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News Release

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Students Benefit From Education Grants

Eight Grants Awarded to Educators in the Coachella Valley

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

In total, 50 education grants worth up to \$750 each were awarded by the California Table Grape Commission on behalf of California’s table grape growers. The funded projects will be implemented in the current academic year and will reach over 5,000 students. Eight of the grants were awarded to educators in the Coachella Valley.

“It is great to see so many exciting and innovative projects being implemented by teachers in the state’s table grape growing regions,” said Kathleen Nave, president of the commission. “Thousands of students will benefit this spring from these projects supported by California table grape growers through this program.”

Examples of the projects in the Coachella Valley include purchasing a school weather station and utilizing it in classroom lessons, using Lego motorized to build simple machines, planning and participating in a school-wide 5K race, building a school garden/radio control car track, learning about family heritage and hosting a story telling night with family members.

Here are the Coachella Valley grant recipients and their projects:

Coachella Valley Unified School District

- **Mary Polnau, Palm View School**
Grant funds will be used to purchase supplies and technology such as pencils, highlighters, erasers, white board markers, earphones and iPad styluses for fourth grade students.
- **Terry Wood, Las Palmitas Elementary School**
Second to fourth grade students will be using Lego motorized parts such as levers, pulleys, gears, etc funded by the grant. They will be learning how to build simple machines, research, think out of the box, use critical thinking skills and present findings to an audience.

- **Zorayda Baltazar, Coachella Valley High School**
High school students will be learning about family heritage, immigration and hosting story telling nights with family members. Funds will be used to purchase materials such as sketchbooks, art supplies, notebooks and food/snacks for the storytelling nights.
- **Edwin Detova, Bobby Duke Middle School**
Seventh and eighth grade students will be learning about and building models of air compressors and pneumatic power systems. Funds will be used to purchase a mechanical kit, pneumatics pack and supplies.

Desert Sands Unified School District

- **Laura Spradlin, La Quinta Middle School**
Sixth through eighth grade students will learn about health and fitness in a variety of facets by helping plan and participate in a health and fitness fair with a 5K race. Funds will help with supplies and costs for the fair.
- **Scott Davis, Gerald Ford Elementary School**
Grant funds will be used to purchase a weather station for students to learn about monitoring weather and implementing real-time data lessons in science, agriculture and crop planning in their school garden.
- **Christopher Dolan, Colonel Mitchell Paige Middle School**
Funds will be used to purchase equipment and materials to set in place a permanent school garden and radio control car track, both in an existing fenced in area. Sixth to eighth grade student will be involved in building and using the garden.

Palm Springs Unified School District

- **Shelly Dow, Cabot Yerxa Elementary School**
Funds will be used to purchase five different lesson units on engineering concepts for fifth grade students. Examples include designing alarm circuits, evaluating a landscape and designing model membranes.

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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