

# Excellence in Education

## 2014 Educator Incentive Grants

### Individual Teacher Grants

#### *Kalamazoo Christian Schools*

##### **Matt Eling**

Matt plans to tour historic battlefields and important landmarks along the eastern seaboard of the United States, including Gettysburg, Antietam, Manassas, the White House and other national monuments. The trip will provide resources he can incorporate into his classroom curriculum.

#### *Kalamazoo Public Schools*

##### **Emeka Debyser**

Emeka will attend the Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS) Workshop in Lansing. The workshop will model how to teach vocabulary and grammar in the context of stories while providing valuable coaching to ensure all students achieve language proficiency.

#### *Parchment*

##### **Jodie Lugar-McManus**

Jodie will attend the National Association of Biology Teachers Conference in Cleveland to discover new and innovative ways to implement and support the Next Generation Science Standards. The conference will offer compelling and relevant information, techniques and resources to engage students in active learning.

#### *Comstock*

##### **Maria Standal**

Maria will attend the Brain Gym Practicum in Ontario. As a licensed Brain Gym instructor/consultant, she then will provide training to other staff to support the district's school-improvement goals.

#### *Comstock*

##### **Katelin Gonzalez**

Katelin will attend the National TPRS (Teacher Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling) training in Chicago. This training will allow Comstock to offer a cohesive 5-12 Spanish program and help the district attain their goal of having all students prepared for college-level Spanish upon graduation.

#### *Portage*

##### **Sarah Miller**

Sarah will attend the Aquinas College Summer Literacy Conference. Featured speaker Donalyn Miller will talk about her book "Reading in the Wild," which offers strategies on how to develop, encourage and

assess key lifelong reading habits, including dedicating time for reading, planning for future reading and defining oneself as a reader.

#### *Portage*

##### ***Karen French Hall***

In July, Karen will attend Teaching for Artistic Behavior at the Boston School of Art. The conference will help her convert her art room into a well-organized studio and give her strategies to facilitate for deeper student inquiry with fewer teacher-directed activities, in alignment with district goals.

#### *Schoolcraft*

##### ***Dawn Pincumbe***

Dawn will attend a three-day Capturing Kids' Hearts training as part of a two-year plan to implement a Teen Leadership course at the middle and high schools starting in the fall of 2014. The Teen Leadership Certification will enable her to teach personal responsibility and leadership skills through role playing, group activities, speeches and projects.

#### *Schoolcraft*

##### ***Jaime Hilaski***

Jaime is also attending the three-day Capturing Kids' Hearts training as part of a two-year plan to implement a Teen Leadership course at the middle and high school starting in the fall of 2014. The Teen Leadership Certification will enable Jaime to teach personal responsibility and leadership skills.

#### **Administrator Grant**

##### *Kalamazoo Christian Schools*

##### ***Marc Verkaik***

Marc will attend the Building Learning Communities Education Conference in July to study the best innovative and practical learning resources for his students and school community. Knowledge gained at the conference will allow Marc to strengthen work already started with teachers and further develop school-improvement goals in this area.

#### **Building-Wide/Multi-Educator Grants**

##### *Kalamazoo Public Schools*

##### ***Angela Laginess & DaNetta Blake***

Angela and DaNetta will attend the Advanced Course for Link Crew Coordinators in Collingwood, Ontario. There, they will network with other trainers from other regions who have implemented a student-centered leadership and mentor program founded on the guiding principle that students are an invaluable and untapped resource.

### *Portage*

#### ***Kristen Gavlas***

Kristen and a colleague will attend the CUE Rock Star Teacher Camp in Saugatuck, Mich. to deepen their knowledge of technology integration and project-based learning. They will learn more about digital portfolios, Google forms, spreadsheets and cutting-edge applications.

### *Vicksburg*

#### ***Terri Negri & Allison Taylor***

Terri and Allison will attend the Technology in the Elementary Classroom Conference in Chicago to learn how technology can extend the learning context when used in appropriate and meaningful ways. The gathering addresses tools, apps, activities and strategies to support K-4 developmental and learning skills such as fluency, numeracy, storytelling and voice.

## **Multi-District/School Cluster Grant**

### *Kalamazoo Christian Schools*

#### ***David Koning***

David, along with three other teachers, will attend the National Science Teachers Association conference in Boston to enhance the district's elementary, middle and high school science education. The conference will focus on the Next Generation Science Standards and provide teachers with resources to strengthen their science instruction.

### *Parchment*

#### ***Julie Kaemming***

Julie and her staff will receive training from a Kalamazoo RESA math consultant in creating high-quality math assessments that are aligned to the Common Core State Standards and that challenge students with the structure and rigor of the Smarter Balanced Assessment. This professional development will be followed up by coaching to ensure consistent implementation.

### *Schoolcraft*

#### ***Kathryn Andrews***

Kathryn and other district staff will attend The Teacher as Classroom Intervention First Responder in Grades 3-12: How to Find & Fix Academic Skill Deficits. Staff will learn research-based interventions for individualized instruction and "survival skills" such as time management and organization.