TEAM OF TEACHERS FROM ABERDEEN WINS QWEST GRANT

Local News

Posted by: David Haviland

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ABERDEEN, Wash. - A team of teachers from Stevens Elementary School in Aberdeen learned Tuesday, March 2, that they have won $10,000 from the Qwest Foundation Teachers and Technology Grant Program.

The team from Stevens School includes fourth-grade teachers Martha Lennier and Sara Schultz, fifth-grade teacher Sheryl Woodruff and sixth-grade teacher Dana Persson-Zora.

Since 2007, the Qwest Foundation has funded nine awards each year, each worth $10,000, to effective teachers in Washington state who propose unique projects that integrate real-world technologies.

Like the other winners in the state, the project at Stevens School incorporates several subjects, including career and technical education, science, math, reading, writing and social studies.

“I am very excited for the four teachers who have been awarded the Qwest technology grant,” Kathleen Werner, the principal at Stevens School, said. “I am most excited for the students who will be working on a project that brings relevance to their learning! The project will allow the students to use technology to engage in active learning to solve real-world problems. Congratulations to our teachers.”
The students will be asked to help answer the question, “Where would be a good place to build a new school?” Each grade level will tackle a different aspect of the question, from conducting site surveys, drawing maps and estimating square footage needs to gathering data and tackling environmental impact and mitigation issues.

The teachers envision a learning experience for students that draws from outside experts and uses the tools of various professions to solve problems. “Effective technology usage must engage our students in authentic, active learning, be cross-curricular, give students opportunities to share work and have it evaluated by others,” the teachers wrote in their application.

The winning project was selected by representatives from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Governor’s Office, Qwest Foundation, Microsoft and several Washington educators.

SEATTLE

— The Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction today announced the nine winners of this year’s Qwest Teachers and Technology grants. st-century learning environments that use real-world technologies to solve real-world problems.

Grant award projects

The nine schools that were awarded 2009 Qwest Foundation Teaching and Technology Grants:

ESD 101:
Cheney Middle School (Cheney School District)
ESD 105:
Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School (Yakima)
ESD 112:
Kelso High School (Kelso)
ESD 113:
Pioneer Primary School (Pioneer)
ESD 113:
Stevens Elementary School (Aberdeen)
ESD 121:
Eckstein Middle School (Seattle)
ESD 121:
Garfield High School (Seattle)
ESD 189:
Kulshan Middle School (Bellingham)
ESD 181:
Moses Lake High School (Moses Lake)
For a complete list of teachers and awarded projects, click here.

The winning projects were evaluated and selected by representatives from OSPI, the Governor’s Office, Qwest Foundation, Microsoft and several Washington educators.
For more information about the Qwest Teachers & Technology grant program, contact Julia Fallon, 360-725-6246 (***julia.fallonl@k12.wa.us*), *or Nathan Olson, 360-725-6015. (nathan.olson@k12.wa.us*).**

About OSPI

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is the primary agency charged with overseeing K-12 education in Washington state. Led by State School Superintendent Randy Dorn, OSPI works with the state’s 295 school districts and nine educational service districts to administer basic education programs and implement education reform on behalf of more than one million public school students.
OSPI does not discriminate and provides equal access to its programs and services for all persons without regard to race, color, gender, religion, creed, marital status, national origin, sexual preference/orientation, age, veteran’s status or the presence of any physical, sensory or mental disability.

For more information, visit the OSPI Web site at http://www.k12.wa.us.

About Qwest Foundation

The Qwest Foundation’s core principle is that investing in education provides lasting value for the future. The Qwest Foundation awards grants to community-based programs that generate high-impact and measurable results, focusing on pre-K through 12 education
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The grants fund classroom projects ranging from designing a school building to educating the community on the ecosystems at risk in the Hood Canal to exhibiting a museum-quality photo gallery of Seattle’s Central District.
Qwest Foundation grants help teachers create 21
"Every year it becomes more critical that we lead our students to global literacy, turn them into expert problem-solvers and make sure they are fluent in technology," said State Superintendent Randy Dorn. "These are the basic skills students will need in the future. Our partnership with the Qwest Foundation supports the development of these skills. It also addresses different learning styles and raises the bar on student achievement."
Each of the nine winning teachers or teacher teams will receive $10,000 for learning projects that integrate digital technologies. Five of the projects are math- and science-based, four center around learning goals in reading and writing and three projects are designed with a focus on social studies. All the projects integrate Web 2.0 technologies and the state’s standards for educational technology.
"This grant program been an excellent opportunity for Qwest to make a positive difference in the lives of Washington students and to help teachers," said Qwest Washington President Kirk Nelson. "We have been honored to help now dozens of teachers in our state with these creative classroom projects."
Since 2007, Qwest Foundation support has made it possible to award grants to 60 Washington state educators (individual teachers and teacher teams) who use digital technologies to improve their instructional practice, and engage and motivate their young learners. Informally, Qwest Foundation awardees participate in a professional learning community through which they network, share expertise and inspire each other’s creative development as teachers.