



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Urbandale Education Foundation Awards Over \$14,000 In Grants To Urbandale Educators

For the fourth consecutive grant cycle, the Urbandale Education Foundation awards the greatest number of grants to Urbandale educators as part of the Making A Difference Grant Program

URBANDALE, Iowa – October 24, 2016 – The [Urbandale Education Foundation](#) (UEF) was thrilled to have the opportunity to award over \$14,000 to Urbandale educators as part of the UEF Making A Difference Grant Program. The program is intended to provide [Urbandale Community School District](#) (UCSD) educators the opportunity to receive funds for projects and initiatives not supported within existing school budgets. On October 20, 2016, UEF Board of Directors awarded a total of twelve grants by surprising educators in their classrooms with a celebration and award ceremony. Grant recipients included: Kelsey Jacobs at Jensen Elementary, Michelle Rasmussen and Aaron Nikkel at Karen Acres Elementary, Jim Happe at Metro West Learning Academy, Lori Marlenee at Olmsted Elementary, Jane Wilson at Rolling Green Elementary, Tim Carver, Amber Ruppert and Ted Brimeyer at Urbandale High School, Laura Hanson and Brittany Nyhus at Urbandale Middle School, Janine Choudhury at Valerius Elementary and Tricia Fleagle and Dani Christensen for a grant that will support all elementary school libraries.



Urbandale Education Foundation Board members presenting a Making A Difference Grant to educators on October 20, 2016. Karen Acres Elementary First Grade Teacher Aaron Nikkel, UEF Board Member Matt Gardner, Karen Acres Elementary First Grade Teacher Michelle Rasmussen, Karen Acres Elementary Principal Lara Justmann and UEF Board Member Dan Meyer.

Going into its fourth consecutive grant cycle, the UEF increased its fundraising efforts resulting in the greatest number of grants (12) and funds (\$14,039) awarded to date. The UEF was fortunate to be selected by Endow Urbandale as a 2016 Endow Urbandale Grant recipient resulting in a \$2,000 donation to the UEF in support of educator grants. Together, the UEF and Endow Urbandale are making a positive difference in the lives of students, educators and the entire Urbandale community.

"The Making a Difference Grant Program is a great example of the impact the Urbandale Education Foundation and private funding can have for the students of Urbandale," said UEF Board President Steve Schuler. "The little extra funding can make a big difference in students' educational experience. Each year we're continually impressed by the innovative and highly engaging grant applications submitted by UCSD educators. We thank Endow Urbandale for their support of this program with their grant to Urbandale Education Foundation."



Urbandale Education Foundation Board members presenting a Making A Difference Grant to an UCSD educator on October 20, 2016. UEF Board Member Dan Meyer, Urbandale High School (UHS) Assistant Principal Dania Wilson, UHS Director of Choirs Ted Brimeyer, UEF Board Member Matt Gardner and UEF Board Member Jo Henry.

UEF Making A Difference Grants will support more hands-on learning with grants being awarded in support of students throughout all UCSD schools. Jensen Elementary and Rolling Green Elementary will receive support for English Language Learners (ELL) Family Nights; Karen Acres Elementary will foster student learning while on a Science Center Extravaganza; Metro West Learning Academy students will get to dive into biotech projects with critical new supplies; Olmsted Elementary will continue engaging third grade students with a popular Spacial Temporal (ST) Math program; Urbandale High School students will have greater access to the computer lab after school hours, partner with an award-winning composer for the development and performance of an original piece for the men's concert choir and enrich special education classroom learning with an interactive projector; Urbandale Middle School students will have the memorable experience of attending a presentation by a Holocaust survivor and attending an interactive Civil War performance; Valerius Elementary students will dive into learning with their new Makerspace and all elementary students will have the ability to manipulate, connect and push their minds in discovering STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) components through new library centers.

The UEF is in the unique position to provide support for Urbandale schools, award scholarships to Urbandale High School graduates and connect Urbandale alumni through the merger and partnership of three organizations: Urbandale Education Foundation, [Urbandale Dollars for Scholars](#) and [Urbandale Alumni Association](#). To learn more about how you can become involved and make a positive difference for Urbandale students, educators, schools and the vitality of the Urbandale community, visit: UrbandaleEducationFoundation.com and follow on Twitter [@SupportUCSD](#).

About Urbandale Education Foundation

The Urbandale Education Foundation (UEF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to enhancing the educational experience of students in the Urbandale Community School District by funding projects and initiatives not supported within existing school budgets. The UEF raises funds through grants and private donations and then invests in enhanced educational programming, innovative technology, scholarships for graduates, state-of-the-art facilities and lifelong learning opportunities. The UEF is in the unique position to provide support for Urbandale schools, award scholarships to UHS graduates and connect Urbandale alumni through the merger and partnership of three organizations: Urbandale Education Foundation, [Urbandale Dollars for Scholars](#) and [Urbandale Alumni Association](#). The UEF is dedicated to making a difference in the future of Urbandale schools, students and the vitality of the Urbandale community. To learn more, visit: UrbandaleEducationFoundation.com and follow on Twitter [@SupportUCSD](#).

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