



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 10, 2011
“Chamber Awards \$66,000 for Education Grants”

The Danville Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce continues to support education as a cornerstone to the economic success and vitality of the Dan River region with its annual education grant program for Pre-K through 12th grade educators.

The Chamber began the education grant program in 1990 when Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company’s plant manager Ed Steffey saw classroom needs were not being met through traditional funding sources. Steffey partnered with the Chamber and started a golf tournament from which proceeds were earmarked for the teacher grant initiative. Proceeds from the Goodyear Education 5K race also go toward the program which encourages innovative and creative programs that promote collaboration, communication skills, problem solving, and critical thinking skills. “By hosting two fundraising events, Goodyear continues to help support the financial needs within our educational system that are not being met through traditional funding methods,” says Goodyear-Danville Plant Manager Tim Noe.

This year, the Danville Regional Foundation (DRF) provided an extra \$125,000 in funds to expand the program to include educators in Caswell County, North Carolina, and enhance the funding so more teachers can receive more sizeable grants. “We want to encourage teachers to think out of the box and bring creative education programs into their classrooms,” said Clark Casteel, DRF Senior Program Officer. “We believe that these investments in education will promote creativity, reward more teachers, and help strengthen the Dan River Region’s economic position.”

Grant applications were submitted by a cohort of teachers (two or more) representing an interdisciplinary team, grade level team, across grade level team, or division wide team. There were no minimum nor maximum monetary limits on the education grant awards. Teachers and administrators were encouraged to submit their best, most creative ideas to the Chamber’s Grant Selection Committee.

The Chamber’s Education Grant Selection Committee reviewed 104 grant proposals and has awarded approximately \$66,000 in this grant cycle.

The Chamber, Goodyear, and Danville Regional Foundation congratulate the following recipients of the grant program:

“Quick Reads”

Michelle Estes and Sara Gauldin
Brosville Elementary School

“Picture Exchange Communication System”

Beth Putnam, Andrea Lawrence, Stephanie Brooks
Gretna Elementary School

“Science A - Z”

Katie Reynolds, Linda Bowden, Linda Gibson
Gretna Elementary School

“Handwriting Without Tears Reading Readiness Program”

Stephanie Brooks and Beth Putnam
Gretna Elementary School

“Parent and Child – Let’s Read Together”

Sandra Johnson, Robin Motley, Stacie Burke, Kathy Spencer
Gretna Elementary School

“The Many Wonderful Facets of Weather”

Katie Reynolds, Linda Bowden, Linda Gibson
Gretna Elementary School

“Growing a Garden and Raising Children to Take Responsibility for Others”

Susan Smith and Angela Jones
Kentuck Elementary School

Establish an outdoor reading garden to encourage a lifelong love of reading and environmental appreciation.

“Engineering for All”

Ann Cassada
Pittsylvania County Schools

“An Ocean Habitat/Ecosystem”

Melissa Stallings, Laura Snead
Southside Elementary School

“Docu-Mentor-Y”

Linda Yeatts, Tara Mills, Maria Sells, Malia Turner
Tunstall High School

“Improving Literacy Through the Use of Student Book Clubs”

Hilary Simmons, Darla Kauffelt
Tunstall Middle School

“Weeds and Seeds...Helping the Earth Stay Green by Meeting its Needs”

Carole Brown, Rita Gimbel
Tunstall Middle School

“Schoolwide Wellness”

Margaret Harden, Janie Russell, Kenneth Sitterson, Marcia Meyer
E.A. Gibson Middle School

“The Effect of a Specialized Functional Movement Program”

Sally Burton, Tiffany Lancaster, and Guy Grantier
Forest Hills Elementary School

“Green Energy Solutions”

Gregg Mason and Jerry Franklin (Danville Community College)
George Washington High School

“Good Character Traits Can’t Wait”

Cynthia Daniel, Felicia Ferguson
Glenwood Elementary School

“Second Grade is at the Center of Attention”

Kimberly Sheldon, Cynthia Daniel
Glenwood Elementary School

“The Dream Team: We See the Good In You”

Lillie Garrett, Langston Teachers, Counselors, Ministerial Alliance, and Danville Public Schools
Alternative Education Office
John M. Langston Focus School

“Making the Most with Math Manipulatives”

Cathy Hincker
O.T. Bonner Middle School

“Catfish in the Classroom”

Jackie Sinnott, Dana Holland, Sara O’Donnell
Park Avenue Elementary School

“A World of Learning”

Sara O’Donnell, Laura Johnson, Bev Cocke, MaryAnn Johnson, Dorris Anderson
Park Avenue Elementary School

“The ABC’s of Kindergarten”

Amelia Foster
Caswell County Schools

“Oakwood’s Outdoor Science Lab”

Beth Griffin, Carolyn Poteat, Robert Palmer
Oakwood Elementary School

“Math Resource Library”

Samantha Lawrence, Hilary Dodson, Wykendra Parker
Stoney Creek Elementary School

“Technology in the Kindergarten Classroom”

Eve McVey, Mary Turpin
Stoney Creek Elementary School

The Board of Directors and the Education Committee of the Danville Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce would like to thank The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., the Danville Regional Foundation, and everyone involved with the education grant process for making the 2010 -2011 grant projects possible.

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