

For Immediate Release

**DISTRICT 128 FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING
ANNOUNCES INNOVATION GRANT WINNERS**

Vernon Hills, Ill. – The District 128 Foundation for Learning presented its first Innovation Grants to Community High School District 128 teachers and staff today at an all-district staff meeting held at Libertyville High School. Five grants were awarded as part of the newly-formed foundation’s first project aimed at enhancing education programs at Libertyville and Vernon Hills High Schools. Initial funding for the grants was generated by the Foundation trustees. Grants were awarded up to \$1,000 per project.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer these inaugural educational grants that will benefit our District’s high school students,” said **Greg Pritchard**, chairman of the District 128 Foundation for Learning. “While we know that our schools are recognized as two of the best in the state, the foundation board has a passion to enrich and enhance District 128’s tradition of excellence in education.”

Grant recipients and their award-winning proposals were:

Suzanne Torrence, Science Teacher, Libertyville High School -- Stop motion studies for physics students using webcams and special software.

Fran Fatta, Music Teacher, Vernon Hills High School -- SmartMusic software that allows students to record themselves and receive instant feedback on whether notes are played correctly or not.

Kelley Whitescarver, Connie Perez and Leslie Nardini, Family and Consumer Science Teachers, Vernon Hills High School -- Allow for the study of ethnic foods from around the world by providing the specialized cooking equipment necessary for this culinary journey.

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Nancy Dick, Student Assistance Program Coordinator, Libertyville High School --

Provide outside speakers for lunch periods for student leadership group. Speakers address leadership, positive role modeling, influencing peers, etc.

Nancy Dick, Student Assistance Program Coordinator, Libertyville High School and

Margaret Pither, Student Assistance Program Coordinator, Vernon Hills High

School -- Develop a website for the district coalition Community Partnership for Healthy Youth Serving the Libertyville/Vernon Hills Area to Reduce Underage Drinking and Substance Use.

The District 128 Foundation for Learning was founded in 2007. The Foundation's mission is to obtain resources to enhance and enrich the instructional program in Community High School District 128. To learn more about becoming a foundation volunteer or donor, contact 847-327-7800 ext. 8030, 847-932-2800 ext. 8030, or email foundation@d128.org.

- 30 -

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