

Partners in Education Grants \$52,000 to teachers throughout the district

Funds 40 Grants for Classroom Projects

February 13, 2006 – Palo Alto, California – Palo Alto Partners in Education today announced that it had granted to \$52,100 in forty grants to teachers across the Palo Alto Unified School District. Partners in Education is a nonprofit foundation dedicated to sustaining extraordinary public education in Palo Alto. Its teacher grants program is focused on small grants to teachers at all levels who propose innovative classroom projects.

The teacher grant program was established in 1987 by Partners in Education's predecessor organization, Palo Alto Foundation for Education. Over \$1 million has been awarded in 37 rounds of teacher grants. The foundation usually collects grant applications in January and May, making grants in February and June respectively.

This January, Palo Alto Partners in Education received 61 applications, with a total requested amount of \$113,088. The foundation's teacher grants committee evaluated the grants carefully and were able to grant two thirds of the proposals either fully or partially. Al Russell, chairman of the committee, has been involved in the teacher grant process since its inception in 1987. He commented, "This number of grant submissions was much higher than I anticipated. This highlights the importance of continuing to raise funds not only to provide funding to the principals and the schools, but to continue supporting the teachers."

Grant sizes range from \$500 to \$3,000. This round, Partners in Education made seven awards to teachers at the elementary schools, seventeen awards to the middle schools, fourteen grants to the high schools, and two district wide grants. Al Russell commented, "The submissions for this round of grants were predominantly from the middle and high schools. However, when we look at the grants over time, they are spread fairly equally between elementary and secondary schools."

Partners in Education funded projects including curriculum development; music classes, and equipment such as LCD projectors, books, software, and cameras. At Terman Middle School, for example, the foundation is funding the purchase of books and materials to support reading enhancement. Holly Hume, Resource Specialist at Terman, commented, "We are working very hard trying to create a program that is engaging to struggling readers. The grant money gives us an opportunity to use many different levels of support to keep moving students up in their reading skills."

Partners in Education

Palo Alto Partners in Education is a nonprofit 501(c)3 foundation dedicated to sustaining extraordinary public education in Palo Alto. Its primary activity is raising money through its Schools Campaign. This school year, the foundation is raising \$2 million to augment the 2006-07 budget of the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD). Donations made to the foundation will be allocated directly to the principals at each of the district's 17 schools. For more information, please visit www.papie.org.

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