

Northwest Regional ESD FOUNDATION

Supporting Special Education

Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, & Washington Counties, OR

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PRESS RELEASE

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The Northwest Regional Education Service District Foundation awards 29 grants totaling \$ 20,701 for projects benefitting special needs and at-risk students in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, and Washington counties

This year's projects range from communication and social skills workshops for families with very young children with disabilities in Washington County, to a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) learning station for special education students at Nestucca Junior/Senior High School. The full list of awards is attached.

Since 2007, the foundation has awarded 318 grants totaling \$245,958, making a difference in the lives of more than 38,500 young children and students in local communities.

The grants distributing resources to provide greater opportunities for success for children with special needs and those who are at-risk, birth to 21, in our region and are focused on our three funding priorities:

1. Early Intervention/Early Childhood Education: Identification of and services for children birth through age 5 with varying degrees of disabilities including autism, hearing and visual impairments, speech-language needs, and those who are medically fragile.
2. School age special education and behavioral programs for young children and students kindergarten to age 21 with developmental delays, and psychological, emotional, and behavioral issues.
3. Northwest Outdoor Science School: Tuition assistance for students who would otherwise not be able to attend and program assistance – e.g. requests from the program for resources with region-wide impact.

The foundation provides financial assistance to the public school programs of Northwest Regional Education Service District and component districts by funding projects benefitting young children and students with special needs and those who are at-risk in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, and Washington counties, Oregon. The Foundation is a fully qualified, nonprofit charitable organization. To learn more visit www.nwresdfoundation.org

2013 GRANT AWARDS
NORTHWEST REGIONAL ESD FOUNDATION

– AWARDED TO NORTHWEST REGIONAL ESD PROGRAMS–

(School district award list begins on page 3)

At-Risk Students/\$750: Two iPod Touches and a number of apps related to nature, multi-media, and social media for students at Cascade Education Corps (CE2), an alternative, work-school program in the Tigard-Tualatin School District. CE2 is a project-based program that gives At-Risk juniors and seniors the opportunity to gain work experience in a team setting, develop life and job skills, and learn ecology through experiential, inquiry-based curriculum. *Joe Linden, Crew Leader/Program Coordinator, Cascade Education Corps, Tigard High School.*

Early Childhood Special Education/\$1, 0: Workshop series titled “Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning”, teaching families with children with disabilities ages 0-5 how to effectively manage their child’s behavior at home or in the community. The six-week series will be offered twice at the NWRESD’s Tualatin and Beaverton Early Childhood Centers. This grant will fund childcare provided by staff who are familiar with children with disabilities, allowing more families—especially those struggling poverty, limited financial or social resources, and those with multiple children—to attend the trainings. *Stacy Rager, School Psychologist, Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education.*

Early Childhood Special Education/\$745: Workshop series titled “Teaching Social Communication”, supporting Washington County families with children ages 0-5, with significant needs in the area of social communication. The five-week series will be offered summer 2014, and will include interpreters for Spanish-speaking families. This grant will fund childcare provided by staff who are familiar with children with disabilities, allowing more families—especially those struggling poverty, limited financial or social resources, and those with multiple children—to attend the trainings. *Brenda Nakada, Autism Specialist/ECES, Early Childhood.*

Early Childhood Special Education/\$250: Visual and auditory equipment for young children age 3-5 with disabilities enrolled at the ESD’s Hillsboro Early Childhood Special Education Center in Washington County. *Kathy Andre, ECES teacher, Hillsboro Education Center.*

Early Childhood Special Education/\$415: Training program for families with young children ages 0-5 with language deficits in Washington County. The Hanen It Takes Two to Talk program supports two-way communication, decreasing the child’s frustration level and easing the stress parents experience when not sure how to fulfill their child’s requests. This grant will fund supplies including individual parent workbooks and a DVD to share more widely and impact more families. *Rijl Barber, Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), Early Intervention (EI).*

Early Childhood Special Education/\$870: Augmentative communication equipment (devices, switches and protective cases) for non-verbal preschool students in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, and Washington counties. *Jessica Duffett, AAC Specialist + Speech-Language Pathologist, EI/ECSE AAC Team.*

NWRESD PROGRAM AWARDS CONTINUED...

Outdoor Science School/\$1,000: Spanish translation of printed materials for Outdoor School participation benefitting students and families in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, & Washington counties. *John Jackson, Supervisor, NW Outdoor Science School.*

School Age Special Education/\$500: High-interest, low-readability books for high school special education students in the St. Helens High School Structured Learning Center in Columbia County. *Lisa Buchco, SPED Teacher, Structured Learning Center/SPED.*

School Age Special Education/\$1,000: Assistive technology to provide near and distance viewing needs for a high school student with a visual impairment in Washington County. *Sue Schimmelpennig, Teacher of the visually impaired, Vision Services.*

School Age Special Education/\$542: Digital cameras and batteries for a language development project for deaf and hard of hearing students at Groner Elementary in the Hillsboro School District. *Emily Selee, Teacher of the Deaf.*

School Age Special Education/\$425: Noise canceling stereo headphones for students at Pacific Academy and Cascade Academies in Beaverton, allowing them to regroup when they become overwhelmed and need a break from stimulation and thereby re-focus on academics. Students are referred to Pacific and Cascade Academies by their home district when they need a small, supportive academic environment with a mental health focus. A consulting clinical psychologist and district team with mental health staff and teachers to meet the student's academic, social, emotional and behavioral needs. *Elizabeth Frank, Teacher, Pacific Academy.*

School Age Special Education/\$1,225: A special needs adult trike and helmets to increase strength and coordination for special needs students attending the NWRESD's P.A.C.E. Program at Glencoe High School in Hillsboro. P.A.C.E. serves junior and senior high school students with severe cognitive impairments. *Karen James, Teacher, P.A.C.E. Program at Glencoe High School.*

School Age Special Education/\$400: American Sign language instruction DVDs for districts to check out for use both with staff and students in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, and Washington counties. *Laurie Harrison, NWRESD, Deaf/HH Program Coordinator.*

**–AWARDED TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN CLATSOP, COLUMBIA,
TILLAMOOK, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES –**

ASTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

At-Risk Students/\$1,000: Bilingual books for students at Lewis and Clark Elementary to check out weekly and read at home, both independently and with their family, promoting reading success through family involvement. *Trixie Bigby, English Language Learner teacher.*

School Age Special Education/\$116: “Superflex Social Thinking Curriculum” to be used with students with social and communication disabilities including autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) at Lewis and Clark Elementary. *Anthony Hahn, Special Education teacher.*

SEASIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Professional/Technical/Vocational/\$1,000: Photovoltaic solar panels and systems for renewable energy and other science classes at Seaside High School. *Luke Robbins, Science/Math teacher.*

WARRENTON-HAMMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Early Childhood Special Education/\$1,000: Science and math materials and supplies for Warrenton Prep Preschool. *Ruby Leo, Preschool Supervisor.*

Outdoor Science School/\$1,000: Funds to offset cost of Outdoor School tuition for students at Warrenton Grade. *Rachel Porter, teacher.*

CLATSKANIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Early Childhood Special Education/\$500: Twelve-person wireless listening/learning center and 15 audio books for kindergarten students at Clatskanie Elementary to improve reading and listening skills. *Erin Mackey, Kindergarten teacher.*

NESTUCCA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Age Special Education/\$1,000: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) learning station for special education students at Nestucca Jr./Sr. High. *Russell Sanders, Special Education teacher.*

TILLAMOOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

At-Risk Students/\$460: Alternative seating (stability balls and bases for students with ADHD/ADD) for students at East Elementary. *Melinda Ramage, 5th grade teacher.*

At-Risk Students/\$390: iPad Applications to serve as an intervention tools for our struggling learners at South Prairie Elementary. *Julie Bucknam, 2nd grade teacher.*

At-Risk Students/\$300: Audio- and e-Book subscription for English Learners for use on existing iPads at East Elementary. *Jenny Sheets, 4th grade teacher.*

At-Risk Students/\$650: Bi-lingual after school filmmaking program at Tillamook High School. *Koli Cutler, Interpreter.*

COMPONENT DISTRICT AWARDS CONTINUED...

GASTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Age Special Education/\$560: Fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension software (eSolution) to guide instruction for struggling readers in special education classes at Gaston Jr./Sr. High. *Janet Tidwell, Special Education teacher.*

HILLSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Age Special Education/\$896: Supplies for sensory/calming stations for special education students with behavioral, and self regulation needs at Jackson Elementary. *Charmaine Sandefer, Special Ed teacher.*

School Age Special Education/\$987: iPad Minis to be used with students with learning disabilities including dyslexia, dysgraphia, and Autism Spectrum Disorder at Indian Hills Elementary. The devices include Guided Access, Speak selection, Siri, Dictation, iBooks and Camera. *Laura McBroom, Special Education teacher.*

SHERWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Age Special Education/\$1,000: "Earobics" software for struggling readers with a variety of disabilities, grades K-5 at Edy Ridge Elementary. The software helps develop foundations for literacy and auditory processing. *Michelle Smith, Speech/Language Pathologist.*