



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



## GCCISD Education Foundation surprises teachers with grants

Harlem Elementary School teacher Stephanie Juarez shed a few tears of joy Friday morning when she was literally surprised she had received a \$945 creativity grant for a hand-held computer-learning project she wants to do during the 2010-11 school year.

The Surprise Patrol from the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation, a nonprofit that funds educational opportunities in the district, was on the prowl Friday morning, awarding grants to five teachers at four different schools.

Of course, the patrol did not simply walk in — instead Education Foundation members along with Goose Creek CISD school board members and administrators — armed with noise makers, kazoos, clappers, air horns, and accompanied by band members and cheerleaders from each of the three high schools — marched up and down the halls boisterously before arriving at Mrs. Juarez's classroom.

The students in her class jumped up and clapped and cheered.

"I was very surprised this morning when I heard the band coming down the hall," Juarez said. "I have to say my students were more excited at first about hearing the band and seeing the cheerleaders. Once they saw the parade of people coming into the cafeteria and heard that I was getting money to buy Teacher mates for them, they were even more excited! I am very grateful to be chosen as a grant winner."

Mrs. Juarez's grant is for Teacher-Mate Innovations for Learning, which is a hand-held computer that looks like a typical gaming device. However, this gaming device is specifically designed to facilitate learning. The Teacher-Mate has games for math and reading that are curriculum based. The teacher is able to set the games that she wants the students to play and is able to monitor the student's progress. The system ensures that the games complete the week's lesson.

"Thank you to the Goose Creek CISD Educational Foundation for making the purchase of nine Teacher mate systems possible, Mrs. Juarez said. "These systems will benefit not only my class, but also many other students on our campus. I am excited to see the success in student learning that these systems will help bring about. The students will be able to do something they enjoy, be exposed to technology, and learn all at the same time. Thank you again to the foundation. Your grant will make many students very happy for years to come!"

The Surprise Patrol made a second stop at Harlem, this time it was Mrs. Linda LeDay's turn for the big surprise and big check.

Mrs. LeDay was awarded \$1,000 for her "Knowing our Place and Finding our Way" teaching project that will incorporate hands-on classroom activities, school, and parent involvement utilizing environmental education. "Knowing our Place and Finding



In its inaugural year, the foundation raised more than \$16,000 for Goose Creek CISD teacher grants. In order for teachers to receive money, they had to submit a grant proposal to the foundation.

The education foundation's grants committee, led by vice president of programs Art Ochoa, then reviewed them and chose the recipients.

The foundation's goal for next year is to raise \$100,000, \$75,000 of which will be given to teachers to enhance education across the school district.

After raising a celebratory commotion at Harlem Elementary School, the Surprise Patrol reboarded the school bus and headed off to Highlands Elementary School, Gentry Junior School, and Goose Creek Memorial High School to award three more grants.

But the Surprise Patrol's work is not done.

The Surprise Patrol will again board the bus on Tuesday morning to award 11 more grants at seven schools. By the end of the day on Tuesday, the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation Surprise Patrol will have doled out more than \$16,000 in grants to teachers.

Established in 2009, the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation aims to enhance community support and to expand resources that enrich teaching, inspire learning, and maximize opportunities for all students in the Goose Creek school system.

"This is so great for us," said Education Foundation president Roger Elswick. "We wanted to do this up in a very big way and make it a fun event for the teachers and the kids. None of these teachers knew we were coming, or that they were chosen for the money. It was a big surprise."

Surprised and overwhelmed is how Gentry Junior School teacher Toni Rosenbaum described the pomp and circumstance surrounding the awarding of her Education Foundation grant.

"Finally, without this grant money, the video communication channel would not be possible for our students at Gentry Junior School," she said.

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation received 43 applications in March for the grants this year. The next application for innovative teaching grants will open in the fall.

### The other grant winners are:

- Bonnie Hogue, Highlands Elementary School, for "The Science of Survival (\$1,200)." Using the theme of survival, Hogue's students will explore energy transformations. Students will make their own solar stills to transfer salt water into fresh water using solar energy. Students will also be expected to create a meal using a solar oven and generate light by assembling a flashlight from parts. Students who successfully complete assigned task will be deemed a "survivor" of science camp. "My students and I were very pleased and really surprised that we received the education foundation grant. The way in which the grant was presented was awesome," said Mrs. Hogue. "It was one of the best highlights of my teaching career." "My students said, 'This was a real red-letter day.' Thanks again to GCCISD and the education foundation for supporting students and their teachers."
- Mary Bethel, Goose Creek Memorial High School, for "Collaborative Learning with Audio Books (\$933.14)." Collaborative Learning incorporates audio books that allow students to follow along with the novel to improve reading fluency and comprehension. Students are also able to focus on plot analysis that is the foundation for critical higher-level analysis of the literary work. Audio books also benefit students with special needs. Students with attention deficit hyperactive disorders (ADHD) are able to stay focused and on task while reading the text along with the audio book. Audio books also greatly benefit English Language Learner's (ELLs)

our Way" will be a nine-month project that will enhance students' learning about the impact they have on their environment and their ethical responsibility toward it. All science lessons and activities are specifically aligned with fourth TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) and the district-based curriculum.

"I am thrilled about the grant," said Mrs. LeDay. "The funds will be utilized to enhance my students' role as future leaders that will care about our environment. I am grateful to Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation. The foundation made this dream possible."

"This is a fun day for us," Goose Creek CISD Superintendent Dr. Toby York said. "We are so thankful to the foundation for these gifts to our teachers. This will enable them to do things that they normally wouldn't get to do."

"When I heard the drums playing, I knew something exciting was happening, but I had no clue it was in response to the grant I wrote," she said. "The students at Gentry were so excited and loved the really large check!"

Mrs. Rosenbaum was awarded a \$959.98 grant for "Video Communication Channel" which is aimed at teaching students how to use the Internet to their advantage, enhance the educational process, and create lifelong learners who are ready to meet this technological world.

"It means so much to know the foundation recognizes how important technology is to students and how important it is for educators to capitalize on the social media craze," Mrs. Rosenbaum said.

"With our video communication capabilities, we hope to also capture students' academic interest during the time they currently spend on the computer and direct them to more educational activities."

and students who are reading below grade level and struggle with fluency and comprehension.

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation is a charitable organization under the Internal Revenue Service section 501(c)(3), and contributions to the organization are tax deductible.

Thirty-two volunteers serve on the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation Board of Directors and represent many areas of community, corporate, parental, and educational interests.

To find out more information about the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation or to inquire about becoming an investor, contact the GCCISD Education Foundation office at P.O. Box 8081, Baytown, Texas, 77522; by phone at 281-839-7700; or check out its website [here](#).

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