

**For Immediate Release**

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**Ripon Education Foundation Funds Two Additional Innovative Teaching/Learning Grants**

**Ripon, WI** – The Ripon Education Foundation has announced two additional recipients of its 2013-2014 Innovative Teaching/Learning Grants totaling close to \$3,000. With the help of the Jan Minor Memorial funds, the Ripon Education Foundation was able to provide the additional Innovative Teaching/Learning Grants. Since 2002, the Foundation has awarded forty-seven grants to support innovative teaching and learning activities. The grants are funded by tax-deductible donations to the Education Foundation. Generous donations enabled the foundation to award two additional grants this spring.

Receiving the two additional Innovative Teaching/Learning Grants were Jeanne Hall, 6th grade teacher at Ripon Middle School and Deb Norton, 5th grade teacher at Murray Park Elementary.

Jeanne Hall requested \$1,600 for a 6th grade project called "Connect Me - Globally and Culturally." The purpose of the grant was to obtain teaching materials and technology to help students develop cultural and global awareness, as well as to further deepen their geo-literacy skills. Jeanne Hall shared, "It is vital that our young people have the ability to use geographic understanding and geographic reasoning to make sound decisions. It is important for the students to become global thinkers and maintain a respect for the cultures, traditions, and celebrations that are unlike their own." The technology and materials purchased with this grant funding will be used by additional students over the next few years.

Deb Norton submitted a proposal to support a pilot project of Classroom Redesign of Student Learning Spaces. This project was funded for \$1,350. The goal according to Deb Norton was to "redesign the 5th grade classroom learning space to inspire and engage learning for all students

of every ability." The number one change students wanted was new student desks that provide more surface area, aid in movement and flexibility, and allow for innovative seating arrangements to meet the needs of various learning experiences. This award provides the funds to purchase 27 desks chosen by students with teacher and consultant guidance. The desks will be able to be used by students in subsequent years.

The Education Foundation is an independent 50(c) (3) non-profit corporation founded in 1997 whose mission is to expand educational opportunities for Ripon K-12 students. Since its founding, the Foundation has awarded over \$145,000 in the form of college scholarships, innovative teaching grants, and support for programs such as the Art Presenter program, the High Mileage Vehicle competition, the RHS Reunion Coordinator, and the Jennie Long Tutoring program.

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