



## Grant Opportunities for Schools, Districts

### *Sprint Grant Offerings*

Through the Sprint Ahead for Education grant program, the Sprint Foundation awards grants to school districts and individual schools to fund the purchase of resource materials, supplies, equipment and software that facilitates and encourages character education among K-12 students. With a national reach, the program is open to all U.S. public schools (K-12) and U.S. public school districts.

The program will accept applications for Character Education programs that promote youth leadership, youth volunteerism, school pride and a positive school culture. Examples of programs that the Sprint Foundation will fund include:

- Costs associated with hosting a youth leadership conference
- Character education teacher training and character

education support resources

- Direct project related costs for community service/ service learning programs
- School improvement projects that serve to enhance and build school pride

District level grants are available for programs ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000. School level grants are available for programs ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

The grant application period will run from March 3 – April 15. Applications for funding must be submitted online at [www.sprint.com/citizenship/education/sprintahead](http://www.sprint.com/citizenship/education/sprintahead).

### *Excellence in Urban Education Grants*

The School of Education at UMKC offers its annual Joan and Bert Berkley Excellence in Urban Education Grants program  
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## Applications Being Taken for Institute for Urban Education

Students who aspire to teach math or science at the middle or elementary school level should check out the Institute for Urban Education (IUE) at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Applications are now being taken for the next freshmen incoming class. The deadline is March 15.

The program is scholarship-based, offering significant financial assistance to all students admitted to the IUE (the scholarship is not need-based, however). Students admitted to the IUE can receive up to \$33,000 in IUE scholarships over four years, in exchange for a commitment to teach in an urban district following graduation.

The undergraduate program combines content courses with teaching methodologies to fully prepare students for teaching in urban schools. The IUE curriculum contains a social justice focus, helping students discover the social and political realities and potential for teaching in urban schools.

Teachers, principals, counselors and other staff members are encouraged to refer students who may be interested in applying.

For full curriculum details and admission requirements, go to <http://www.umkc.edu/umkc/catalog/html/educ/0460.html>

**Deadline is March 15**

## Students Prepare Their Taste Buds for Food Fair



A number of students in the district will spend their afternoon sampling new food items as the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS) hosts its annual Taste of 500 food fair Friday, March 7. The event is set to begin at 2 p.m. at Coronado Middle School.

This year marks the 11<sup>th</sup> year for the event, which is coordinated by the Nutritional Services Department. The event brings food vendors into the district with new food items for students to taste and evaluate. Food items that pass the students' "taste tests" could appear on the district's lunch or breakfast menus next school year. A number of district employees and Board of Education members also will be in attendance.

Characters making special appearances will include Nutri-Pear and Tony the Tiger.

## Lump Sum Salary Requests Due March 31

Certified staff wishing to receive a lump sum summer salary payment in June must complete and return a request form to the Human Resources Department by Monday, March 31, 2008.

Certified staff who have received a lump sum summer payment in the past will continue to do so unless they complete a form from Human Resources to discontinue this payment setup.

Call Human Resources, ext. 2261, to request a form or for more information.

## Nominations Open for Custodial Staff Awards

Each year exceptional custodial staffs are recognized with the Custodial Staff Achievement Award. The Award recognizes the dedication and outstanding work of these staff members.

The next Custodial Staff Awards will be given in March. District employees or community members may nominate the custodial staff from a particular building or school for the award. (Maintenance staff may not take part in the nominations.) There are four categories: Elementary School, Middle School, High School, and Administrative/Library. One award will be given in each category.

The deadline for the spring award nominations is Wednesday, March 12. Nominations may be faxed or e-mailed to **Joe Herbin**, (913) 627-3894, [joherbi@kckps.org](mailto:joherbi@kckps.org).

## Project Lead the Way

*Rosedale Middle School teacher Jennifer Hill-Nevinger (middle) and eighth graders Sergio Cuevas (left) and Brooklyn Lauffer created a display for an Engineers' Week Luncheon held in February in Kansas City, Mo. The group is involved in Project Lead the Way, a program designed to create a pipeline of students prepared to pursue engineering and technology-related careers.*



## And the Winners Are...

Congratulations to the following staff whose names were drawn as winners during the weekly Believe Campaign drawings sponsored by the KCK School Foundation for Excellence. Many thanks to all the staff who made contributions.

- **Mike Schmieding**, Washington High School. Prize: Apple ipod
- **Vickie Trutzel**, McKinley Elementary School. Prize: Dinner for two at the Cheesecake

Factory

- **Stephen Brandt**, Washington High School. Prize: KC Brigade Tickets
- **Vicki Smothers**, Claude Huyck Elementary School. Prize: Apple ipod

The Foundation will hold its final drawing this week. The prize is Nascar tickets.

## Students Jump Rope for Heart

Third, fourth and fifth-grade students at Quindaro Elementary School recently raised \$478 through a Jump Rope for Heart event.

Through the program, students collected donations, then jumped rope during their P.E. class time to emphasize the importance of heart health.

Jump Rope For Heart is a national educational fund-raising program that is sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. It teaches physical fitness and promotes the value of community service to students and their families.

**Ron Smith**, P.E. teacher, said he is proud of his students' efforts.

## Grant Opportunities

(Continued from front) to support and promote teachers and counselors as they make learning engaging, and help their urban students achieve. The ultimate goal is to showcase urban education and to publicize the high quality of work that goes on in urban schools, by counselors, teachers and students.

Interested teachers and counselors from 10 districts working closely with UMKC on urban education are eligible to submit applications. The districts are: Center, Grandview, Hickman Mills,

Independence, Kansas City Kansas, Kansas City Missouri, North Kansas City, Raytown, Turner and UMKC-sponsored charter schools.

The program will grant one award of \$3,000 per district, supporting the efforts of a teacher or counselor in that district. Each award will fund a project for the 2008-09 school year (for up to \$2,000) as well as provide the teacher or counselor with \$1,000 of discretionary funds. The projects should demonstrate excellence in one or more of the following aspects:

- Relevance to students' needs and interests
- Academic rigor with a focus on standards
- Ability to actively engage students in their classroom learning and college and career planning
- Replicable in other urban classrooms

For more information, go to [http://education.umkc.edu/urban\\_education\\_grants.asp](http://education.umkc.edu/urban_education_grants.asp). The application deadline is Monday, March 31, 2008. For more information, call (816) 235-1473.



## STAFF NOTEBOOK

is a weekly publication for employees of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools. Submissions are welcome and should be directed to:

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