



community connection

ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

www.salinaeducationfoundation.com • 785-309-4729 • Volume 13, Issue 2 • Spring/Summer 2008

Classroom grants to enhance student learning • Exceptional teachers to staff our classrooms

Meet Caitlin Cox



Caitlin Cox was named a new LIFT (Loan Initiative for Future Teachers) recipient this January. Caitlin is a freshman majoring in elementary education at Kansas Wesleyan University. In addition to her

coursework, Caitlin volunteers at The City and is the Youth Coordinator for the Greater Salina Community Foundation's Youth GrantMakers

Council. Caitlin's commitment to teaching and

**LIFT GRANT
RECIPIENT**

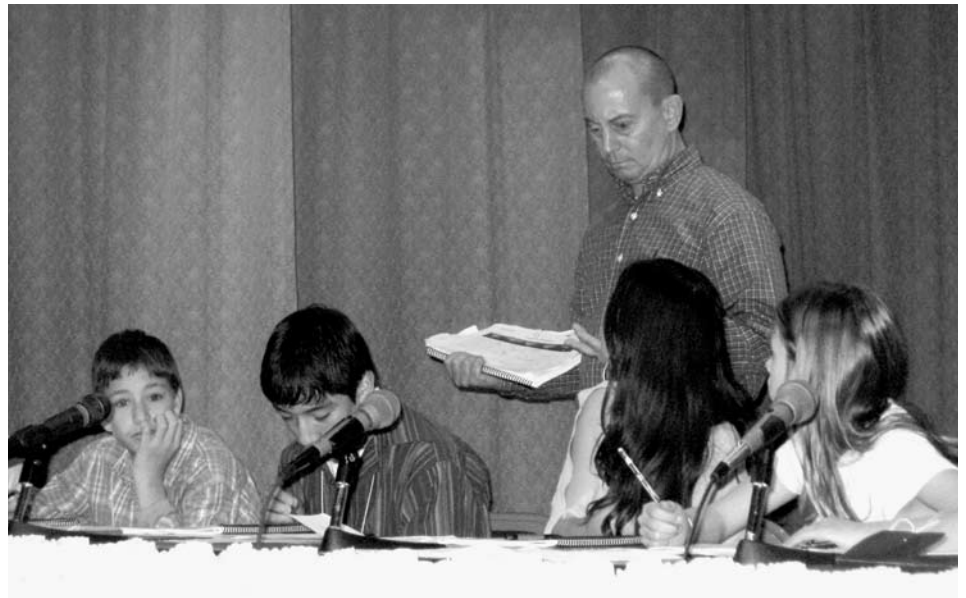
helping kids is evident when she says, "I want to be someone who opens doors for her students, gives them the needed push to follow their dreams, and possibly saves a few children from a future that is not as bright as it should be. I want to share the experiences I have had and never let a day go by when I do not learn something right along with my students."

The LIFT program provides up to \$5,000 in forgivable loans to talented individuals seeking to become teachers.

For more information, go to:
www.salinaeducationfoundation.com

Congratulations Caitlin—we know you will be an extraordinary teacher!

Thinking "Outside-the-Box"



Mr. Platt and four South Middle students prepare to make their recommendation to President Eisenhower regarding the Crisis at Little Rock at the Eisenhower Center Auditorium.

New grant program takes kids out of traditional setting, expands their world

The SEF has launched an exciting new grant program. The "Outside-the-Box" grants reward innovation and creativity aimed at expanding students' understanding of their community and the world. The first recipients exemplify the type of thinking that not only makes for great teaching, but helps to give our students extraordinary experiences. We are pleased to announce the first winners of the OTB grants:

**OUTSIDE-THE-
BOX GRANT**

Karen Bastin, South High, will receive \$2,875 for her project, "Celebrating Salina's History," a digital storytelling project, which empowers students to become digital witnesses, archiving Salina's oral history and sharing that history through television and the internet. The students will work cooperatively with the Smoky Hill Museum and Community Access TV, and their work will become part of Salina's Sesquicentennial. The project will be ongoing, and students interested in history, journalism and multimedia will work together to create Salina's

Why support project-based learning?

“Kids who are excited about what they learn tend to dig more deeply and to expand their interest in learning to a wide array of subjects. They retain what they learn rather than forget it as soon as they disgorge it for a test. They make connections and apply their learning to other problems. They learn how to collaborate, and their social skills improve. They are more confident talking to groups of people, including adults. And a number of research reports suggest, project-based learning correlates positively with improved test scores, reduced absenteeism, and fewer disciplinary problems.” – Diane Curtis, education writer and former editor for The George Lucas Education Foundation.

To view entire article, go to: <http://www.edutopia.org/start-pyramid>

21ST CENTURY ADVANTAGE GRANTS

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SEF Grants and Programs

21ST CENTURY ADVANTAGE GRANT: awarded annually for creative and innovative classroom projects

SUDDEN OPPORTUNITY GRANT: quick turnaround grant that supports projects that come up unexpectedly

LIFT PROGRAM: awards up to \$5,000 per year for Saline County residents who wish to become teachers

OUTSIDE-THE-BOX GRANT: NEW! awarded annually for projects that take students outside the typical classroom setting

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Grant evolves to meet needs



Mr. Kimmi, a 21st Century Grant Recipient from Schilling, enjoys “hat day” with his students.

What sets USD 305 apart from other school districts? The Salina Education Foundation’s 21st Century Advantage Grant

21ST CENTURY ADVANTAGE GRANTS

Program! Since 1993, the SEF has funneled more than \$350,000 into our classrooms

for creative and innovative projects that would not be possible otherwise. Look at the great projects we are funding this year:

Jennifer Hope, Coronado

\$2,500 to purchase Orff musical instruments to help all 400-425 Coronado students learn to compose, perform and read music. Playing together promotes teamwork and discipline as well as a life-long appreciation for music.

Tina Layton, Meadowlark Ridge

\$365 to support “Discrepant Discoveries!” The project encourages students to predict, observe, and explain a discrepant event (one that does not follow the basic rules of nature). Discrepant events encourage problem-solving and open the door to scientific inquiry.

An ever-evolving program

Perhaps you have noticed that the SEF is awarding fewer grants this year. Some of the pressure on school budgets has eased, allowing us to return to the original purpose of the 21st Century Advantage Grant Program. That means that teachers are receiving a higher level of funding for project-based grants that are creative and innovative. Some exciting projects are going to be happening in our schools this year!

Steven Kimmi, Schilling

\$2,352 to support collaborative teaching of math concepts. The project will produce short videos highlighting essential vocabulary, key concepts, and real-world math applications. These videos will involve not just students and teachers, but community members, as well. To take a peek at the pilot project, go to: www.usd305.com/schilling/classes/Kimmi/movies/makesensevariable.wmv

of classrooms

Carlene Stueve, South High

\$1,500 to purchase flip cameras. English students will create film parodies, a modern rendition of a Shakespeare play (students will write the script, act and film the performance), create five minute argumentative/persuasive videos on research paper topics, and create an original music video based upon the Canterbury Tales.

Annette Silva, South Middle

\$1,180 to purchase a printmaking press. The press will allow students to discover a new area of art, to gain appreciation for the printmaking medium, and to encourage creative expression in an art form that students would not ordinarily be familiar with.

Lisa Hall, Stewart

\$200 to rent STARLAB, an inflatable dome that can hold 25 students and that brings the stars and constellations to them. The STARLAB will be the culmination of a unit that studies objects in the sky such as planets, the moon, stars, constellations, meteors and more and will provide a powerful way for students to experience the sky up close and personal.

Anna Wedel, Central Kansas Cooperative

\$1,650 to purchase kits that allow students to build and program robots to accomplish certain tasks. Lakewood and South Middle School students participate in robotic competitions at Ft. Hays State, WSU or K-State. The NXT Mindstorm Robotics kits allow our students the ability to be competitive with students from other schools.

“Thank you so much for the grant money supporting our Robotics Project. The students are extraordinarily excited about all the possibilities! Salina is very fortunate to have you.”

— Anna Wedel, KKCIE gifted consultant



Mrs. Bastin and her South High students will archive Salina's oral history with their new grant, "Celebrate Salina's History."

NEW GRANT, from page 1

oral history. Look for the students' work on Access TV.

Jeff Platt, South Middle, will receive \$2,609 for his project, "Five-Star Leaders: Crisis at Little Rock." This program is sponsored by the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum and the Eisenhower Foundation.

OUTSIDE-THE-BOX GRANT

Every South Middle 8th

grader will travel to the Eisenhower Library and take part in this innovative program that uses a hands-on approach and requires active participation. Each student will receive a workbook that explores the foundation of democratic leadership, constitutional concepts, and the processes of consensus-based decision making. During their onsite visit, they will role play historical figures, analyze school desegregation issues, and participate in a mock news conference.

Partnership targets three initiatives

21ST CENTURY ADVANTAGE GRANTS

A partnership with the Salina Regional Health Foundation has helped to fund some critical grant initiatives targeting healthy lifestyles, early childhood education, and dental access.

- Heartland Programs: encourage parent involvement through activities that focus on language and literacy, math, social and emotional skills, and health and physical development.
- School Social Workers: provide funds to help children and families access medical and dental care
- Oakdale: purchase speech therapy kit for speech-language caseload
- Sunset: purchase classroom set of heart-rate monitors for PE classes
- Lakewood and South Middle: provide support for a workshop targeting middle school girls to help them learn healthy lifestyles and to make appropriate life choices.

Exciting Lakewood Project

Philips Lighting is donating to the SEF to support Jennifer Motter's grant request for a "Simple Machines" Project. All Lakewood 7th graders will design and build six simple machines. Then they'll use math, science, and technology to analyze the effectiveness of the machines they build. To top off this great learning experience, Lakewood students will visit Philips Lighting to see real-world application of how simple machines combine to create complex machines. Thank you Philips Lighting!

21ST CENTURY ADVANTAGE GRANTS

The mission of the Salina Education Foundation is to encourage educational excellence by providing resources to enhance opportunities for the students and staff of Salina's public schools.



Looking for the perfect gift?

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The Salina Education Foundation is a separate non-profit organization whose purpose is to assure excellence in the Salina School District.