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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A+ Education Foundation Awards over \$72,000 in Grants to Fund Innovative Programs for Students

Austin, TX – A+ Education Foundation (Foundation), a philanthropic arm of A+ Federal Credit Union announced the Foundation's 2015 Educator Grant Program recipients. This year the Foundation awarded over \$72,000 in grants to 76 educators in Central Texas. For the past 10 years, the Foundation has awarded over \$600,000 to 653 educators who inspire student learning through creative and innovative programs.

“Since its inception 10 years ago, the Foundation has provided grants to educators for programs that enhance their teaching and the students' learning experiences,” said Kerry A. S. Parker, Foundation President. “Although it's remarkable to see how technology has influenced recent submissions, the goal of the educators has remained the same — to encourage student learning through hands-on, interactive experiences. The Foundation is honored to support their programs.”

This year's winning submissions included teaching students to code robots, using stability balls to improve students' focus and productivity, providing deaf students therapeutic activities to improve communication and self-confidence, and introducing students to organic gardening methods.

Jennifer Atkinson of Austin ISD's Baranoff Elementary received the Foundation's *10th Anniversary Grant* for her submission to help struggling readers and students identified with dyslexia achieve reading success through a “Reader's Theater” and Jessica Cheyney of Round Rock ISD's Callison Elementary received the *Kate Loftis Memorial Education Grant* for her submission entitled “Extra, Extra, READ All About It.”

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Austin ISD	
Sara Dawson	Baldwin ES
Jennifer Atkinson*	Baranoff ES
Rose Miller	Barrington ES
Michelle Duran	Casey ES
Lisa Wenske	Clayton ES
Sheryl Southwell	Hill ES
Cindy Bryan-Sanders	Mathews ES
Claudia Neal	Mathews ES
Diana McMillan	Mathews ES
Thelma Herrera	Mathews ES
Alexandra Tarpley	Oak Hill ES
Aniram Marin	Oak Hill ES
Emily Kittredge	Oak Hill ES
Giovanna Rolls	Oak Hill ES
JoLynn Rettig	Oak Hill ES
Melissa Bentley	Oak Hill ES
Monica Garcia	Oak Hill ES
Rachel Grabel	Oak Hill ES
Stacey Underwood	Oak Hill ES
Tony Torres	Oak Hill ES
Jiselle Jones	Odom ES
Tracey Speed	Patton ES
Melanie Mendiola	Pecan Springs ES
Dawn Kennedy	Pleasant Hill ES
Courtney Power-Freeman	Sunset Valley ES
Faith Boyer	Sunset Valley ES
Katherine Riordan	Sunset Valley ES
Sharon Chavez-Cantu	Sunset Valley ES
Jaime Brynie	Kealing MS
Justin Gardner	Kealing MS
Katherine Stubbs	Kealing MS
Ronny Risinger	LASA HS
Nickolas Lebo	Reagan Early College HS
Stewart Hollub	Reagan Early College HS

Bastrop ISD	
Deanna Bodine	Emile ES
Mark Collins	Cedar Creek MS
Monica Roffol	Bastrop HS

Georgetown ISD	
Debra Austrum	McCoy ES
Amy Heil	Mitchell ES
Kristy Davies	Village ES

Hays CISD	
Angela Pena	Hemphill ES
Martha Mendez-Trelles	Hemphill ES
Nancy Martinez	Hemphill ES
Perla Arellano	Hemphill ES
Sofia Galeana	Hemphill ES
Tricia Martinez	Hemphill ES
Melanie Vasquez	Negley ES

Hutto ISD	
Angela Hartman	Hutto HS

Leander ISD	
Lisa Thorne	Faubion ES
Jennifer Hamrick	Special Education

Pflugerville ISD	
Marsha Munoz	Highland Park ES

Round Rock ISD	
Jennifer VanCuran	Callison ES
Jenny Weaver	Callison ES
Jessica Cheyney**	Callison ES
Kristie Campo	Callison ES
Travis Grimme	Callison ES
Barbara Anderson	Fern Bluff ES
Donna Wise	Herrington ES
Holly Allen	Herrington ES
Cheryl Fox	Laurel Mountain ES
Trevor Hance	Laurel Mountain ES
Christine Anderson	Voigt ES
Diane Hance	Grisham MS
Kathy Jensen	Grisham MS

San Marcos CISD	
Maria Thompson	6 ES's
Pam Thomas	Bowie ES
Priscilla Delgado	Bowie ES
Sara Julitz	Bowie ES
Suzanne Braden	DeZavala ES
Clara Adams	Mendez ES
Joanna Breazeale	Travis ES
Margaret Battle-Ledford	Travis ES
Amado Chapa III	Miller MS
Chris Cooper	San Marcos HS
Jacquelynn Norman	San Marcos HS

Wayside Schools	
Kathryn Macaulay	REAL Learning Academy

* A+ Education Foundation 10th Year Anniversary Grant recipient

**The Kate Loftis Memorial Education Grant recipient

The Foundation offers an Honorary Grant Program in which grants are awarded in a name designated by contributors in the amount of \$1,000. *The Kate Loftis Memorial Education Grant* is awarded annually on behalf of Dennis and Cindy Loftis. Kate Loftis, who was born January 31, 1900, was a life-long teacher who obtained her teaching certificate from what is now Texas State University. At age 20, she began teaching in schools around Travis County until her retirement in 1945. She then began teaching veterans returning from World War II and continued teaching until her mid-90s, travelling from her care facility to a local elementary school to teach reading. If you are interested in designating a grant for someone, please visit aplusfcu.org/grants to learn more.

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A+ Education Foundation – A+ Education Foundation was established and developed by A+ Federal Credit Union in 2005 to provide grants to full-time Pre-K - Grade 12 educators in reaching their educational goals. Since its inception, the Foundation has given \$600,733.27 in grants. These grants help fund programs and training for educators in the communities served by A+ Federal Credit Union. To find out more information, including how to support teachers in your area, visit aplusfcu.org/grants.

A+ Federal Credit Union - With 19 Austin area locations, more than \$1 billion in assets, and over 120,000 members that include not only educators, students, and their families, but other members of the community as well, A+FCU has grown to become one of the largest credit unions in Austin. To find out more, visit the website at aplusfcu.org.