



Press Release

For Immediate Release: December 1, 2010

East Lansing Educational Foundation Announces Endowment Grant and Collaboration Grant Winners -- Grants totaling \$13,600 are awarded

East Lansing, MI – The East Lansing Educational Foundation has announced it’s annual Endowment Grant winners. At the same time, the non-profit organization awarded two Collaboration Grants to the East Lansing Public School district. The independent foundation granted a total of \$13,600.

“We are really seeing the first fruits of our endowment effort,” says Bridget Paff, ELEF’s Volunteer Endowment Chair. “Today’s East Lansing students will have new Smartboards, books and all sorts of enhancements - all from the interest of funds that will never run out.” The foundation is in year one of a three –year \$1.3 million dollar endowment campaign, and has raised over \$500,000 to date. “This is a community,” continues Paff, “that is stepping up to fill the gaps in education funding.”

The foundation leveraged its Collaboration Grant funds with funds from the school system to buy Smartboards for every third grade classroom in the district. Smartboards are interactive digital white boards that "provide students with hands-on interactive lessons," explains teacher Josh Robertson, who won the ELEF Grant.

ELEF endowment income also funded “Clickers” for MacDonald Middle School. “Clickers,” explains MMS teacher Matt Christians who wrote the grant, “allow students to respond individually and immediately to surveys, quizzes or questions from the teacher. So teachers know immediately if students understand the material.”

Additional endowment awards were made to: Susan Passalacque at Pinecrest to buy Kindergarten level reading books; Amanda Morn for a special education program to start a Candle-Making Business; Melissa Sigh at Red Cedar to fund guest musicians for an all-school meeting; and an ELHS high school student will attend an International Performance Experience with an endowment scholarship.

Contact: Dorsey Weber Gude, East Lansing Educational Foundation, 517-333-7413
gude_dw@elps.k12.mi.us