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Hartford Education Foundation

## **Teacher Grants Fueling Creativity Get Boost From Travelers Foundation**

A storyteller visits a classroom at Noah Webster. Students learn how to build a fuel cell at Sanchez. New books in classroom libraries entice readers at Burr; a school-wide arts festival is revived at Simpson-Waverly; students join a hands-on dinosaur dig at Betances. Students publish a school newspaper at Annie Fisher, and learn to take DNA samples at Hartford Magnet Middle.

What all of these have in common is that they are all projects teachers in the Hartford Public Schools are doing in their classrooms – funded by Teacher Grants in amounts of \$300 to \$1,000 each from the Hartford Education Foundation.

At the Maria Sanchez Elementary School, students create artwork based on the peoples and cultures they are studying. “Children create artwork in many traditions, styles and media with supplies I was able to purchase with the Teacher Grant”, art teacher Marilyn Ponte explains.

Supporting creativity in teaching and learning, the Teacher Grants are open to all teachers in the Hartford Public Schools. The application period for Fall 2004 Teacher Grants opened in February and closes this week.

The organization recently received a big boost from the Travelers Foundation, which gave HEF a \$25,000 Challenge Grant. Travelers Foundation, the local charitable arm of St. Paul Travelers, will give HEF \$25,000 if it raises an equal amount from the community this spring. "Travelers Foundation is extremely pleased to award this Challenge Grant to Hartford Education Foundation. HEF Teacher Grants provide Hartford Public School teachers the means to take great ideas and bring them to the classroom. It is a win-win for Hartford's teachers and students," said John Motley, President of the Travelers Foundation.

*HEF is an independent, community-based, non-profit organization started in 2003 to benefit the Hartford Public Schools. It seeks to generate resources for innovative programs, partnerships and collaborations that improve the quality of education for all Hartford Public School students.*

For more information or to contribute, visit [www.thinkhartfordschools.org](http://www.thinkhartfordschools.org).

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