



PRESS RELEASE

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School Foundation Announces \$12,000 Innovation Grant Recipients

Tuesday October 8, 2019 - Ridgefield, Washington - In partnership with Columbia Credit Union (CCU), the Ridgefield Public Schools Foundation (RPSF) announces three teachers each awarded grants totaling approximately \$12,000 through the RPSF Innovation Grant.

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. This is the second year of the Innovation Grant program and teachers were eager and ready to apply for funds. This year the Foundation received seven applications, each with exceptionally well-thought-out innovative program requests.

Elizabeth Flynn, RPSF board Vice-President states, "When we launched this program in partnership with CCU last year, we had hoped to inspire creative and innovative thinking in the classroom to help advance core curriculum. This year's grant applicants did not disappoint. The ideas generated through the Innovation Grant process exemplify the dedication and innovative thinking you can find at Ridgefield School District. Our partnership with CCU enables that creative thinking to quickly and directly impact a larger number of students across grade levels and schools. We are excited to see how Ridgefield students learn and grow through these three new programs."

The three recipients and short descriptions of their programs are listed below.

Katie James and Linda Wear: Pond Trail and Outdoor Classroom - Sunset Ridge and View Ridge teachers requested supplemental funds for materials to build a bark chip trail encircling the pond and wetland on the southeast side of the campus. The application also included a request for learning materials to support activities in the outdoor classroom, such as binoculars, insect nets, clipboards, and field guides. This project is being completed in partnership with other Ridgefield entities.

Tamara Hoodenpyl: 21st Century Art Room iPads - This grant will be used to purchase iPads and digital art programs for use in art classes at Ridgefield High School to create an art program that integrates traditional and innovative fine arts techniques. Students will be able to build digital portfolios, and take advantage of digital art curriculum such as animation, film making, coding-based art, digital painting and comics.

Brittany Rodin: Playaways for Inclusion - Playaways are self-contained, user friendly audiobooks. They are durable, all-in-one devices that allow students the freedom and portability to listen to audiobooks anytime, anywhere. Ridgefield High School teachers plan to implement this technology with the special education population so they can

learn alongside other students in the classroom without the help of a para or co-teacher. The devices can also be used at home allowing the students to function more independently.

“Families and students in Ridgefield are fortunate to have an active Foundation that creates opportunities for collaboration between educators, students and the community,” says Colleen Boccia, Columbia Credit Union’s Chief Marketing Officer and long-time Ridgefield resident. “Providing tech-based learning tools as well as access to outdoor natural learning environments for curious minds is the epitome of innovation! This sort of collaboration is an example of why families are excited to raise their children in the wholesome Ridgefield community. Whether students are using technology or getting up close and personal with the great outdoors to enhance their learning experiences, these innovation grants are big wins 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 to 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, a certified Clark County Green Business, Columbia Credit Union serves more than 100,000 members with \$1.6 billion in assets. Members enjoy local consumer, business, mortgage, investment, and insurance services. Accolades include 11 consecutive years as Best of Clark County by readers of The Columbian, six consecutive years as Best in Business by readers of the Vancouver Business Journal, and is a multi-year (including 2019) recipient of the Peter Barron Stark Companies’ Award for Workplace Excellence. Columbia Credit Union is recognized for superior financial stability and performance as a Forbes Best Credit Union for Washington and as one of DepositAccount.com’s Top 200 Healthiest Credit Unions in America. Columbia Credit Union’s commitment to community service was most recently recognized with their third consecutive Portland Business Journal Corporate Philanthropy Award.

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