

EDUCATION

W  C C I S D

FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 1107, Orange, Texas 77631, 409.882.5437

## Education Foundation presents \$21,000 in innovative teaching grants

*October 13, 2014*

The WOCCISD Education Foundation surprised teachers at four different West Orange – Cove CISD campuses with grant awards for innovative teaching Monday, October 13.

A total of eight grants were presented to teachers at North Early Learning Center, West Orange – Stark Elementary, West Orange – Stark Middle, and West Orange – Stark High Schools.

“I am really thrilled that we are funding more than \$21,000 in grants in our fourth year of making the awards,” Krispen Walker, WOCCISD Education Foundation president, said.

The grants were funded by generous donations from the community and will allow teachers to expand educational opportunities.

The WOCCISD Education Foundation is a not for profit 501(c) 3 created in 2009.

During the past four years (including this year), the Foundation has awarded over \$89,000 to classroom teachers in the WOCCISD school system.

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**Grant Awards: North Early Learning Center (2)**

<u>Name of Teachers</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Project/ Synopsis</u>
1. Ola Conner	\$5600	<p><b>Creative Careers through Play</b></p> <p>This grant will provide career costumes (firefighter, nurse, doctor, police officer) and miniature environments for each classroom on the campus. It will allow preschoolers to learn by doing and imitating life experiences through play.</p>
2. Leighia Barron  And CILT Team (Steven Michutka, Kristi Abshire)	\$3000	<p><b>Projectors for our SMART Boards</b></p> <p>This grant will allow for the purchase of projectors for six classrooms and raise the level of student engagement in the classroom.</p>

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**Grant Awards: West Orange – Stark Elementary (1)**

<u>Name of Teachers</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Project/ Synopsis</u>
3. Kim Davis	\$1308.52	<p><b>Special Needs Sensory Room – Relaxing Minds to be Productive Learners</b></p> <p>The grant will provide a quiet cube (soothing music), a ball pit, textures, visual stimuli, and other learning tools that will stimulate curiosity and invite exploration.</p>

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**Grant Awards: West Orange – Stark Middle (2)**

4. Kathleen Rogers	\$1640	<b>Using iPads to Improve Communication Skills of Nonverbal Students</b>  The grant will provide greater opportunities for children to learn and communicate with others. It will also improve motor and cognitive skills.
5. Kathleen Rogers	\$1555.82	<b>Using a Wiggle Room to Increase Classroom Focus with Special Needs Students</b>  This grant will provide students having difficulty sitting in a chair or wheelchair the opportunity to engage with equipment that is not available in a regular PE class which will give them the opportunity to exercise.

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**Grant Awards: West Orange – Stark High**

6. Diztorsha Lavan	\$3000	<p><b>SMARTboards for the Social Studies Department</b></p> <p>This grant will provide interactive technology which will allow teachers to integrate lessons with a variety of instructional modalities (online video or news headline to reinforce a unit). Virtual field trips will also be possible. History can come to Life!</p>
7. Diztorsha Lavan	\$4000	<p><b>State Capitol Trip for AP Government Class</b></p> <p>This grant will allow students to see first-hand the workings of our state government. They will visit the capitol and other landmarks in Austin.</p>
8. Lacey Hale	\$1,500	<p><b>Outdoor Photography</b></p> <p>This grant will allow students to utilize photographic equipment and photographic techniques on a downtown Orange field trip to photograph outdoor scenes and landscapes.</p>

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**2014 West Orange – Cove CISD Education Foundation grants totaled \$21,604.34.**

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Photo is attached of West Orange – Stark High School students enrolled in Diztorsha Lavan’s AP Government Class. The Education Foundation presented two awards to Ms. Lavan on Monday. One of the grant awards provides funding for the AP Government Class to visit the state Capitol and other Austin landmarks.

Additional photos are available upon request.

*Background Information: Dr. Lois Bready, and her brother Doug Bready were present to help award the grants. Their families established the Foundation in memory of their parents Eva and Gerald Bready. Eva Bready was a beloved and innovative teacher in the WOCCISD School District who prepared a generation of students to excel in science and to make significant contributions to their communities. Both Eva and Gerald Bready were passionate supporters of the importance of science and math education.*

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