



CALIFORNIA  
TABLE GRAPE  
COMMISSION

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# News Release

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## **Ten Grants Awarded to Educators in the Coachella Valley**

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 the Coachella Valley.

“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 the Coachella Valley include planting, monitoring and caring for table grape vines on school grounds along with the class taking a field trip to a local farm, building mini wind turbines to learn about renewable energy, and constructing a telescope kit, moon filter and deluxe solar filter to sponsor monthly Star Gazing Nights for the entire community.

Here are the Coachella Valley grant recipients and their projects:

### Coachella Valley Unified School District

- **Making Healthy Choices**  
**Arlyn Sams, Cesar Chavez Elementary School**  
Third grade students will investigate the history of grapes as they plant, monitor and care for vines. Project funds will buy ten vines, irrigation, trellis and tools for this math, history, health and agriculture focused project. Students will also take a field trip to a vineyard.
- **3D-Assisted Wind Turbine**  
**Edwin Detoya, Bobby Duke Middle School**

Seventh and eighth grade students will design and build a miniature Wind Turbine prototype that generates power. The 3D printer the grant funds will produce the over-sized plastic gear that is needed to increase power output.

- **Salton Sea Community Star Gazing**  
**Virginia Haddad, Sea View Elementary School**

Grant funds will purchase a telescope kit, moon filter and deluxe solar filter to sponsor monthly Star Gazing Nights for the entire community. Science and astronomy lessons will come to life for students and their families.

#### Desert Sands Unified School District

- **Fitness Refurbishment**  
**Liz Gordon, La Quinta High School**

Weight room refurbishment for students and athletes will allow lessons in proper technique, lifelong fitness and equipment hygiene. Funds will be used to purchase parts for weight machines that may be used by every student.

- **Solving the Impossible Puzzle**  
**Nathan Manderfield, Monroe Elementary School**

Grant funds will be used to purchase Rubik's Cubes, a speed timer, t-shirts and supplies for these fifth grade students to master the Rubik's Cube as they learn about math, spatial reasoning, goal development, memorization and develop a love of learning.

- **Agricultural Engineering in Mini Greenhouses**  
**Colleen Hahn, Palm Desert Charter Middle School**

Grant funds will purchase the equipment and materials needed to upgrade their garden project to include miniature green houses to protect the plants from freezing. Seventh grade students have analyzed the data and designed this solution for maintaining their garden ecosystem.

#### Palm Springs Unified School District

- **Self-Esteem Art**  
**Sara Perry, Rio Vista Elementary School**

Third through fifth grade students will benefit from these five art workshops that emphasize emotional coping skills, self-esteem, affirmations, happy memories and positive thinking. Grant funds will purchase the creative art materials needed for these lessons.

- **Chopped Jr. California**  
**Jennifer Moore, Bella Vista Elementary School**

Fourth grade students will compete in a Chopped Jr. California cooking show to learn about agriculture, nutrition, math, science and compile a recipe book to share with their parents.

Grant funds will purchase aprons, cookie sheets, measuring spoons, food and awards.

- **Renewable Energy with Wind Turbines**  
**Shelly Dow, Landau Elementary School**  
Third grade students will work on multiple hands-on activities to learn about renewable energy and wind turbines. Grant funds will be used for a ten lesson curriculum, four turbine kits and other materials.
- **Let's Make Energy!**  
**Lynn Yada, Desert Learning Academy**  
All grade levels, Kindergarten through twelfth grade will participate in this project to study and make renewable energy through wind turbines. Grant funds will be used to buy wind kits and supplies.

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](http://www.grapesfromcalifornia.com/EducationGrants.php).

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