

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Collier Teachers Surprised with Classroom Grants**

**Naples** – Eighty-six teachers were the happy recipients of classroom grant awards today. Teachers were surprised with this good news by volunteers and Board members of The Education Foundation of Collier County. There were 111 grants delivered to thirty-four schools in Collier County, totaling over \$43,700.

Teachers requested classroom funding through The Education Foundation’s website where all grant requests can be viewed and fulfilled by the community. The Education Foundation began funding classroom grants almost twenty years ago when it began Connect with a Classroom in 2003. This online program allows teachers to post funding requests (from \$25 to \$2,000) for creative, innovative learning experiences for their students.

The funding for these grants was provided by: Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union/Suncoast for Kids Foundation; The English-Speaking Union; the specialty Florida Educational License Plate Fund (To purchase or renew your Florida Education specialty plate, please visit [www.License4Learning.com](http://www.License4Learning.com).); SW Florida Workforce Development Board; Greater Naples Unit of New York State United Teachers Retirees, Florida; Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate CARES; Harlan and Heather Dam; Conditioned Air; Dave and Betsy Dawson; Lucie Jenny MacCarthy Music Fund of the Community Foundation of Collier County; Big Cypress Basin - South Florida Water Management District and various community members who viewed and funded grants for which they have an interest.

And you can help even more teachers create opportunities for students this school year! The Education Foundation will match you dollar-for-dollar (up to \$5,000) for those requests still available! Look for a grant that you could fund 50% with the cost of the project matched and funded in full. One hundred percent of your contribution goes to fulfill the classroom grant. Visit [www.GetOnTheBusCollier.org/ConnectWithAClassroom](http://www.GetOnTheBusCollier.org/ConnectWithAClassroom) to view teacher requests and then call 643-4755 with the name of the grant you’d like to fund and fund half of it.

Lenore Brakefield, an attorney with Bond Schoeneck & King and Chair of the Grant Committee, remarked, “I’m very happy to be a part of the Grant Committee for the Education Foundation: it’s an excellent way for everyone to support students and teachers. The Education Foundation website makes it very easy to search various classroom requests and find one that matches your interests.”

New this year, teachers can also request assistance with donated materials, and time and talent for their classrooms. Please visit often!

## **About The Education Foundation of Collier County**

*Founded in 1990, The Education Foundation of Collier County is an independent, not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization that eliminates barriers and creates opportunities for students, families, educators, and the community to work together so that every student may succeed.*

*Get on the bus for Collier students: Learn - Volunteer - Give. The Education Foundation of Collier County has earned the highest 4-star rating for sound fiscal management for three consecutive years from Charity Navigator. Visit [www.GetOnTheBusCollier.org](http://www.GetOnTheBusCollier.org).*

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