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NORWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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**SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$2,500 FOR TEACHER PROJECTS
Grant Program Funds Innovative Proposals That Will Benefit at Least 260 Students in 2012-2013**

NORTH HUNTINGDON — Next school year, some Norwin students will experience geotechnical engineering, build their own alarm clocks, or learn complex mathematics through Apple TV thanks to a second year of funding for educational programs through the Norwin School District Community Foundation.

This week, the Norwin School District Community Foundation announced \$2,500 in *Educator Innovations Grant* awards for three educational projects that will benefit at least 260 students in the 2012-2013 school year. The Foundation is a non-profit group affiliated with Norwin School District.

The Foundation’s competitive *Educator Innovations Grant* program challenges District teachers to dream up an innovative classroom project that might not otherwise be funded by the school budget. An independent review team scores applications without knowing the identities of those who applied. This year, teachers could ask for \$500 or \$1,000, and seven applied. Here are the three recipients:



Dr. John C. Boylan, center, president of the Norwin School District Community Foundation, with the teachers who are receiving Educator Innovations Grants for classroom projects. From left: Mrs. Trisha Brunazzi (Stewartsville); Mrs. Paula Giran (Hillcrest); Dr. Boylan; Mrs. Sharon Welty (Hillcrest); and Mrs. Angela Knipple (High School).

Teacher	School	Project Name	Description	Benefits
Mrs. Paula Giran and Mrs. Sharon Welty	Hillcrest Intermediate School	<i>A Geotechnical Engineering Experience</i> (\$1,000)	The lessons in this STEM-based kit encourage students to pursue a deeper understanding of Earth's landforms, how they continually change, and how these changes have an impact on human activity. Students will investigate soil sampling, use a model building site to observe what happens when an unanchored building experiences an earthquake, and perform other controlled experiments. A visit from an engineer or geologist is planned.	110 students and possibly the entire fifth grade
Mrs. Trisha Brunazzi	Stewartsville Elementary School	<i>An Alarming Idea</i> (\$500)	The science concepts of electricity/energy transfer, conductors and insulators, and complete and incomplete circuits will be reinforced and students will be introduced to schematic diagrams (a symbol "language" that electrical engineers use to plan and design circuits). Through lessons and the unit's storybook, students will embark on an electricity scavenger hunt; practice drawing schematic diagrams from circuits; and design, create, and improve their own alarm circuits and switches to remind them when it is time to do an important chore.	25 to 30 third-grade students
Mrs. Angela Knipple	Norwin High School	<i>Apple TV in the Mathematics Classroom</i> (\$1,000)	Students will experience activities and demonstrations in pre-calculus, trigonometry, and calculus in a new way with the Apple TV. The Apple iPad, also provided in the grant, would work seamlessly with the Apple TV, as will the ever-changing "app" world.	120 juniors and seniors

These teachers will be recognized at in-service on Friday, August 17, 2012.

“We continue to be pleased with the quality of ideas and also pleased with the increased number of applications,” said Dr. John C. Boylan, president of the Foundation’s Board of Directors. “We would love to provide more grants, but just do not have sufficient funding at this time. We are hoping that as more people become aware of the benefits of donating to the Norwin School District Community Foundation, we will see an increase in contributions.”

Funds for this second year of Educator Innovations Grants came from Westmoreland County Day of Giving in 2011, in which donors, on a single day, made online contributions that were partially matched by the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County. Fund-raising continued with a special, first-ever Miniature Golf Outing on Saturday, May 12, at Kerber’s.

The Foundation exists to provide enrichment to students of the Norwin School District. It does this by maintaining more than a dozen scholarship funds created by local families, and also by supporting innovative educational programming that might not otherwise be funded through the School District budget. It is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and has a Web site at www.norwinsd.org/foundation.