



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Central Texas Educators Receive \$76,000 in Grants!

Austin, TX – A+ Education Foundation (Foundation), a philanthropic arm of A+ Federal Credit Union announced the recipients of the Foundation’s 2011 Educator Grant Program. This year \$76,000 was awarded to 82 grant recipients! These funds cover the cost of programs, supplies, and training to improve the classroom experience for students in Central Texas. This year’s 82 winning submissions included projects such as reading clubs, bullying prevention program, communication devices for nonverbal students, improving the effectiveness of teaching through technology, social skills enrichment program, taking science home, behavior support of students with severe & cognitive disabilities, and math mania.

Recipient	School
<b>Austin ISD</b>	
Robert W. Cotter	Burnet MS
Jennifer D. Atkinson	Cunningham ES
Jennifer M. Moody	Cunningham ES
Roscoe McCormick	Kealing MS
Guadalupe Valdez **	Langford ES
Olimpas Hernandez	Langford ES
Michelle N. Brown **	O Henry MS
Roger Alvarado **	Ortega ES
Elizabeth E. Ing	Pleasant Hill ES
Barbara J. Wilson	Sanchez ES
Debra R. Hurst	Widen ES
Stacey L Shapiro	Zilker ES
<b>Bastrop ISD</b>	
Heather E. Wheeler	Bluebonnet ES
Lourdes L. Taylor	Bluebonnet ES
Tiffany E. Williams	Bluebonnet ES
<b>Dripping Springs ISD</b>	
Catherine Rodrigue	Drippings Springs HS

Recipient	School
<b>Round Rock ISD</b>	
Dewana Thompson	Berkman ES, Bluebonnet ES, and Voigt ES
Christine Dietz	Brushy Creek ES
Jennifer E. Weaver *	Callison ES
Jessica R. Cheyney	Callison ES
Lalitha A. Shetty	Callison ES
Sam Soto	Callison ES
Nancy G. Oliver	Canyon Vista MS
Darlene C. Bradshaw	Cedar Ridge HS
Amy E. Lott	Deerpark MS
Pamela S. Arnold	Forest Creek ES
Refugia “Beth” Lehn	Jollyville ES
Trish A. Prentice	Laurel Mountain ES
Jane L. Scott	Laurel Mountain ES
Linda D. Wilcox	Live Oak ES
Victoria Fishman **	Pond Springs ES
Jennifer R. Wilder	Special Education Dept
Kristina M. Caffey **	Teravista ES
Elizabeth Hodges	Union Hill ES
Christine M. Epperson	Voigt ES

<b>Georgetown ISD</b>	
Dawn A. Mitts	Carver ES
Judy K. Mueller **	Cooper ES
Kendra M. Merchant	Cooper ES
Gail McKenzie	Dell Pickett ES
Samantha Stevens **	McCoy ES
Jolene B. Messersmith **	Mitchell ES
Mary Suzanne Wheeler	Mitchell ES
Robert T. Dyer	Mitchell ES
Laurel E. Wheatley	Village ES
Lonna M. Adams	Village ES
Michelle R. Pickard	Williams ES
<b>Hutto ISD</b>	
Leslie A. Fernandez	Farley MS
Cheryl A. Larson	Hutto MS
<b>Leander ISD</b>	
Nancy R. Santucci	Four Points MS
Deborah S. Simmons	Giddens ES
Aline R. Crompton **	Self-30
<b>Manor ISD</b>	
Concepcion Fernandez	Decker ES
Edgar Sandler	Decker ES
Efraim Fernandez	Decker ES
<b>Pflugerville ISD</b>	
Katie Howerton Landry	Connally HS
Renata Geurtz	Connally HS
Theresa V. Hoang	Connally HS
Rita A. Ervin	Copperfield ES
Barbara K. Rehnborg	River Oaks ES
Sandra L. Chaplain	River Oaks ES
Sondra E. Garvey	River Oaks ES
Nancy L. Fullerton	Westview MS
Jennifer P. Wood	Windermere ES

<b>San Marcos CISD</b>	
Diana Garcia	DeZavala ES
Judith Lee Kraemer	Doris Miller MS
Arlene S. Hooper	Goodnight MS
Michael D. Soliday	Goodnight MS
Rosa M. Aponte-Gonzalez	Goodnight MS
Jeanne C. McCaffrey	Hernandez ES
Rosalinda E. DeLaRosa	Hernandez ES
Chris L. Cooper	San Marcos HS
Jacquelynn S. Norman	San Marcos HS
Niki J. Konecki	Travis ES
<b>Wimberley ISD</b>	
Stephanie Norris	Wimberley HS
<b>Private/Charter/State Schools</b>	
Heather R. Swanson	Austin Peace Academy
Jennifer C. Burdett	Austin Peace Academy
Michelle Lynn Plumb	Austin Peace Academy
Mary E. (Libby) Weed	Brentwood Christian
Kristen R. Berry	Brentwood Christian
Michelle L. Mohrmann	Brentwood Christian
Cynthia E. Cunningham-Piper **	Texas School for the Deaf
Renee L. Matthew **	Zion Lutheran

\*“The Kate Loftis Memorial Education Grant” recipient

\*\* ”Arthur Amundson Grant” recipient

The Foundation also continues to offer an Honorary Grant Program in which grants are awarded, in a name designated by contributors, in the amount of \$1,000. This year's recipient of *The Kate Loftis Memorial Education Grant*, awarded on behalf of Dennis and Cindy Loftis, is for the grant entitled *We "Heart" Books*. The recipient is indicated above with an asterisk (\*). Kate Loftis, who was born January 31, 1900, was a life-long teacher who obtained her teaching certificate from what is now Texas State University. At age 20, she began teaching in schools around Travis County until her retirement in 1945. She then began teaching veterans returning from World War II and continued teaching until her mid 90's, travelling from her care facility to a local elementary school to teach reading.

This year's recipients of the *Arthur Amundson Grant*, awarded on behalf of Arthur Amundson, are indicated above with two asterisks (\*\*). The eleven grants support projects entitled Learning Astronomy through a Book Club, Field Experience and Writing, Read to Succeed Project, Robotics: A Universal Language, Look How Our Kinder"garden" Grows!, Brainpop for Science Education, Kindergarten Literacy Station, Communication Devices for Nonverbal Students, Orff Schulwerk Level II Training, Reading Intervention, Bilingual Language Planning: Technology Support for ASL and English Development and Learning to Grow. Arthur Amundson exudes the Credit Union motto of "People Helping People". One way this is evident is his volunteer service as an A+ Federal Credit Union Board Member and Chairman from 1952-1983. Interestingly, Credit Unions were created the same year Mr. Amundson was born – 102 years ago!

"We are thrilled to award \$76,000 to Central Texas educators in the form of grants. This is especially crucial in a time of budget cuts and downsizing where funding is more challenging" noted Kerry A.S. Parker, President of the Foundation. "These grants fund materials and programs that positively impact educators, students, their campuses and communities. Founded in 1949 by teachers, A+ Federal Credit Union proudly continues to support the education community in the areas we serve."

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**A+ Education Foundation** – A+ Education Foundation was established and developed by A+ Federal Credit Union in 2005 to provide grants to full-time PreK-12 educators in reaching their educational goals. Since its inception, the Foundation has given almost \$320,000 in grants. These grants help fund programs and training for educators in the communities served by A+ Federal Credit Union. To find out more information, including how to support teachers in your area, visit [apluscu.org/grants](http://apluscu.org/grants).

**A+ Federal Credit Union** - With 15 Austin area locations, more than \$857 million in assets, and over 92,000 members that include not only educators, students, and their families, but other members of the community as well, A+FCU has grown to become one of the largest credit unions in Austin. To find out more, visit the website at [apluscu.org](http://apluscu.org).