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News Release

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Ten Grants Awarded to Educators in Kern County

Fresno, CA – Thousands of students have the opportunity to participate in innovative projects this school year, funded by the California Table Grape Commission on behalf of California's table grape growers.

In total, 56 education grants worth up to \$750 each were awarded. The funded projects will be implemented in the current academic year and will reach over 7,500 students, grades K through 12, in the table grape growing regions of California's San Joaquin and Coachella valleys. Ten of the grants were awarded to educators in Kern County.

"The education grant program is one of the ways table grape growers in California give back to communities in which they live and work," said Kathleen Nave, president of the commission.

Examples of the projects in Kern County include building an electromagnetic motor from familiar materials such as batteries, magnetic wire and paper clips, recreating and presenting original Shakespearean films at a film festival the classroom is hosting, programming in Minecraft (a popular game for kids) and creating music on microcomputers to teach the fundamentals of programming.

Here are the Kern County grant recipients and their projects by school district:

Bakersfield City School District

- **Electromagnetic Motor Lab**
Henry Sanchez, Emerson Middle School
Eighth grade students will build an electromagnetic motor from familiar materials through enquiry and exploration. This is a next generation science standard that requires batteries, duct tape, paper clips and magnets for hands on learning.
- **Entomology Bugs Me!**
Valerie Padilla, Evergreen Elementary School
Kindergarten students will study and examine spiders and insects, including butterflies, as science comes alive. Grant funds will purchase books, x-rays of bugs,

live and acrylic specimens and magnifying equipment to allow students to explore, draw and write about what they see.

- **Munsey Stars Track Team**

Sarah Riess, Munsey Elementary School

Grant funds will be used to fund the first ever track team at the school. Fourth and fifth grade students will meet after school twice a week and receive instruction in proper nutrition, breathing techniques, hydration and the importance of staying physically active.

Kern County Superintendent of Schools

- **All Hands on Deck for Hands-On Learning of STEM Concepts**

Joy Limbengco, Aurora Program / Emotionally Disturbed Program (Planz Elementary Site)

Grant funds will purchase hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) curriculum for third through fifth grades to ensure that students are highly engaged in learning. Students will explore basic concepts of airflow, friction, flight and motion as they build miniature models of windmills, cars, planes and roller coasters.

- **Brewer's Beautiful Buckets**

Esthela Brewer, Beardsley Intermediate School

Visually impaired fourth through eighth grade students will learn about seasons, fruits, vegetables and flowers by planting a class garden. This project will allow the students to learn about science, growing plants, health and nutrition as they prepare and snack on the produce they have grown.

Kern Union High School District

- **Shakespearean Film Festival**

Andrew Chilton, Stockdale High School

High school seniors will host an annual Shakespearean Film Festival showcasing movies the students film, act and produce themselves. This creative and collaborative project focuses on language arts, film study, art appreciation with the necessary reference material, books and DVD's.

- **Programming with Pi**

Scott Lockhart, East Bakersfield High School

Grant funds will be used to purchase micro-computer, Raspberry Pi boards for these ninth through twelfth grade students to learn about mathematics and computer science with coding and programming.

- **Potential Perils Faced by San Joaquin Valley Aquifers**

Marc Halling, Frontier High School

Ninth grade students will learn about aquifers with a focus on pitfalls of the closed aquifer system in the San Joaquin Valley by creating a small-scale functional aquifer in the classroom. This ecology and earth science lesson will culminate with a field

trip to a water treatment facility. Grant funds will purchase materials, equipment and the bus ride for the field trip.

- **Assess Impact of Air Pollution on the Student Lung Volumes**

Navdeep Singh, Liberty High School

Ninth and tenth grade students will study ecology and physiology as they conduct research about air pollution and its impact on lung volumes compared to averages around the country. Grant funds will purchase flow meters and disposable mouth pieces.

Panama–Buena Vista School District

- **Real Food for Real Kids / Healthy Kids = Happy Kids!**

Stacy Morrison, Berkshire Elementary School

Kindergarten through sixth grade students will prepare and eat healthy food while they learn about nutrition and create their own recipe books.

The Innovation in Teaching Education Grant Program was created in 1993 to support innovative educational projects in the table grape growing regions of California's San Joaquin and Coachella valleys.

For more information, go to www.grapesfromcalifornia.com/EducationGrants.php.

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