



Summit County Educators Receive \$319,891 in Grants that Support Classroom Innovation

AKRON, Ohio (June 4, 2009) – At its quarterly meeting on May 19, 2009, GAR Foundation approved 41 grants totaling \$319,891 awarded through the Foundation’s *Educator Initiative Grants* (EIG) program. The EIG program, now in its sixth year, awards small grants of \$5,000-\$15,000 to teams of local educators who propose innovative and collaborative instructional techniques designed to address academic deficiencies and raise classroom achievement.

This year, GAR awarded 41 grants for projects proposed by educators from 12 public school districts, as well as several charter, parochial, and independent schools, all in Summit County. Winning proposals included a project to teach math through partnerships with local arts organizations; the use of smart boards to improve instruction; and a student research project focused on famous Ohioans. The funded projects will be carried out during the 2009-10 school year. Teams of teachers and administrators from all K-12 schools in Summit County are eligible to apply each February to receive funding for promising ideas. The grant program is administered by two local career educators, Connie Leonard and Katie Wells-Goodwin.

In announcing the 2009 grants, Foundation President Robert Briggs noted, “The EIG program provides a unique opportunity for teachers to test their new ideas in the classroom setting and share them with fellow educators county-wide.” He added, “Over the years, we have expanded the grant program in response to the quality and imagination of the proposals we received from talented educators across Summit County.”

Participating teachers from the past year’s program will share their project outcomes and experiences at a conference open to all area educators, sponsored by GAR Foundation. The fall 2009 conference is scheduled for October 13, 2009, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the downtown main branch of the Akron-Summit County Public Library. Featured speaker will be Spence Rogers, an educational expert based in Colorado who teaches educators how to design their teaching for maximum, measurable impact on students.

The following districts and schools were awarded grants through the 2010 EIG program:

<u>District</u>	<u>Total Dollars Awarded</u>
Akron Public School District	\$77,936
Barberton City School District	\$47,650
Copley-Fairlawn School District	\$ 5,000
Green Local School District	\$ 9,653
Hudson City School District	\$ 2,208
Manchester Local School District	\$10,000
Mogadore Local School District	\$ 9,685
Nordonia Hills City School District	\$21,170
Norton City School District	\$15,560
Tallmadge City School District	\$22,887
Twinsburg City School District	\$ 1,200
Woodridge Local School District	\$14,886
Charter (Light House Academy, Summit Academy)	\$43,283
Private/Parochial (Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy, Hudson Montessori, Old Trail School, Our Lady of the Elms, St. Matthew Parish School)	\$38,773



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About GAR Foundation

GAR Foundation is a private, independent foundation established in 1967 as a charitable trust by Galen J. Roush, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Roadway Express, and his wife Ruth. Since its inception, GAR has distributed over \$188 million to support charitable organizations within the Foundation's areas of interest. Funding priorities include education, social services, arts and arts education, civic enhancement, and nonprofit enhancement, with a preference for organizations serving Summit County, Ohio. On the Web: www.garfoundation.org

For more information about GAR Foundation or the Educator Initiative Grants Program, contact Christine Amer Mayer, Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel, 330-576-2911, or CMayer@garfdn.org.

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