



## TEACHER INNOVATION GRANT RECIPIENTS FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR ANNOUNCED

December 1, 2017, Allentown, Pa. -- The Allentown School District Foundation is pleased to announce the newest cohort of Teacher Innovation Grant recipients. These ideas are developed by ASD educators to bring Allentown students added, enriched learning experiences, as follows:



### 2017-2018 TIG Cohort

TIG Program Title	Lead Applicant	School	Grade	# Student Participants
Drone Technology	Matthew Givler	Allen HS	9 to 12	186
Increasing Student Engagement w/ Lockboxes	Nicole Leskosky	Allen HS	9 to 12	1,000
Building Language Project	Nadia Thalassinis	Building 21 HS	9 to 12	158+
Break-Out Boxes for Physical Science	Brandi Kennedy	Dieruff HS	9	180
Button Making Business for Special Education	Vicki Kulp	Dieruff HS	9 to 12	49
Supreme Court Moot Court	Jeffrey Dutt	Dieruff HS	11	20+
Vocational Task Training Centers	Alyssa Pierce	Dieruff HS	9 to 12	49
Poets in Residence	Brenna Schlossberg	Harrison-Morton MS	6 to 8	9+
War: A Soldier's Perspective	Rebecca Hann	Trexler MS	8	130 to 140
The Stem Laboratory	Ivonne Miranda	Dodd ES	2	150
Modern Band Guitars	Amy Wieller	Jefferson & Muhlenberg ES	5	180
Touch Screen Learning for MDS (Students with Multiple Disabilities)	Theresa Kissel	Mosser ES	K to 5	8
Seeds to Salsa!	Keri Mittura	Ramos ES	5	30
Mobile Garden Education Carts	Marie Nemes	Ritter ES	K to 5	630
Ritter Fairy Tale Follies	Rachel Beck	Ritter ES	1 to 5	80
STEM Robotics	Sarah Cummings	Ritter ES	5	250
Operation: Makerspace	Karen Price	Union Terrace ES	2	23+
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>3,142</b>

*These 17 TIG projects were selected by the TIG Committee consisting of Altagracia Mercado (Urban Affairs Liaison for Senator Pat Browne), ASD Arts Administrator Maryann Gross (representing all curriculum coordinators), TIG Co-Chair Dr. Dennis Blankowitsch (retired ASD Administrator), TIG Co-chair Jane Marks (retired gifted teacher in ASD), Ralph Todd (retired ASD administrator) and Susan Geise, volunteer and parent of three William Allen High School graduates, former ASD Foundation president Barry Halper, ASD test administrator Elizabeth Hutchison and retired ASD teacher Anita Stevens.. The Committee met on November 6, 2017 and each evaluation participant had read each application and placed a total score of up to 25 points for each submission. All grants were reviewed and winners approved by ASD curriculum directors.*

Selected by the ASDF Allocations Committee on November 6, 2017, the Teacher Innovation Grants were approved and are being announced to ASD educators after the Thanksgiving break. Highlights from this year:

- 51 applications were received.
- The ASDF Allocations Committee, upon review, recommended funding for 17 (33 percent) of the projects, in full, for a total of \$18,425.
- Twelve ASD schools are represented in this cohort.
- Subject areas reflect this variety: 9 STEM, 4 literacy, 2 life skills, 1 civic education and 1 music education.

The Teacher Innovation Program was founded in 2010 with a small grant. Since that time, more than \$98,000 has been granted to 103 teachers. TIG is pegged to be a high-growth program, with a goal to fund 10 percent of the teacher corps, or to reach about 140 – 150 ASD educators with grant support every year. Sponsors of this motivational program this year include The Donley Foundation and The Sugra Foundation. A new “Teacher Tribute” program has been launched internally and to the City’s corporate community as a fundraiser for the TIG programs. Restricted gifts are always welcome to help fund this program.

“We are pleased to note that so many Allentown teachers are devoted to their work,” says Dr. Dennis Blankowitsch, Co-Chair of the ASDF TIG Committee. “The quality of proposals is rich with commitment to make a difference in the lives of ASD students and they are immensely creative.”

“We extend our gratitude not only to the TIG Committee for its dedication and diligence, but to our sponsors and all ASD educators who submitted TIG proposals,” added Jane Marks, Co-Chair. “These innovative plans will create a spark that ignites a life-long love of learning and impact not just minds, but hearts as well.”

The grant ceiling this year was \$1,200 per proposal. Project funding to recipients will be released by the winter break in December 2017. Part of the innovation grant process includes an evaluation component, which happens at school year-end.

### **About Allentown School District Foundation**

With a vision for enriched education for Allentown School District students, the ASD Foundation mission is to encourage, promote and support innovative educational experiences for students in the Allentown School District. If you would like to learn more, please contact the foundation at 484-765-4093 or [williamssu@allentownsd.org](mailto:williamssu@allentownsd.org). The mailing address is P.O. Box 328, 31 South Penn Street, Allentown PA 18105. [www.allentownsd.org/asdf](http://www.allentownsd.org/asdf).