



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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School Foundation Announces \$15,000 Innovation Grant Recipients

Wednesday June 13, 2018 - Ridgefield, Washington - In partnership with Columbia Credit Union (CCU), the Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation (RPSF) announces three teachers each awarded approximately \$5000 through the Paul Lewis Innovation Grant (PLIG).

This past spring, teachers had the opportunity to apply for grant funds. The RPSF board and major funding partner, CCU, were seeking teachers or staff who were willing to champion a project or program that would fuel innovation in the classroom by incorporating new, creative, original or out-of-the-box programs. The board received 12 grant applications, making the decision to choose just three, a difficult one. Stephanie Goad, RPSF board member states, "The grant applications received spanned many grades and content areas. When selecting projects to fund, the foundation considered creativity, sustainability, and a well-thought-out plan for the use of the funding. We feel confident that the grant recipients will be providing experiences which extend the core curriculum for a large number of students and foster creativity and independence".

The three recipients and a short description of their program is listed below.

Alan Adams: 21st Century Art - In order to create an art program that integrates traditional fine arts techniques and new and innovative approaches used today, the grant will be used to purchase iPads and digital art programs for use in art classes at Sunset Ridge. Students will be able to build digital portfolios, and take advantage of digital art curriculum such as animation, film making, coding-based art, and digital painting and comics.

Shannon Hemrick, Kent Lind Katy Sheley: Science Tech Equipment - Ridgefield High School science teachers will purchase 13 Venier LabQuest 2 versatile data-collection devices. These devices will allow students to participate in over 100 hands-on science experiments in the classroom and in the field. The department has a history of using outside resources and local agency collaboration to create successful project-based learning experiences for Ridgefield High School students.

Jeff Brink: Spud Bot Academy - A coordinated program that will provide year-round opportunities for students to engage in STEM based robotics activities. The cornerstone of Spud Bot Academy will be a week-long robotics camp for 3rd-6th grade students hosted by the 9th-12th grade Steel Ridge Robotics team. This will be an exciting mentor-based program that builds science, engineering, and technology skills, inspires innovation, and fosters well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

Columbia Credit Union's senior vice president chief marketing officer, Colleen Boccia, states, "The families and students in Ridgefield are fortunate to have an active Foundation that cre-

ates opportunity for educator/student/community collaboration.” Boccia, a long-time Ridgefield resident, added, “Creating a camp where curious minds are lifted up by the high school robotics team is the epitome of innovation! The campers gain knowledge and interact with role models while participating high schoolers practice

leadership, communication and mentoring skills. This sort of collaboration is an example of why families are excited to raise their children in the wholesome Ridgefield community. Whether students are learning modern entertainment, communication and art techniques or going all ‘Bill Nye’ with scientific in-field collection and experiments, these PLIG innovation grants are a trifecta win for the Ridgefield community. Columbia Credit Union is honored to partner with the RPSF to make life better while fostering Ridgefield’s Pursuing Premier Goals and Planning Blueprint.”

To learn more about the Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation, donate or apply for a grant or scholarship please go to www.ridgefieldpsf.org.

The Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation is a privately funded, non-profit organization, established in 2009. Our mission is to advance programs and activities that support whole student development for which public resources are insufficient or unavailable.

About Columbia Credit Union: Established in 1952, Columbia Credit Union serves 94,500 members with local consumer, business, mortgage, investment, and insurance services. Columbia Credit Union has \$1.3 billion in assets. It was voted Best of Clark County for the last 10 years by readers of The Columbian, was selected Best in Business for the last five years by readers of the Vancouver Business Journal, and received a 2017 Award for Workplace Excellence from Peter Barron Stark Companies. Columbia Credit Union is recognized for superior financial stability and performance as one of the Top 200 Healthiest Credit Unions in America by Deposit-Accounts.com, ranking #1 in the Portland-metro area and #33 in the U.S. Columbia Credit Union also holds Bauer Financial’s “5 Star” and Weiss’ “Recommended” ratings. As a certified Clark County Green Business, Columbia Credit Union upholds sustainable business practices, including construction under U.S. Green Building Council LEED standards.

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