

## 2014 Awards (2014–2015 Academic Year)

**1. Mentor program** **\$500.00**  
(Binghamton High School)  
Emily Buss

This is the second year for this program which matches Special Education students with peer students in the high school. The goals are to: provide peer support and mentoring for at-risk students, create reciprocal relationships, bridge the gap between high-achieving and at-risk students, increase school community and positive school culture. Funds are to provide monthly luncheons for mentees and mentors.

**2. Dodge Poetry Festival** **\$1,000**  
(Binghamton High School)  
Sally Crossley

Transportation for HS students to attend Poetry Festival in NJ. Students will have the opportunity to meet and hear poets from around the county enabling poetry to “come alive,” enhancing the lessons and experiences of poetry in the classroom.

**3. East Side Story** **\$1,630**  
(East Middle School)  
Jennifer Farrell & Margaret Gates

A unique book club for middle school students using technology to communicate with authors and other middle school students while promoting independent reading, critical thinking and literacy in a supportive environment. Students will read e-books as part of a “club” discuss and analyze content while enhancing and challenging their reading abilities. Funds used for 20 Kindles, web camera, Amazon gift cards (for e-books) and kick-off / wrap-up luncheons.

#### **4. First Lego League Teams**

**\$1,399**

(East & West Middle School)

Jill Browne

Funds will be used to continue the Lego Team funded last year by the BCSF and expand it to West Middle school. The first Lego Team is a project-based, problem-solving robotics program that introduces students to real-world engineering challenges by building Lego-based robots. Students design, build, test and program robots, apply real-world math and science concepts, research challenges facing today's scientists, learn critical thinking, team building and presentation skills. Funds needed for material and supplies.

#### **5. Enhancing Writing Skills**

**\$500**

(Woodrow Wilson Elementary)

Patty Mangan

Funding to enhance a 2011 BCSF Grant for Kindergarten writing center. To develop writing skill to meet the new Common Core learning standards students are encouraged to develop writing skills including letter formation, spacing, using lined paper, and proper punctuation using basic sight words.

#### **6. Steel Drum Scholars**

**\$1249**

(Benjamin Franklin Elementary)

Eugenie Johnston

This project offers music enrichment opportunity to 5<sup>th</sup> grader students in a positive school setting. It will also attempt to incorporate Arts, History, ELA, Common Core Curriculum and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills such as listening skills, team work, Students will learn the culture of Trinidad and history of steel pan drums, learn to play a musical instrument, learn personal and team responsibility, perseverance, the ability to work independently as well as learn to work toward a common goal. Students will be assessed through a rubric and written reflections.

**7. “Therapy iPads”:** iPad Technology **\$752.96**  
For Occupational Therapy  
Kimberly Wiggins

The use of iPads and apps will be utilized by 60+ students that receive Occupational therapy across 2 schools. Students will learn strategies and compensation techniques to address the skills needed to function well in the classroom, including visual perception, fine motor skills and sensory functioning. Students live in a technology world. This is the “ultimate carrot.” It increases attention–span and is more motivating than paper and pencil. Many skills can effectively be taught such as handwriting recognition, word prediction and communication.

**8. Project Based Learning: Investing in Our School \$750**  
(Benjamin Franklin Elementary)  
Sarah McLachlan

Many goals are infused in this project to beautify the outside school area. Students will use 21<sup>st</sup> century learning standards, such as leadership, communication and problem–solving while investing in their school community through a landscape project. Selected students will increase attendance and behavioral standards as a result of heightened ownership of the school. They will engage in real–world applications of the Common Core standards. Students will work with a local landscaper to measure the area, develop a plan, sketch the plan, create a budget in Microsoft PowerPoint and pitch their plan to their peers. Students will be responsible for implementing their plan by recruiting help from school and community and organizing a work–schedule. Funds are for plants trees and ground cover.

**9. Project Inspire \$1,010**  
(West Middle School)  
Angela Martinez

The goal is to “inspire “ students’ participation in classroom and decrease amount time spent in detention and in–school suspension through a 5– 10 week program based on Steven

Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Creative Teens. Students develop positive skills and habits with short-term goals in the first 5 weeks and progress to long-term goals. 10-15 students participate for ten weeks. After 40 weeks 40 -60 students will have been through the project. After completion of the project students can return to participate as role-models and mentors. Funds are needed for materials and Books, snacks, rewards, once-a-month lunch.

### **10. Read Aloud**

**\$3,460**

(Calvin Coolidge Elementary)

Patti Fiato, Amy Merrill, Connie Buchinsky

The goal is to educate families on the benefits of reading aloud to their child and increase the amount of time students in Kindergarten & first grade are read aloud to. The project will involve ALL students and teachers in grades K & 1, Library Media Specialist, and Principal. "Read to Me" books will go home with each student daily along with 100-book challenge. "Breakfast-and-a-Book Event" will be held to reinforce parent-child reading, "Lunch-at-the-Library Event"; field trip to Broome County Library to sign up for Library Card, parents welcome, "Supper-and-a-Story Event." Evening event for child/parents with guest author/storyteller to motivate parents to continue to read to children. Funds used for books, author visit, refreshments, bus transportation to Library

### **11. Technology For PE**

**\$2,949**

(Woodrow Wilson Elementary)

Keri Stenta

The project goal is to incorporate technology into PE setting in order to enhance student learning with cross-curricular lessons including literacy Math & Science. iPads, apps and Apple TV have applications that help students not only learn to move but also educated them as why and how they move. Weekly stations would be set up with lessons that reinforce skills. Initiative includes self-, peer- and teacher-assessments as well as the ability to track student progress. Funds used for iPad, iPod, headphones, protective case, Apple TV & iTune gift card.

**12. Sci-Girls**

**\$1,580**

(Wilson/Coolidge/Franklin/Roosevelt/  
Jefferson) Year 2  
Suzy Kitchen

The goal is to expand (previously proven successful) engagement in STEM ( Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) for girls by using hands-on, inquiry-based activities that support 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning skills. The project will provide 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls in each elementary building the opportunity to participate in science inquiry activities, interact with the PBS program SciGirls, engage in the online SciGirls community and local STEM. The 6-week program will involve 60 students, guest speakers, Binghamton University, WSKG studios in Vestal. Making strong connections between STEM and STEM careers. Funds used for chemistry and life science supplies, clip boards, pins variety of supplies, SciGirls supplies from PBS, large group celebration. (In-Kind donation from WSKG, BU, and volunteers = \$4,040)

**Total 2014 Awards \$16.779.96**