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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A+ Education Foundation Awards Over \$70,000 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 2016 Educator Grant Program recipients. This year the Foundation awarded over \$70,000 in grants to 77 educators in Central Texas. For the past 11 years, the Foundation has awarded over \$671K to 730 educators who inspire student learning through creative and innovative programs.

"Since inception, 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 include: promoting culture & health through dance, building a Monarch Waystation to create an outdoor learning space, expanding libraries, purchasing digital microscopes, unconventional seating options to increase student focus, and using Google Cardboard Virtual Reality viewers to travel the world.

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Austin ISD	
Recipient	School
Barbara Freeman	Andrews ES
Marcela Sanz Blanco	Becker ES
Suzanna Ammenheuser	Casis ES
Wayne Gable	Cowan ES
Alicia Hill	Doss ES
Katherine Laxton	Hill ES
Maitri Shah	Hill ES
Stephanie LeBlanc	Kocurek ES
Bethany Gonzales	Lee ES
Thelma Herrera	Mathews ES
Diana McMillan	Mathews ES
Claudia Neal	Mathews ES
Kirstie Osten	Mathews ES
Eric Roth	Nan Clayton ES
Lissa Bentley	Oak Hill ES
Monica Garcia	Oak Hill ES
Rachel Grabel	Oak Hill ES
Giovanna Rolls	Oak Hill ES
Alexandra Tarpley	Oak Hill ES
Tiffany De La Rosa	Oak Hill ES
Yolanda Faulkner	Oak Hill ES
Kathi Peterka	Oak Hill ES
Alma Cabrera	Oak Hill ES
Jackie Grotrian	Oak Hill ES
Lori Komassa	Oak Hill ES
Alejandra Mireles	Ortega ES
Melanie Mendiola	Pecan Springs ES
Zoila Cardenas	Pecan Springs ES
David Segura	Sunset Valley ES
Sarah Wakefield	Travis Heights ES
Maureen Freeman	Travis Heights ES
Lisa Mielke	Gorzycki MS
Carolie Willoughby	O. Henry MS
Nathan Rosenberg	Small MS
Bastrop ISD	
Lacy Bryant	Mina ES
Dripping Springs ISD	
Sheri Crossett	Rooster Springs ES
Georgetown ISD	
Amy Heil	Mitchell ES
Janae Pierce	McCoy ES
Hutto ISD	
Angela Hartman	Farley MS
Tessa Daughtrey	Norman ES

Leander ISD	
Jamie Fry	Camacho ES
Belinda Wells	Camacho ES
Rebecca Koch	Camacho ES
Debbie Hagood	Laura Welch Bush ES
Deanna Perkins	Ronald Reagan ES
Nancy Santucci	Rutledge ES
Diana D'Emeraude	Winkley ES
Manor ISD	
Julia Reese	Manor HS
Pflugerville ISD	
Amber Ham	Connally HS
Round Rock ISD	
Danielle Whispell	Callison ES
Jessica Cheyney	Double File Trail ES
Barbara Anders	Fern Bluff ES
Lalitha Shetty	Forest North ES
Jenny Weaver	Great Oaks ES
Donna Wise	Herrington ES
Kristie Campo	Johnson ES
Trevor Hance	Laurel Mountain ES
Cheryl Fox	Laurel Mountain ES
Mary Beth O'Connell	Pond Springs ES
Vickie Hicks	Cedar Valley MS
Shannon Sieber	Deerpark MS
Diane Hance	Grisham MS
Pamala Bethke	Stony Point HS
San Marcos CISD	
Priscilla Delgado	Bowie ES
Diana Garcia	De Zavala ES
Cherise Hanf	Hernandez ES
Moon Hernandez	Mendez ES
Joanna Breazeale	Travis ES
Maria Thompson	Six Elementary Schools
Isabel Pecina	Goodnight MS
Greer Del Rio	Miller MS
Karen Cunningham	San Marcos HS
Amy Hall	San Marcos HS
Russell Krummell	San Marcos HS
Seguin ISD	
Samuel Parrott	AJ Briesemeister MS
Private/Charter Schools	
Cedars International Academy	
Amber Ellis	
Athlos Leadership Academy	
Elizabeth Medrano	

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For the 2016 Grant Program the Foundation raised an additional \$3,000 to fund grants by partnering with I Live Here, I Give Here's *Amplify Austin* campaign. The Foundation also continues to offer an Honorary Grant Program in which grants are awarded, in a name designated by contributors, in the amount of \$1,000. This year's recipient of *The Kate Loftis Memorial Education Grant*, awarded on behalf of Dennis and Cindy Loftis, is Nancy Santucci from Rutledge Elementary School in Leander ISD. Her grant program is entitled *Lifting Early Literacy Expectations and Support*. 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.

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 \$672,730 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 20 Austin area locations, more than \$1 billion in assets, and over 129,000 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.