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News Release

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Four Grants Awarded to Educators in the Coachella Valley

Fresno, CA – Thousands of students have the opportunity to participate in innovative education projects, thanks to a long-standing program funded by the California Table Grape Commission (commission) on behalf of California table grape growers.

The “Innovation in Teaching” grant program was created in 1993 to support innovative teaching projects in the California table grape growing regions of the San Joaquin and Coachella valleys. Projects include the areas of agriculture, math, science, art, health, and technology.

In total, 52 education grants worth up to \$750 each were awarded. The funded projects will be implemented in the current academic year and will reach over 9,000 students. Four of the grants were awarded to educators in the Coachella Valley.

“For over 25 years California grape growers have been proud to fund classroom projects that benefits students,” said Kathleen Nave, commission president.

Examples of projects in the Coachella Valley include using robotic kits to learn about laws of physics, math, and engineering; creating carbon dioxide propelled cars to learn about aerodynamics; and purchasing of software and hardware to help students with attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism learn to build muscle memory and calm themselves.

A list of all the projects in the Coachella Valley is attached.

About the California Table Grape Commission

The California Table Grape Commission was created by the California legislature in 1967 to create worldwide demand for fresh California grapes through a variety of research and promotional programs.

For more information on the “Innovation in Teaching” grant program, go to www.grapesfromcalifornia.com/community-outreach/.

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Summaries of Funded Education Grant Projects – 2017-18

Here are the four Coachella Valley winners:

Coachella Valley Unified School District

- **STEM Simple Machines**

Edwin Detoya, Bobby Duke Middle School

Seventh and eighth grade students will use robotic kits purchased with grant funds to complete up to 60 projects in physics, math, and engineering.

Desert Sands Unified School District

- **CO2 Race Cars – Mass, Force, Acceleration, and Aerodynamics**

Kayla Adler, Palm Desert High School

Palm Desert High School Skills USA club will use grant funds to purchase CO2 propelled cars for a class competition. Teachers will judge on design, craftsmanship, aerodynamics and track race-time. Grant funds will be used to purchase the car kits.

- **It Comes from the Heart**

Terri Griffin, James Madison Elementary School

Grant funds will be used to purchase software and related equipment designed to help students with attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, anxiety, and autism to build muscle memory and effectively calm themselves.

Palm Springs Unified School District

- **Communication Opportunities for the Lesser-Abled**

Kenneth Paxton, Rio Vista Elementary School

Grant funds will be used to purchase communication devices for use in classrooms of pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students who are non-verbal. These devices will allow students the ability to communicate, ask questions, and participate in lessons and the classroom community.