



Foundation for Educational EXCELLENCE

Sparking the minds of students to become life-long learners is one of the goals for the Foundation for Educational Excellence. The organization funds innovative learning opportunities in Beaufort County Public Schools by providing grants to teachers and programs that strive to go beyond basic educational opportunities.

Through these programs, students learn to become software developers, become literate and functional in foreign languages, study robotics, and so much more. The grants given by the Foundation are provided to teachers in support of the school district mission and goals for their students. Since 2009, the Foundation has awarded over \$180,000. in grants for the students of the Beaufort County Public Schools. More than 53,000 individual learning opportunities have been made available to students county-wide.

The Foundation also provides Student Enrichment Grants, given throughout the school year, for academic and arts-related opportunities that take place outside of the school district. Innovative School Resource Grants, awarded each spring, are for innovative instructional school-wide projects. And the Dr. Wayne Carbiener "Above & Beyond" Teacher Recognition Grant is given annually to the District Teacher of the Year to support the recipient's work in the classroom.

Examples of successful grants:

The robotics team from Hilton Head Island High School, led by teacher John Quindlan, recently participated in a competition against other schools with robotics programs. They placed third out of 64 teams in Myrtle Beach and fifth out of 61 teams in Knoxville.

Jennifer Friend-Kerr, a teacher at Hilton Head



Island Elementary School for the Creative Arts, used her grant to help students visit places most people never get to see in their lifetimes. Using the NEARPOD software on the NEARPOD website, students have been using their iPads to visit live volcanoes and distinguish between active and dormant volcanoes. Studying geometry in mathematics, students went on a virtual field trip to Taipei, Taiwan. Together, they identified different two-dimensional shapes and searched for them while discovering the unique skyscrapers in Taipei.

Teachers Willard Smith & Bradley Williams at Whale Branch Elementary School worked on The Drums Alive project. Students move while drumming rhythms in an aerobic routine with large exercise balls. The project incorporated music and physical education activities emphasizing the understanding of rhythm concepts and improved cardiovascular endurance.

These are unique learning opportunities that help ignite the imaginations of students to create a life-long interest in learning, and they afford local students experiences that otherwise would not be available.

"The Foundation is truly thankful to be the primary beneficiary of the Polo for Charity event this year," says Deborah Colella, Foundation Board Chair. "Countless students and teachers of Beaufort County will benefit from the hard work and effort that the Rotary Club of Okatie has put into making this wonderful event such a success."

The Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization and is a fund of the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. For more information visit www.foundationexcellence.com or call 843-415-2331.