

NEWS



QWEST FOUNDATION, IOWA SCHOOL BOARDS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE 2010 TEACHERS AND TECHNOLOGY GRANT WINNERS

DES MOINES, Iowa, May 18, 2010 – The Qwest Foundation and the Iowa School Boards Foundation are pleased to announce they have selected the winners of the 2010 Qwest Teachers and Technology grant program. A blue ribbon panel evaluated over 150 proposals from all across Iowa and chose teachers from five districts to share in approximately \$50,000 in grants.

"Technology is transforming classrooms and how students learn today," said Max Phillips, Iowa Qwest president. "I'm proud to recognize the hard work of Iowa teachers and help them create innovative learning environments for our students."

The Qwest Teachers and Technology grant program is in its fourth year of recognizing and rewarding public school teachers who use innovative technology in the classroom to improve the educational experience for students.

"School leaders understand that innovation and rigor in the classroom are paramount to improving student achievement in the 21st century," said Mary Delagardelle, executive director of the Iowa School Boards Foundation, which is the research arm of the Iowa Association of School Boards. "The Qwest grant recognizes teachers who are taking steps to incorporate technology into their content and instruction, to enrich lessons and engage students."

2010 Qwest Teachers and Technology Grant Winners:

Boone Community School District, Boone Middle School: \$7,170

Bugging Yourself to Be Fit

Teacher Scott Kelley will introduce his students to new sensors called bodybugs that allow them to collect data with four different sensors: accelerometer, heat flux, galvanic skin response and skin temperature. The goal is to challenge students to use critical thinking skills to analyze their different lifestyles, activities and workout intensities to learn what works best for their individual bodies.

Fort Dodge Community School District, Fort Dodge Senior High School: \$8,500

There's a Class for That!

The goal for this project is to give high school students the technology, programming and employability skills to prepare for a career in computer programming, and start by creating their own applications for sale on Apple's iTunes store. Students will use iMacs and software kits to collaborate, learn and create new tools.

Independence Community School District: \$8,555

PK4 Smart Board Project

Using Smart Board technology, preschool students will be encouraged to embrace creativity and innovation as they work on literacy and mathematics concepts. The goals of this project are to enhance student engagement and collaboration, to reach diverse learners, increase higher order thinking skills within a rigorous curriculum and extend teacher use and integration of digital technology.

Northeast Community School District: \$10,000

Project Harmony

Sixth-graders will kick off a video conferencing project that will extend the boundaries of the classroom and connect them with experts and other learners around the globe. Students will use a netbook lab and Polycom system to interface and present projects to others, and open new dialogues. The curriculum will encourage projects such as comparing national and international human rights policies and documents to determine their impact on different nations.

Cedar Falls Community School District, Peet Junior High: \$11,000

Science Q.U.E.S.T.: A Quest for Understanding through Evaluating and Synthesizing with Technology

The goal of this project is to increase student achievement and interest in science for students in 7th through 9th grades. Students will increase their participation in labs and will be able to work more intricately with variables in experiments, using new sensors, probes and equipment. Experiments will include measuring temperature, mass, heart rate, force and motion, and more.

Last year's grant winners have had much success this year. Feel free to follow up with them:

- Monticello High School: *Positioning Yourself in your Environment*
- Des Moines' Perkins Academy: *Engineering: Hands-On Math and Physics*
- Fort Madison's Richardson Elementary: *Mobile Science Laptop Lab*
- Washington High School: *Operation Graphing Calculators, and Project to Purchase Computer Interface Technology for Use in Science and Math Classes*
- Winterset High School: *Utilizing Technology to Enrich the Study of Physics & Math*

About the Qwest Foundation

The Qwest Foundation's core principle is that investing in people and communities provides lasting value for the future. The Qwest Foundation awards grants to community-based programs that generate high-impact and measurable results, focusing on preK-12 education.

About the Iowa School Boards Foundation

ISBF is the research arm of the Iowa Association of School Boards and its mission is to foster excellence and equity in public education by providing objective, reliable information and research to school boards and other education policy makers.

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