



CALIFORNIA  
TABLE GRAPE  
COMMISSION

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# News Release

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## **Grape Commission Awards Education Grants** Five Grants Awarded to Educators in the Coachella Valley

Fresno, CA – Schools in the table grape growing regions of California’s San Joaquin and Coachella valleys are benefiting from grants awarded this academic year.

In total, 36 education grants worth up to \$750 were awarded by the California Table Grape Commission on behalf of California’s table grape growers and will reach over 4,000 students. Five of the grants were awarded to educators in the Coachella Valley, with projects to be completed this spring.

“California’s table grape growers have been supporting local education for years,” said Kathleen Nave, president of the commission. “This program is one of the ways table grape growers give back to the communities in which they live and work.”

Examples of the projects in the Coachella Valley include building container gardens, constructing robots and rockets, implementing guided reading lessons, and studying mathematics using a multiplication fact fluency program.

Here are the Coachella Valley grant recipients and their projects:

### Coachella Valley Unified School District

- Edwin Detoya, [Bobby Duke Middle School](#). Middle school students will build and program robots in Saturday School.
- James Staples, [Oasis Elementary School](#). Students will learn hands-on science, prediction, data collection, interpretation, teamwork and problem solving skills through the study and building of rockets.
- Carmen Lopez, [Valley View Elementary School](#). Funds will be used to purchase leveled books, which are designed to meet students at their individual reading levels. Students will learn reading strategies and practice reading in small groups. When ready, the teacher will move them to the next reading level.
- Carole Knowles, [Desert Mirage High School](#). High school students will create their own sustainable kitchen gardens by growing fruits and vegetables in

- recycled containers. They will learn about plant growth, plant food production, nutrition, meal planning, budgeting and cooking.
- Robert Varga, Coral Mountain Academy. Fifth grade students will practice multiplication fact fluency on iPads through Reflex Math, an individualized game-based program that makes learning fun. Students will practice division, prime factorization and arithmetic with fractions, earning achievement certificates as they progress.

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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