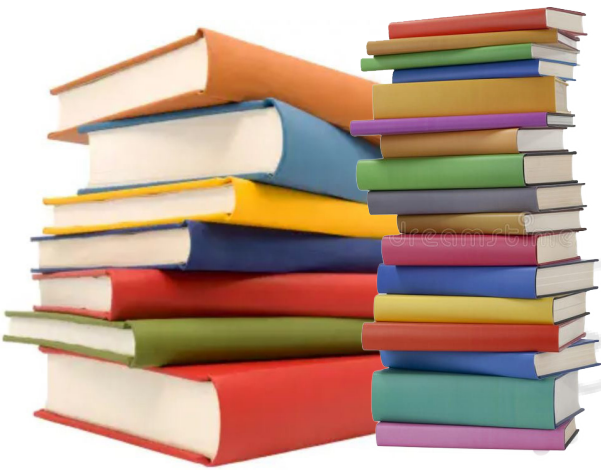




COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  
OF THE HUDSON VALLEY

PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION



Locust Grove

May 13, 2024

# **PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION SPONSORS**

Tonight, we celebrate the Community Foundations' Annual Partnership in Education program which recognizes the teaching profession and the value of education. We are grateful to the following community leaders for their sponsorship of this grant program and celebration.

LINDA B. CLARKE  
ESTATE OF KAREN A. MARKELOFF  
GEORGE A. STRBA CHARITABLE TRUST

**The Fund for Excellence in Education is supported by the following funds of the Community Foundations:**

BANK OF NEW YORK	IRENE G. GATANIS	MARINE MIDLAND BANK EDUCATION
DAVID KENNON MOODY	JOHN AND ANNE VAN BENSCHOTEN	MILDRED MCMANUS
DONALD P. AND E. LORRAINE LOVE	JOHN J. AND MARGARET M. MULVEY	POUGHKEEPSIE SAVINGS BANK
DOROTHY'S MARIONETTES AND PUPPETS	M & T BANK ENDOWMENT	ROBERT POLHILL
ELIZABETH C. DAVIS MEMORIAL	MARGARET W. MAIR EDUCATION	ROY C. KETCHAM
		STEPHEN J. FERON III MEMORIAL

# **PROGRAM**

## **WELCOME**

Laura Washington, President & CEO

## **SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS**

Cristin McPeake, VP Programs

*Stephanie D. Brown and Barbara J. Murphy Memorial Scholarship*

*Dennis J. Markle Memorial Scholarship*

## **GRANTEE PRESENTATIONS**

Elyse Joy, Orville A. Todd Middle School

Michael Stolarski, Poughkeepsie High School

## **NUVANCE HEALTH TACONIC IPA SCIENCE EDUCATION GRANT AWARDS**

## **FUND FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION GRANT AWARDS**

### **INCLUDING THE:**

*Dennis J. Markle Community Service Award*

*David Kennon Moody Award*

*Dorothy's Marionettes and Puppets Award*

## **FINAL REMARKS**

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Community Foundations annually provides more than \$400,000 in scholarships and awards to students through the generosity of our donors. Tonight, we will award students planning for a future in education.

### **STEPHANIE D. BROWN AND BARBARA M. MURPHY**

#### **MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Established by the family of Stephanie Brown and Barbara Murphy to honor their memories. Stephanie was devoted to children and was tragically killed in a car accident. Barbara was a devoted mother to Stephanie, a Board member of the Community Foundations and held many job titles including that of teacher. This scholarship is available to female Dutchess County high school graduating seniors who intend to major or minor in Education with career plans to teach in Elementary, Middle or High School.

*2024 Scholarship Recipient*

**GIULIANA CALDERON, JOHN JAY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

### **DENNIS J. MARKLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Established by the family and friends of Dennis Markle, a beloved history teacher at Poughkeepsie Middle School, the scholarship is available to a graduating student of Poughkeepsie or Millbrook High School planning to major in education or history.

*2024 Scholarship Recipient*

**OLIVIA GROUCHER, POUGHKEEPSIE HIGH SCHOOL**

# NUVANCE TACONIC IPA SCIENCE EDUCATION GRANTS

This fund was created by Taconic IPA, whose mission is to provide the premier healthcare delivery network in the greater Hudson Valley. Grants from this fund are awarded to secondary school science teachers in Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties to expand student learning opportunities in the sciences through the acquisition of classroom and laboratory equipment.

## 2024 GRANTEES

<b>Matt Helffrich</b> High Meadow School	<b>Tricia Muraco</b> Arlington High School	<b>Gwen Saylor</b> Arlington High School
<b>Elyse Joy</b> Orville A. Todd Middle School	<b>Andrew Nikola</b> Wappingers Jr. High School	<b>Michael Stolarski</b> Poughkeepsie High School
<b>Nicholas Malgieri</b> Wallkill High School	<b>Christine Pizer</b> Poughkeepsie High School	<b>Jonathan Zimmerman</b> Mount Academy

# FUND FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION GRANTS

Fund for Excellence in Education Grants are awarded to recognize the important contributions that teachers make in their community; support the personal and professional enhancement of teachers; and champion teacher initiatives to improve learning opportunities.

## 2024 GRANTEES

<b>Dr. Steven Birnbaum</b> John Jay High School	<b>Colleen Flood</b> Mill Road Primary School	<b>Christine Pizer</b> Poughkeepsie High School
<b>Laura Blaha</b> Carmel High School	<b>Jacqueline Forrest</b> Mill Road Primary School	<b>Patricia Runne</b> St. Martin de Porres School
<b>Linda Brotman</b> J. Watson Bailey Middle School	<b>Ann-Marie Howard</b> Vail Farm Elementary	<b>Michael Stolarski</b> Poughkeepsie High School
<b>Megan E. Cooke</b> John Jay Senior High School	<b>Mary Langenau</b> North Park Elementary	<b>Jessica Lynne Theiss</b> Roy C. Ketcham High School
<b>Tanya Daw</b> Meagher Preschool	<b>Nathan Lawrence-Paine</b> Poughkeepsie High School	<b>Allison Woolston</b> Carmel High School
<b>Clay Drinko</b> High Meadow School	<b>Judy McGuire</b> Arthur S. May Elementary	<b>Nelson Zayas</b> Seymour Smith IL Center
<b>Mihaela Fisher</b> Vail Farm Elementary	<b>Amy Miklos</b> The Randolph School	

### **DENNIS J. MARKLE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

Originally established by the Dutchess County United Teacher's Council, the Markle Community Service Grants are awarded to public school teachers for projects involving their students in community service. These community service awards are made in memory of Dennis Markle. Dennis was a history teacher at Poughkeepsie Middle School, Secretary of the Dutchess County United Teachers Council, and a member of the Selection Committee for their Partnership in Education Grants program for many years.

**Elyse Joy**

Orville A. Todd Middle School

### **DAVID KENNON MOODY AWARD**

Established by Dr. F. Kennon and Mrs. Mary Moody in honor of their son's graduation from law school, grants are awarded for either professional development in teaching writing or for a specific program designed to enhance the writing abilities of a teacher's students.

**Nancy Burlew**

Orchard View Alternative High School

### **DOROTHY'S MARIONETTES AND PUPPETS AWARD**

Established in 1996 by Roy Volpe, Dorothy's Award is to support projects which incorporate student and/or teacher made marionettes and puppets in the curricula and classroom.

**Christopher Williams**

Austin Road Elementary School

# GRANT SUMMARIES

## NUVANCE TACONIC IPA

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### **Matt Helffrich, High Meadow School**

#### *3D Printer for Middle School Science*

Funds will be used to purchase a 3D Printer- Original Prusa i3 MK3S+ for 7th grade Physical Science class. Students will learn about matter and energy while practicing the iterative engineering design practice where students solve problems by learning from past prototypes thus refining their solutions. Students in grade 7 who are studying physical science are the initial target for using a 3D printer. This device will enhance the study of matter and energy by allowing them to create models as they learn about volume and density. When they study buoyancy, students will create models that float and explore the relationship between mass and displacement. Students can create models of simple machines, atoms, and molecules when they study chemistry, and allow students to apply this technology to the engineering process.

### **Elyse Joy, Orville A. Todd Middle School**

#### *Don't Bother Me Mom, I'm Learning!*

This grant will purchase a game compatible desktop, monitor, and game license. Years ago, Elyse read a book titled Don't Bother Me Mom, I'm Learning when Smartboards and Chromebooks first arrived in their schools. The types of jobs that will be available for students when they graduate are jobs they can't even conceive of yet. A few years ago, the thought of spending or asking for money for video games was unthinkable. Today students engage in learning complex problem solving, physics, collaboration, and risk taking, while "playing" video games. Students who join their eSports team have chances for college scholarships and are developing the skills they need to be successful in a competitive digital job market. There are many students who want to join eSports teams, but don't have the equipment or the ability to get transportation to and from events. This grant will continue to help bring practice in-house and build on the funds they received last year for a Nintendo switch and some games. This year, they would like to add a gaming computer and monitor to allow access to some of the games that colleges are recruiting for.

### **Nicholas Malgieri, Walkkill High School**

#### *Compound Light Microscopes*

Funds will support the purchase of 4 compound light microscopes to begin the process of replacing their microscopes that are about 20 years old and no longer function. At the moment they have a group of 4 students all sharing one functional microscope. As they begin to purchase more microscopes, students will have more time operating this important piece of science equipment and become more proficient at its use. In Regents Living Environment and AP Living Environment, they use microscopes to bring the cell unit to life. Students bring in pond water and try to identify the life they see under the microscope. Students look at their cheek cells and skin cells and compare it to Elodea. In Forensics, students examine their own hair to learn about the characteristics of medulla. They compare human hair and animal hair under the microscope. Then they use the microscope to match hair samples at the mock crime scenes to the different samples collected from the teacher suspects. In Human Anatomy, they look at several samples throughout the year including bones, blood, nerve, and muscle tissues. Students use microscopes to make the concepts they learn in class more exciting and more real to life.

**Tricia Muraco, Arlington High School**

*Suture Practice Kit for the New Anatomy & Physiology Course*

124 students enrolled in 4 sections will be able to utilize suture practice kits in their Anatomy and Physiology courses. Funds will support the purchase of 31 kits plus 2 extra kits for teachers to use in demonstrations. These suturing kits will be used during the Integumentary unit, and before each dissection that they perform.

**Andrew Nikola, Wappingers Jr. High School**

*Mission Possible: Pushing Beyond Limitations!*

The Class VR system, designed specifically for classroom use, offers an unparalleled opportunity to transform science education by creating immersive, interactive, and engaging learning environments. With support from his grant, they aim to integrate VR glasses into their science curriculum, benefiting students across various grade levels. The purchase of this equipment will allow students to expand their reach in the world of virtual reality to bring experiences to the students in the classrooms and show the endless possibilities that this technology suggests. Our world is moving at a fast-paced speed with technology, and they are moving towards acquiring more of this equipment with your support. This allows teachers to bring those science experiments and phenomena into the classroom in a real-life setting.

**Christine Pizer, Poughkeepsie High School**

*Reducing Human Impact Through Clean Energy*

Funds will purchase Solar USB Kits, Maker Tape and Paper Circuit Kits. The students will be exploring clean energy solutions that will be added to their "Green Home" design. They will be creating a 3-D version of a home with cardstock paper. They will design the interior and exterior with sustainability in mind. These tools will provide the opportunity to provide actual power for those homes without the use of fossil fuels. Many students are also enrolled in Financial Algebra and their Capstone project will be altered slightly to connect with this sustainability theme. Specifically, as they look toward their future after high school through the college and career paths, they will be required to gear their research into the "green" fields. When they create budgets for their homes and general expenses, they will be required to incorporate sustainable practices.

**Gwen Saylor, Arlington High School**

*Programmable Microbits for Physics Maker Space*

This grant will purchase 7 Crazy Circuits Bit Board Kits that will allow students to create programmable and interactive projects involving motion, sound, or lights. The Micro:bit is a small portable inexpensive computer that can be used with a host of accessories including science sensors such as accelerometers, light detectors, conductors and other inputs to control speakers, servos and light emitting diodes to provide students with a flexible project-based learning tool. The Crazy Circuits Bit board kit can be integrated with everyday materials such as Lego bricks and basic craft materials to create interactive projects that connect physics concepts with computational thinking. The Crazy Circuits Bit Board Kit is a flexible learning environment that allows content to be differentiated for student experience levels.

**Michael Stolarski, Poughkeepsie High School**

*Up in the Air to a PART 107*

This grant will purchase an Emax Tinyhawk Team Startup Package to make drones accessible for students in physics and STEM classes. These will be used to understand Newton's Laws, forces both balanced and unbalanced that act on an object. They can also be used to teach principles of flight in STEM classes, as well as prepare students for an FAA Part 107 certificate if they want to pursue it.



### **Jonathan Zimmerman, Mount Academy**

#### *Preserved Specimens for Biology Class*

This grant will purchase preserved bullfrog and rat specimens for dissection in Biology class. Dissection of preserved animal specimens is a time-honored method of teaching zoology. It is the ultimate hands-on lab experience in a high school. Working in pairs, students meticulously cut open and dissect the specimen, using a detailed guide, diagrams, and text. They will utilize the specimens over several days to maximize their learning.

## **FUND FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION**

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### **Dr. Steven Birnbaum, John Jay High School**

#### *FlinnConnect - Instructional material and supplies for 32 experiments*

Chemistry is a challenging course in terms of content and has a mandatory 1200 minutes of lab activities/experiments. Ideally the experiments chosen should support the content of that unit, and also give students the hands-on experience of working with technology, measuring, using significant figures in mathematical routines, observing, recording data, interpreting data, developing conclusions, supporting and justifying claims. This grant will support the purchase of chemistry kits for 32 separate experiments. Each lab kit includes the consumable materials, chemicals, and special equipment needed. The experiments have been carefully chosen based on how well they align to the main topics of chemistry and their engagement level. Lab work allows students to explore chemical concepts, view changes in matter, and acquire scientific skills in an atmosphere that mimics a professional scientific environment.

### **Laura Blaha, Carmel High School**

#### *Carmel Buddy Biscuits*

Students in Laura's special education class will learn to make homemade dog biscuits using healthy ingredients. While making the dog biscuits, they will need to work as a team and follow recipes/instructions. Additionally, they will make a list and shop for ingredients at the local grocery store. After the biscuits are made, students will package the bags of dog treats and deliver orders around the school. They may also send orders to other buildings as well. This will help them to communicate with staff in the building and problem solve different situations. An additional benefit is that they will learn money management skills. They will donate their proceeds from the sale of the biscuits to the local animal shelter.

### **Linda Brotman, J. Watson Bailey Middle School**

#### *Social Studies Enrichment for ELLs*

This grant aims to make one unit of a social studies curriculum more accessible to English Language Learners through an experiential learning opportunity provided by The Wayfinder Experience. The Wayfinder Experience ("Wayfinder") is a local organization whose mission is "to create supportive communities for youth that foster personal growth and empowerment through cooperative play and storytelling." Using role play, storytelling, the creation of props, and writing, participants in a Wayfinder event immerse themselves in a rich environment that brings a story to life. Two fifth grade social studies teachers will invite Wayfinder to their classrooms during the unit focusing on the Aztec/Inca and Maya. One sixth grade social studies teacher will invite Wayfinder to her classroom during a unit on ancient Greece. One seventh grade history teacher will invite Wayfinder to her classroom during the unit where they study the Revolutionary War. Wayfinder staff will work with the students to create costumes and props necessary for the enactment of this story, as well as create characters with back stories for the role play

## **Nancy Burlew, Orchard View Alternative High School**

### *Writing Institute: Teaching Argument*

As teachers at Orchard View Alternative High School, both Nancy and English Teacher, Nicole North, are constantly looking for innovative ways to motivate their students to succeed in English Class. Many of their students attend their school because of social, emotional and behavioral issues, and struggle to succeed in the classroom. Because their students are required to follow the same NYS Standards as all other high schools, preparing them for a Regents exam can be challenging, especially the English Regents where they are required to read lengthy passages and write two detailed essays, one being an argumentative essay. By examining past data from the exams, they have found a pattern of students not completing the argumentative essay on their exam. Reasons include being too overwhelmed with the amount they have to read and write and losing motivation after a long test. The Writing Institute, a product of the PEBC, the Public Education and Business Coalition, has an excellent reputation in helping teachers rediscover joy in teaching writing again. The 2-day conference is designed to engage educators in the newest strategies and techniques to teach High school English students.

## **Megan E. Cooke, John Jay Senior High School**

### *Bringing a Broadway Leading Lady to John Jay High School*

Fund will support bringing Patti Murin, a professional actress, to John Jay Senior High School's Theatre I & II class for an all-day in-school field trip. Murin is a graduate of their school and the students are incredibly proud of the work she has done professionally. Her work includes originating the role of Princess Anna in Disney's Frozen on Broadway, originating the leading role of Lysistrata Jones on Broadway, understudying the lead role and playing a swing in Xanadu on Broadway, a recurring role on Chicago Med, and many other regional theatre credits and Hallmark movies. Her visit to John Jay will include a one-day in-school field trip working with the Theatre I & II classes on audition techniques which include performing the song and monologue work. The class has a unit on monologues and auditioning; this experience will be such a fantastic addition to their coursework.

## **Tanya Daw, Meagher Preschool**

### *Winter Snowsuits for their PreK Students to Support Outdoor Education Program*

Meagher Preschool opened in 2019 as a district operated preschool that services four-year-old students. They had the opportunity to partner with the Acorn Waldorf school in Accord, NY in 2020. They have assisted with building their outdoor education program over the past three years. Students are outside for up to two hours a day playing and learning in their forest. Their forest is equipped with ziplines, swings, hammock, slack lines, sand box, and a canopy with a play kitchen area. This year they were able to expand and open two more classrooms which has brought their enrollment from 80 to 120 students! This grant will go toward purchasing additional snowsuits and winter mittens for their 40 new students. All students and staff at Meagher have rain pants, rain jackets, rain boots, snow boots, mittens, and snowsuits so that they are able to go outside in all weather. By going outside and learning in nature, kids improve their emotional, behavioral, and intellectual development.

## **Clay Drinko, High Meadow School**

### *Middle School Museum: Bringing Local History to Life*

Between January and March, 7th and 8th graders will be creating an interactive museum in their school's common spaces. 7th graders will be exploring the idea of land ownership and rights. They're focused on local history and exploring how the idea of property evolved over time and led to conflict. They'll be concentrating on the 17th and 19th centuries as times of significant change. 8th graders will be looking at the justifications and public sentiment of American-involved wars of the

20th century. Middle schoolers will also be studying and practicing museum exhibit design. They visit a variety of museums throughout the year and will delve into what makes exhibits engaging and informative. The culminating project is to create their local history museum. Middle schoolers will use iPads, headphones, display cases, wall space, and even buried time capsules to create interactive exhibits for the rest of the school (Kindergarten to 6th grade) to learn more about local history.

**Mihaela Fisher, Vail Farm Elementary**

*Replacement of Traditional Desks with Flexible Seating*

Funds will be used to replace the desks in the classroom with flexible seating that will be better suited to students' physical needs and increase student engagement. The average school child spends as much as 15,000 hours sitting in a chair (Ramaswamy, 2015). Recent studies indicate that flexible seating can improve student engagement, collaboration, communication, focus, physical health, and build a sense of community in the classroom. In classrooms with flexible seating, students are tasked with choosing the seating appropriate for their needs. In addition, when choosing, students will find ways to take turns as well as share various locations and supplies.

**Colleen Flood, Mill Road Primary School**

*Geodes Tutor Kit*

A Geodes Classroom library can offer several benefits for first-grade students. Books included offer a diverse range of books, including fiction, non-fiction, picture books, and early reader books. Having access to a wide selection allows students to explore different genres and topics, catering to their individual interests and reading levels. These books can provide students with opportunities to practice reading independently, building their vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension skills. When children find books they enjoy, it can foster a love for reading and encourage them to explore more books in the future. Geodes books often contain vibrant illustrations and interactive elements that can enhance the reading experience. These features can help reinforce literacy skills, such as letter recognition, phonics, and word recognition, making the learning process more enjoyable for first-grade students.

**Jacqueline Forrest, Mill Road Primary School**

*Ready, Set, Decode!*

Funds will support the purchase of high-quality decodable books that will support the literacy skills of Jacqueline's kindergarteners. Literacy research has shown that the way we have been teaching reading has failed many students. The Science of Reading has become a discussion point for all schools and educators. Their district has adopted new curriculums that are based on the Science of Reading, and it requires supportive texts that reflect the new skills being taught. Decodable texts provide novice readers a chance to practice matching letter-sound relationships and builds a habit of analyzing the letters and sounds to read unfamiliar words. These are the foundational skills that create life-long readers and will support students from start to finish. Having multiple copies of the decodable texts will allow her to include more guided reading opportunities within her classroom, which will also boost classroom community around reading.

**Elyse Joy, Orville A. Todd Middle School**

*Seeds of Our Future*

This grant will continue to make their community garden a place for students, parents, and siblings to enjoy the benefits of tending to the Earth. Their garden will be extending this year to include a special garden area for their deaf and disabled community members. They will partner with Taconic Resources for Independence to create a second garden that will be used to build a connection with their students and members of the community who have special needs. Elyse's students have been

learning sign language in school and are eager to work with deaf families to help plant, grow, harvest, and eat natural foods grown by them. A garden is a perfect place to make connections, share stories between generations, and learn from each other. The grant money will be used to establish the second garden and to continue to maximize their 40 X 40 space at Vassar Farm Community Garden.

**Ann-Marie Howard, Vail Farm Elementary**

*Flexible Classroom Space for Primary Classroom*

Funds will support flexible seating options for students. Sitting at a traditional desk and chair for long periods is difficult for young children. Brain breaks and movement activities are often scheduled into the day because teachers know that students need these breaks to keep engaged in learning. By providing students with flexible seating choices and spaces, they are taking the whole child into account. Instead of needing to schedule movement breaks into the day, movement will be incorporated into their own learning throughout the day. The need to get up to move will lessen and more time will be spent on learning. By providing more flexible classroom materials, all students will have the ability to find a positive learning space each day.

**Mary Langenau, North Park Elementary**

*Pollinator Partners Poetry Book Project*

Mary's poetry book project integrates science, ELA, and the arts. After learning about animal effects on plant pollination during the spring life science unit, students will learn various forms of poetry to write poems that explain the partnership between plants and animals during the process of pollination. Students will choose a favorite poem to illustrate and include it in a published class poetry book. This project will be carried out during science and writing periods. The project includes all of the second-grade students. The second-grade teaching team collaborates to create opportunities for learning, and a culminating Author Celebration for sharing poems with peers from other classes.

**Nathan Lawrence-Paine, Poughkeepsie High School**

*PHS Environmental Club and School Garden Implementation*

Funds will support the return of The Environmental Club which has not operated at Poughkeepsie High School for many years. Their first goal is to continue with the new school garden and to reclaim an old school garden that has become overgrown. This will require much work throughout the year as students will learn how to compost, put gardens "to bed", grow winter species inside, start and plant seeds, maintain gardens (weeding, mowing, harvesting etc.), build outbuildings and a Green House. Guest speakers from Bard College and Arlington High School will educate students and advise on different ways to work with the district on sustainability projects.

**Judy McGuire, Arthur S. May Elementary**

*Historic Huguenot Street - Learning and Leisure in the 18th Century*

Historic Huguenot Street's in-school outreach program is called Investigation Station. Through thoughtful questioning and the use of (almost!) all of their senses, students will investigate a collection of reproduction, colonial era household objects in order to determine their purpose and uses in the average 18th century home. Before the program, students will be exposed to a ten lesson unit called, The Red Trunk Project. The lessons will allow students to be immersed in the Oaxacan culture through examining Oaxacan objects and culture. As a culminating activity, students will make their own "red trunk" and share their culture with the class. After the program, students will be able to compare and contrast what they know about their own culture, what they learned through the field trip, and what they learned from the Red Trunk Project.

### **Amy Miklos, The Randolph School**

#### *Randolph News Powered by Kids/Podcasting for Documentation*

Students will use various tech tools and software to create podcasts to help document the learning that is occurring at their nature-based school. Children can collaborate as they design podcast programming that allows them the opportunity to critically examine their curriculum, interview teachers, students and community members and build podcasts that they can share with their community to highlight the students' voice in their curriculum. The school will be able to share these podcasts with their community as they highlight their students' voices and examine their curriculum through their words. Children will have the opportunity to document the learning that is occurring at their nature-based school using digital tools.

### **Christine Pizer, Poughkeepsie High School**

#### *Full STEAM Ahead*

The Environmental Science students will be creating a 3-D model of a home. Selecting a one or two story home, they will put their personal touches on the design, creating a model of their "dream" home. As they create a floor plan, they will be required to research the concept of sustainability and only select items for their home that be considered as such. As they move through the project, the students will learn about and incorporate green technologies with the assistance of the kits requested through this grant. They will electrify their homes with the use of solar panels, wind turbines, and various STEM technologies of their own choosing. Their final project will include their home and a brochure that denotes all of the sustainable features. The students will conduct a gallery walk to view and comment on the different homes this spring.

### **Patricia Runne, St. Martin de Porres School**

#### *Ready, Set, Write*

Writing is an important part of the daily lives of students, but it is a difficult skill to learn and master. The Ready, Set, Write (RSW) program will pair kindergarten students (Kinderbuddies) with middle school students (Elders) to meet bimonthly, throughout the year to build a community of writers. The R.S.W. program, will focus on writing across the curriculum. The program will help boost student performance, confidence and create positive interactions. Buddies will be encouraged to use the Kindness & Compassion Paperback library, to write about empathy, inclusion, and kindness to learn to be a good community member. Digital cameras will give students unlimited opportunities, both in the classroom and outdoors, to capture kindness images to be used as writing prompts. These photos can then be incorporated into student writings and posted on the school website. Elders will learn how to use a Peer Feedback Routine to work with the Kinders. They will help the Kinders sparkle and shine with their comments. The culminating project will be a "roll out the red carpet" publishing party where Kinders share a final writing product with their families and the Elders.

### **Michael Stolarski, Poughkeepsie High School**

#### *FAA Part 107 Starter Kit*

The world of aviation has opened up recently with the drop in price of consumer and commercial drones. The FAA has also been introducing many new laws regarding the flight of drones in different airspaces. The path to an FAA Part 107 Commercial Drone Operators License is required if you want to fly for hire. Micahel will be prepping his students for the license test and have them gain experience in flight operations with the use of one of the most advanced and easy to use, most popular drones on the market today. Having access to this drone equipment will inspire students in the field of aviation and give them a basic understanding of how an airplane or drone operates.

Prepping students for an FAA Part 107 Unmanned Aerial Systems Operator License will give them hands on skills that can transfer immediately into a career if they want to pursue that.

### **Jessica Lynne Theiss, Roy C. Ketcham High School**

#### *English as a New Language Training*

Jessica is seeing an increase in students from other countries, most commonly from Spanish speaking countries. She personally has been frustrated by the limitation in communication and feedback that these students are receiving. As their teacher she doesn't want to rely on other Spanish speakers in the class to help her. While she can easily put assignments into translation programs, distribute the materials and simply mark assignments complete, she knows this is a disservice to these students both academically and emotionally. Funds will support Jessica to enroll in the TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) this summer. This program is designed to help students of other languages have access to educational opportunities and supports. She will work with a group of others who are looking to better support the students coming to us with language barriers and trauma. Jessica wants to be someone the community can reach out to regardless of language to help with their transitions and experiences.

### **Christopher Williams, Austin Road Elementary School**

#### *Art, Technology and Puppets Bring History to Life*

The Art and STEAM Teacher (Specialty Team) at Austin Road Elementary will collaborate with the 4th Grade Team to engage the students in creating puppets and visual elements for a multimedia performance. The students will design and build two different puppets; a hand puppet and a collage rod/stop-motion animation puppet. The Specialty Team will engage the students in creating a performance that includes elements of live puppetry, pre-recorded puppet scenes with green screen and stop-motion animation. Plans include: 1) Build hand puppets in February & March; 2) Develop playful and creative storytelling experience into narrative scripts in April; 3) Build stop-motion puppets and scenery in April & May; 4) Rehearse and record elements for the show in May with plans to finish in mid to late May; 5) Animation and video editing will be completed for a show and performance in early June. The collaboratively produced narrative will include the students' puppets as themselves now as they explore and explain their understanding of history through the use of the collage rod/stop-motion puppets.

### **Allison Woolston, Carmel High School**

#### *Music to Our Ears- Accessibility for All*

Students in her high school PACE Program (Personal, Academic, and Community Experience) are taking a music class for the first time! This class is a collaborative venture between the Music Department and the Special Education Department. Students in PACE are ages 14-21 and have intellectual and developmental disabilities. PACE has 25 students in grades 9-12+ (post-graduate students) and is located at Carmel High School. Students have been interested in learning more about music for years and they were able to create a class specific to their needs and abilities. Funds will support the purchase of instruments that the students can use during this class, and, for years to come. The instruments will allow for use of fine and gross motor skills that students work on in their self-contained class. These instruments will allow students to learn more about different cultures and the music associated with these cultures.

### **Nelson Zayas, Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center**

#### *Escape Room*

Nelson will use funds to set up an escape room for each of the following grades: Grades 2-5. An escape room is a team activity in which a group of students are "locked" in a room and have to work collaboratively to find and solve clues hidden in the room in order to escape. Each group has a time

limit. A teacher is available to each group to give an introduction, help with clues, and stop the game when time is up. Each room will be prepared with carefully thought-out logic problems which will require collaborative problem-solving by the participants. Everything required to "escape" the room in the allotted time will be made available to the students in the room. Escape rooms in school provide for a unique, memorable lesson as they are fun experiences that require logical thinking, teamwork, and subject knowledge. One outcome of escape room is to have students employ problem solving skills. Another outcome is that students will learn by doing and by having fun. It's a win-win for students and teachers alike.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

# THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are essential to the work of the Community Foundations. We would like to thank the following individuals for the time, talent, and energy they provided in selecting the recipients of tonight's scholarships and grant awards.

Brian Brown  
Linda Cantor  
Jackie Chatfield  
Linda B. Clarke  
Maria DeWald

Tom Florio  
Paul Fritz  
Katie Kane  
Melanie Klein  
Alison Murphy

Michael Murphy  
Dwight Paine  
Maribel Pregnall  
Amanda Sargent  
David Wise

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# Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley

**Our Vision:** A prosperous, equitable, inclusive Hudson Valley with vibrant communities where all can live, work, and thrive.

**Our Mission:** The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley delivers community and philanthropic leadership to inspire and celebrate local charitable giving and civic engagement.

The power of community foundations is in their ability to pool resources, wisdom, and experience of a region to meet its most pressing needs. By investing in regional nonprofits, teachers, and students, and creating targeted initiatives, CFHV has addressed the dynamic interests of their community for over 50 years.

## **Join the Partnership in Education**

Committed community members like you make classroom enhancing grants possible. Their generosity has made essential equipment and training accessible to teachers throughout the region. Each year, the Foundations receives exciting requests that far outweigh the funds available. You can bridge the gap to a brighter future for young minds! Make a tax-deductible gift today or plan for a future gift through your will or estate plan to invest in the next generation.

Contact us for more information by calling 845-452-3077 or visiting [CommunityFoundationsHV.org](http://CommunityFoundationsHV.org).



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***Responding Today, Investing in Tomorrow***