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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A+ Education Foundation Awards \$85,000 in Grants to 92 Area Educators

Austin, TX – The A+ Education Foundation, a philanthropic arm of A+ Federal Credit Union (A+FCU), continues its commitment to education by awarding over \$85,000 in grants to 92 Central Texas educators.

Started in 2005, the A+ Education Foundation has awarded 822 educators with over \$757,000 in grants to fund innovative, inspiring, and engaging programs for their schools.

“Since its inception, the A+ Education Foundation has provided grants to educators for programs that enhance their teaching and the students’ learning experiences,” said Kerry A.S. Parker, A+ Education Foundation President. “We continue to be impressed by the submissions and are honored to support educators who encourage student learning with hands-on, interactive programs.”

This year’s winning submissions include:

- Creating an innovation lab with robotics, technology, programming, and engineering for elementary school students
- Developing a Makerspace – a collaborative space for students to enrich learning with tools and equipment for school projects
- Implementing a coding program for first graders
- Building green spaces throughout the school to help students improve attention and working memory
- Providing 3-D Virtual Reality Devices for students to take virtual field trips
- Installing a Little Free Library on campus for students and community members to use
- Providing parent coaching to parents of children with autism
- Students refurbishing retired/donated computers to give to students who do not have access to computer at home

Kate Loftis Memorial Education Grant Winner

The 2017 recipient of the *Kate Loftis Memorial Education Grant*, awarded on behalf of Dennis and Cindy Loftis, is Lisa Wenske from Clayton Elementary School in Austin Independent School District (AISD) for her program titled *Supporting First Grade Readers and Technology Users*.

Kate Loftis, born January 31, 1900, was a life-long teacher who obtained her teaching certificate from what is now Texas State University. At age 20, Loftis 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, traveling from her care facility to a local elementary school to teach reading.



2017 Grant Recipients – By School District

Austin ISD	
Recipient	School
Kathy Palomo	Allan ES
Barbara Freeman	Andrews ES
Pamela Calabrese	Baranoff ES
Alan Stevens	Boone ES
Suzanna Ammenheuser	Casis ES
Lisa Wenske	Clayton ES
Eric Roth	Clayton ES
Kiel Kietlinski	Crockett HS
Cindy St. John	Fulmore MS
Stacey Smith	Govalle ES
Maitri Shah	Hill ES
Thelma Herrera	Mathews ES
Claudia Neal	Mathews ES
Diana McMillan	Mathews ES
Stacey Underwood	Oak Hill ES
Alexandra Tarpley	Oak Hill ES
Yolanda Faulkner	Oak Hill ES
Jackie Grotrian	Oak Hill ES
Monica Garcia	Oak Hill ES
Christine Barre	Oak Hill ES
Kerry Osio	Oak Hill ES
Tiffany De La Rosa	Oak Hill ES
Maureen Hamburger-Bishop	Oak Hill ES
Renae Hernandez	Oak Hill ES
Lori Komassa	Oak Hill ES
Alma Cabrera	Oak Hill ES
Giovanna Rolls	Oak Hill ES
Kathi Peterka	Oak Hill ES
Rachel Pacheco	Ortega ES
Alejandra Mireles	Ortega ES
Maureen Freeman	Travis Heights ES
Stacey Shapiro	Zilker ES
Bastrop ISD	
Recipient	School
Heather Huffman	Bluebonnet ES
Deanna Bodine	Emile ES
Celia Zavala	Lost Pines ES
Sara Franco	Mina ES

Dripping Springs ISD	
Recipient	School
Abbey Smart	Sycamore Springs ES
Georgetown ISD	
Recipient	School
Susan Carter	Pickett ES
Lynette Haas	Frost ES
Heather Castro	Mitchell ES
Harmony Public Schools	
Recipient	School
Carla Ransom	Harmony Science Academy
Hays CISD	
Recipient	School
Debra Flynn	Lehman HS
Staci Perkins	Science Hall ES
Melissa Ivicic	Tobias ES
Hutto ISD	
Recipient	School
Kelly Hong	Cottonwood Creek ES
Angela Hartman	Hutto MS
Sharon Case	Ray ES
Leander ISD	
Recipient	School
Roxanna Soto	Bagdad ES
Stephanie Honeycutt	Block House Creek ES
Linda Hagen	Cedar Park MS
Deeana Rosiles	Rutledge ES
Rebecca Rainey	Steiner Ranch ES
Jacquetta Thayer	Glenn HS
Linda Zarsky	Winkley ES
Lexington ISD	
Recipient	School
Dana Goerner	Lexington HS
Lockhart ISD	
Recipient	School
Misty Hinckley	Clear Fork ES
Manor ISD	
Recipient	School
Valerie Barnes	Oak Meadows ES
Ronald Cintron	Oak Meadows ES



Pflugerville ISD	
Recipient	School
Jean Chambers	Hendrickson HS
David Mallon	Hendrickson HS
Marsha Munoz	Highland Park ES
Round Rock ISD	
Recipient	School
Julianne Bamford	Canyon Creek ES
Jessica Cheyney	Double File Trail ES
Ginna Hill	Fern Bluff ES
Pam Arnold	Forest Creek ES
Amie Schultze	Forest Creek ES
Sheila Garcia	Forest Creek ES
Deena Wolff	Great Oaks ES
Jenny Weaver	Great Oaks ES
Diane Hance	Grisham MS
Marilyn Petkovsek	Grisham MS
Sheryl Rank	Grisham MS
Kristie Campo	Johnson ES
Tiffany Pelzel	Johnson ES
Marci Shrull	Laurel Mountain ES
Trish Prentice	Laurel Mountain ES
Lisa Ferriola	Laurel Mountain ES
Shannon Sieber	Pearson Ranch MS
Emily Thurman	Purple Sage ES
Ellen Lukasik	Success HS

San Marcos CISD	
Recipient	School
Priscilla Delgado	Bowie ES
Carrie Hutchins	Bowie ES & Goodnight MS
Diana Garcia	De Zavala ES
Oli Ponce	De Zavala ES
Tiffany Gentry	Goodnight MS
Caitlin Ripley	Goodnight MS
Kim Morgan-Benson	Hernandez ES
Jennifer Walston	Mendez ES
Yvonne Rodriguez	Mendez ES
Russell Krummell	San Marcos HS
Seguin ISD	
Recipient	School
Samuel Parrott	AJ Briesemeister MS
Smithville ISD	
Recipient	School
Michael Caudill	Brown Primary School

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A+ Education Foundation was established and developed by A+ Federal Credit Union in 2005 to provide grants to full-time pre-K through 12th grade educators to assist in reaching their educational goals. These grants help fund programs and training for educators in the communities served by A+FCU. To find out more information, including how to support Central Texas educators, visit aplusfcu.org/grants.

A+ Federal Credit Union was founded in 1949 by 50 Austin, Texas teachers. Over 65 years later, A+FCU has 133,000 members that include not only educators, students, and their families, but other members of the community as well, over \$1.3 billion in assets and 21 branches. A+FCU continues to have close relationships with local schools and provides free financial education curricula for educators, engaging financial education presentations for students, real-life money management simulations for youth, high school branch locations and unique financial products designed for teachers. Learn more at aplusfcu.org.