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PALO ALTO PARTNERS IN EDUCATION INVESTS IN CLASSROOM INNOVATION WITH \$40,000 IN TEACHER GRANTS

Opens Teacher Grant Submission For Spring Round

March 1, 2010 - PALO ALTO, CA - Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE), the education foundation that raises funds for the Palo Alto Unified School District, today announced the gifting of \$40,000 in teacher grants to 19 school programs that foster innovation and promote excellence in the teaching curriculum. PiE also announced the opening of the next round of teacher grant submissions starting today, March 1st. Each year PiE funds two rounds of Teacher Grants, one in the fall and one in the spring, giving roughly \$100,000 annually. In the recent fall submission evaluations, the PiE team looked for programs that demonstrated collaboration across grades, schools or disciplines to give even more reach to the dollars.

"There are many interesting, creative programs and tools that can enrich the classroom experience. The ability to apply for a PiE grant gives teachers the opportunity to invest in new programs, share best practices and access new resources that otherwise wouldn't be possible," said Marcie Brown, PiE Board Member and Committee Chair for the Teacher Grant Awards.

This week, in fact, one of the PiE funded programs goes to work in a Palo Alto High School classroom when Teacher Kathi Bowers rolls-out new Smart Clickers to her third period math class. The clickers will be used for each student to answer questions electronically as the material is presented. This allows Ms. Bowers to quickly understand where each student is in their comprehension of the material and ensures students are participating and progressing with the class.

“After hearing about the clickers at a staff development day I was excited to get them into our classes. They give us an amazing ability to instantly see how each student is doing, keep the class engaged and provide real-time feedback to students as the material is presented,” said Kathi Bowers, Math Teacher at Palo Alto High School. “I investigated several ways to get the clickers into our math program and thanks to the PiE Teacher Grant program, we were able to make it happen.” Ms. Bowers collaborated with a fellow teacher, Kathy Hawes, from Gunn to submit for the grant, bringing the benefits of this PiE Grant to both schools and hundreds of students.

Sample from the list of 19 programs the \$40,000 in Fall Grants will fund:

- New Social Studies library materials at Barron Park
- At-Risk Readers Planning at El Carmelo
- Teacher-Parent Literacy Partnership at Fairmeadow
- Sound Design and Audio Production Curriculum Expansion at Gunn High School
- College Pathway program at Gunn High School
- Classroom Composter at JLS and Jordan Middle Schools
- Microscope hardware for science at Jordan Middle School
- Playaways Audio Books at Palo Verde
- Document Cameras for interactive learning at Terman 6th Grade Math and Science classrooms
- Smart Board for interactive Physical Science projects at Terman 8th Grade

About the Teacher Grant Program:

Since its inception, the Teacher Grant Program has awarded more than \$1 million in 45 rounds of grants. The Teacher Grants are not intended to replace existing district funding, but they are an opportunity to seed new innovative teaching by funding projects that may be beyond the scope of district or site funding. Grant submissions must include a strong curricular justification, evidence of innovation, creativity and excellence, a method to measure and evaluate a project's results, and a sensible budget. For more information visit http://www.papie.org/02_OurImpact/TeacherGrants.html.

ABOUT PALO ALTO PARTNERS IN EDUCATION:

Palo Alto Partners in Education is a nonprofit 501(c)3 foundation that enhances educational excellence for every student in the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD). It is the only foundation dedicated exclusively to raising funds for all PAUSD schools, and the only one whose contributions can pay for additional and much needed PAUSD teachers and staff. Since PiE's inception in 2004-2005, it has donated over \$12 million to Palo Alto schools. For more information about PiE, please visit www.papie.org.

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