler at Naylor Elementary School will build *Rainsticks*, ceremonial musical instruments, with her 3rd graders and explore the science of sound, the study of the rainforest, and computer skills.

Other winning teachers include: R. Scott Tomassetti and Kendra Dickinson at Betances Elementary School; Roald Haaland at Clark Elementary School; Donna Liebman at Hooker Elementary School; Kristen Gudlewski at Kinsella Elementary School; Nicole Misko and Katie Golnik at Parkville Elementary School, Kathleen Grandfield at Rawson Elementary School; Dave Anderson and Linda Liss-Bronstein at Sanchez School.

New Board Members announced: Beverly Greenberg, former member of the state Board of Education; Mary Jo Keating, VP of Corporate Communications at Northeast Utilities; Jerry Long, CEO of PCC Technology Group and Chairman of the MetroHartford Chamber of Commerce; Ira Rubenzahl, President of Capital Community College and Theodore Sergi, former State Commissioner of Education and the newly appointed CEO of the Connecticut Center for Science and Exploration, were recently elected to the HEF Board of Directors. They join current Board members Lorraine Aronson, Geno Auriemma, Ron Copes, Laura Estes, Robert Furek, Joe Gianni, Steve Harris, Denise Nappier and ex-officio member, Superintendent of Schools, Robert Henry.

HEF is an independent, community-based, non-profit organization created in 2002 to benefit the Hartford Public Schools. It seeks support from individuals, businesses and foundations to be able to generate resources for innovative programs, partnerships and collaborations that improve the quality of education for all Hartford Public School students.

The next funding cycle for HEF Teacher Grants begins February 15. For more information or to contribute, visit www.thinkhartfordschools.org.