



Press Release

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East Lansing Educational Foundation Awards First-Ever Collaboration Grant Announcement of \$16,000 Award Made at District Professional Development Assembly

East Lansing, MI -- The East Lansing Educational Foundation (ELEF) surprised East Lansing teachers gathered for a day of professional development with the announcement of the winners of the foundation's first Collaboration Grants focused on technology.

Red Cedar Elementary, Marble Elementary and MacDonald Middle School will all receive funding for digital projectors and cameras as winners of the ELEF awards. In total, \$16,000 will be distributed among the three schools.

"With this new Collaboration Grant," explains Rich Mikel of the ELEF Board and Grant Committee, "we are moving the foundation forward into the realm of technology, especially technology that brings students and teachers together to collaborate around the curriculum." The foundation, Mikel explains, also keeps equity among the schools in mind as it considers grant requests. In this case, the foundation worked with the district's Director of Technology Christian Palasty, to look at grant applications through the framework of district technology goals.

"We found a situation tailor-made to foundation work," says Mikel. "In some schools, every classroom had projectors and cameras. In others supply was more sporadic. Our awards insure that every classroom in the district has a projector, and that every school has a supply of digital cameras."

The foundation made the Collaboration Grant announcement during a district-wide professional development day. The teachers were learning specifically about how technology can help teachers differentiate the instruction they give each student. "Put educational technology in the hands of a good teacher," says Interim Director of Educational Services Jo Preston, "and watch the students in that class leap forward."

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