

2017-2018 Innovative Grant Winners

Grant Winner	Grant Name	School(s)	Grant Description	Amount Awarded
Julie Fisette & Trish Krebs	Laser Engraver	Northville High School	The acquisition of this laser engraver will enable students to model and prototype their designs from the computer, bringing to life their creations for presentations in a way that is better aligned with what will be expected of them at higher levels of education and in their careers. Students will be exposed to the modeling and replication of the future, allowing them to replicate their creations and classroom projects with the accuracy and professionalism of real engineers and designers.	\$3,000.00
Jessica Onkka & Holly Heath	ConnectUS & Cooke Collaboration	Cooke	ConnectUS provides cutting edge experiences for an underserved population. Through fully adapted production lines, ALL students at Cooke School are afforded the opportunity to give back and directly impact their Metro Detroit community. Our students are often on the receiving end of charity, and this is a one-of-a-kind collaboration to foster our students' abilities and talents to make a difference. The interagency collaboration between ConnectUS and Cooke School elevates both programs and improves student success.	\$3,000.00
Kathy Hammerschmidt & Trish Krebs	Digital Force Sensors for Learning	Northville High School	By upgrading the equipment used in science classrooms, students will be better able to develop a comprehensive understanding of forces, collect more accurate data, and be better able to explain their scientific claims and conclusions. The introduction of digital force sensors will allow students to construct their own scientific knowledge through inquiry learning.	\$2,858.15
Ashlee Latour & Heidi Main	Levo G2 Deluxe Tablet Stand	Cooke	This adjustable table will allow students with multiple severe impairments to use an iPad from almost any position, including lying on a mat table/beanbag, standing in a stander, or sitting in their wheelchair. With this stand, students will be able to engage with educational apps on the iPad while they are in their wheelchair or stander. And students who must lie down on a mat table or bean bag can have the iPad positioned correctly so they can interact with educational apps independently, rather than having a staff member hold the device for them.	\$2,356.26

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Genevieve McDonald	World Music Drumming in the Elementary Classroom	Amerman	By introducing tunabos drums and World Music Drumming into the classroom, students will have the opportunity to develop their listening and rhythm skills, as well as learn to work within an ensemble by enhancing teamwork and collaboration skills through music. Students will work as a team to use improvisation and creativity within the context of music from cultures around the world. The drum circle offers a unique mode of instruction to reach students through a non-verbal, artistic medium.	\$2,319.20
Melissa Stendardo	Using Ultrasound to Assess Cardiovascular Health	Northville High School	The use of handheld Doppler Ultrasound devices will allow students to conduct and analyze real-world diagnostic tests. This experience will afford students a deeper understanding of the human circulatory system, blood pressure and overall health. Students are able to explore the connection between smoking and losing a limb in a way that is more likely to stick with them long term, and much more likely to make an impact on them than an anti-smoking poster or commercial. Students will also be working in pairs/groups with the devices, thus strengthening their communication skills.	\$2,054.99
Alice Janke	Ridgewood STORYWALK Project	Ridgewood	The Ridge Wood Storywalk Project is an educational and creative way to combine the pleasures of reading children's books with the benefits of walking an outdoor pathway lined with informational picture book posts. This innovative approach to reading helps build children's interest toward reading while encouraging healthy outdoor activity for both children and adults, and may be used during brain breaks, recess, incorporated time with their teachers, and outside of school hours with family.	\$2,015.21

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Teryn Chrzanowski & Emily Correll	Breakout Kits	Northville High School	The use of Breakout games will enhance what students are learning in class by adding this interactive, collaborative tool to the curriculum. Specifically, students will work together to answer questions about parts of the brain in the "Neuroscience of Learning" game. In the "Common Senses" game, students will use their 5 senses to answer questions and can actively apply content to their own life while having fun and working with their peers. Breakout games require the 4 C's: critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication.	\$1,908.00
Nurit Foster, Ricardo Rojas, Megan Ewers & Elisabeth Bowman	The Karaoke Project	All 9 Schools	The use of karaoke machines in ESL classrooms will allow students to improve their literacy and speaking fluency, and help them to become comfortable speaking into a microphone, which is an assessment requirement and often problematic for many students. Listening to their recorded speaking and singing will also allow students to discuss their speech among a small group of other ESL students.	\$1,383.30
Carolyn Mitchell, Jeanine Lithgow, Sue Capoccia & Latrisha Stallard	Bal A Vis X Implementation Program	Cooke	This program uses a series of balance, auditory, and vision exercises to prepare students for academic work. It utilizes bean bags and balls with ever increasing difficulty to incorporate use of both sides of the brain. The additional opportunities provided for peer communication and teaching also align with curriculum standards to foster student talk.	\$1,236.25
Lorie Farrow & Malinda Demray	Developing Math and Social Skills Through Visual-Motor Interaction	Cooke	Among other things, Cooke students will use an Interactive Bubble Tube to learn counting. The physical challenges of Cooke students prevent the use of most manipulatives, but the Interactive Bubble Tube presents them an opportunity to count, for example, by counting the number of times the switch is activated, the number of turns, number of buttons, or how many times the tube changes colors or songs. Students will also use the Interactive Bubble Tube to increase their self-awareness and self-efficacy by working on independent switch activation. They will also use it to improve their social interaction skills by working on turn-taking.	\$1,085.95

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Elizabeth Adams	Bike Riding/Safety Skills	Cooke	With this project, using adapted bikes and helmets, Cooke students will learn bike skills and safety within a safe environment that will carry over into home and community. With a focus on balance, speed, and stopping, students will be taught the importance of wearing a helmet, and learn basic road signs and appropriate times to cross streets.	\$977.17
Jenny Pascual, Megan Holmes, Jill Anderson, Danielle Anderson and Kristy Bilbie-Bekus	Executive Functioning Skills Toolkit for Middle School Students	Meads Mill	Age-appropriate tools to assist with the development of executive functioning skills will empower middle school students to better regulate themselves throughout the day. Use of various watches, timers, sensory and organizational tools will help keep students engaged and provide practical tools to help them take ownership of their learning.	\$849.92
Karin Nelson	Restriction Enzyme Analysis of DNA Using Gel Electrophoresis	Northville High School	The introduction of a BlueView Transilluminator will provide students the opportunity to utilize advanced biotechnology equipment that few high school students have the opportunity to experience before post-secondary education. Working with this complex equipment will develop students' laboratory skills and ability to work with data.	\$839.98
Reid Nicklaus	Adapted PE Crossfit Training	Hillside	Crossfit is a style of exercise that focuses on building strength, flexibility, and elevating the heart rate (endurance) by doing functional movements/exercises (functional movements are ones that you would actually use in everyday life - which is critical for ASD students). One goal of this instructional method is to help students develop beneficial physical activity routines that contribute to their overall health and growth that can be carried on past their graduation of Middle School.	\$800.00

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Suzanne Plummer, Jill Porter & Kim Smith	Inclusive ClassMate	Cooke	Inclusive ClassMate includes thousands of progressive, engaging educational activities, taking students on their first steps of interaction with technology, to making independent choices. The collection will help meet a wide range of learning needs within the classroom, ranging from the earliest stages of interaction and those with visual difficulties through to those learners wanting to develop early curriculum skills. Simple touch or switch settings are built into all activities enabling access for all early learners and those with physical difficulties.	\$769.00
Kayla Linton & Nicole Bolt	Brain Building - Keva Planks	Winchester	By introducing keva planks into the classroom, student learning will be enhanced with hands-on, creative thinking, brain building activities. From a visual representation, students create a 3D image using building blocks. Physically manipulating the blocks provides a foundation for understanding quantities, equality and geometry, and can be utilized by students of all levels and learning backgrounds.	\$748.45
Dan Solomon	Giving Non-verbal Students A Voice	Cooke	Giving non-verbal students a voice through the use of voice output devices helps develop confidence and sense of ownership in activities and lessons. This is done by recording voices on voice output devices that can be activated by touch. Using this tool will enable our non-verbal students to ask questions, make comments, and practice back-and-fourth interactions, and can lead to higher interest in participating and learning.	\$421.70
Chad Dicken	Flying Turtle Scooters for Thornton Creek ASD Physical Education	Thornton Creek	Students with autistic spectrum disorder often struggle to master simple movement tasks, but benefit greatly when motor skills are added to their daily routines. These students benefit from larger movement patterns that provide opportunities for tactile learning and movements that require use of both sides of the body. Students using these flying turtle scooters can experience improved fitness, posture, core strength, motor function, and socialization, as well as increased attention span.	\$299.97

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Tricia Behm & Cathy Galloway	Sensory Accessories	Moraine	The Sensory Accessories project will help students calm their sensory system and prepare them for academic work, and help them interact with others. The use of sensory manipulatives in the classroom will enhance student learning and help some students who need assistance in learning to use their senses. Sensory manipulatives can also help with development of fine motor, large motor, and language skills.	\$253.91
Sue Segerstrom & Maria Key	Spanish for Elementary Spanish Speakers	Ridgewood	Spanish for Spanish Speakers will help heritage or near native Spanish speaking students increase their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in the Spanish language acquisition, at an age and proficiency-appropriate level. This program will give heritage or near-native speakers an opportunity to speak and practice the Spanish language with other Spanish speaking students, who are at a level beyond that of the regular Spanish language classroom, but yet lack specific skills of a native speaker.	\$240.10
Heidi Main	Learning with a Light Box	Cooke	This Ultra Slim LED Activity Table provides a bright, evenly lit surface for light and color exploration by our students with vision difficulties and severe multiple impairments. Its lightweight feature makes it portable, allowing for use during whole/small group lessons to illuminate lesson objects/materials that teachers want students to focus on. Students can also use the LED Activity Table independently to explore shapes, color, and light. It is useful for students with low vision to better see instructional material.	\$153.67

TOTAL AWARDED

\$29,571.18