

GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

12 Littleville Road Huntington, MA 01050

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Wendy V. Long, Public Relations ☒
(413) 685-1003

Education Foundation funds 7 new projects at Gateway

Huntington – The Gateway Education Foundation funded 7 new classroom projects totaling nearly \$3000 at its Board of Directors meeting on January 25. Since starting its *Funds for Learning* program in September 2012, the Foundation has funded 41 projects totaling \$25,000.

“We were so pleased to be able to fund every application this round,” noted Foundation President Shirley Winer. “And we are thrilled to see the depth of the projects that teachers are proposing through this program.”

The Foundation was able to fund a new round of applications this month, thanks to funds raised through its Business Sponsorship program, donations sent in throughout the year, participation in #GivingTuesday in December, and the 100 people who purchased Boston Celtics Tickets.

“Another upcoming fundraiser is ‘Ford Drive One 4 Ur School’, which will take place at the Gateway complex on Saturday, May 7,” Winer added. Ford of Northampton will bring a range of new cars to Gateway that day, from mustangs to hybrid cars to pickup trucks. For every test drive taken by a licensed driver, Ford will donate \$20 to the Gateway Education Foundation.

“We are really hoping that everyone will come out for this FUNdraiser, which could result in up to \$6,000 for the Gateway Education Foundation,” Winer said.

Projects funded in January include a project for sixth graders, who will work together to solve a green engineering challenge. The project is based upon the trending use of shipping containers to create affordable housing. Students will design a model of a shipping container home for function and proper insulation to ensure efficient heating and cooling. Insulation design will be tested measuring the extent to which an ice cube inside the home melts, when the model is under a heat lamp. This project received \$500 and will involve science/engineering, English Language Arts, geography and mathematics coursework. Teachers Asher Rotenberg and Laura Fisk submitted the application.

Also funded was a six-week healthy stress management program for third and fourth graders at Chester Elementary School (\$600). Students will learn specific stress reduction techniques and then participate in art activities designed to encourage mindfulness and promote self-calming. This program will be implemented by two interns from Westfield State University and will include four evening sessions that include parents of the involved students. Adjustment Counselor Joyce Hanousek worked with interns Julienne Gerner and Ivana McGlinchey to develop this project.

Both Chester Elementary School (\$250) and Littleville Elementary School (\$500) will hold evening family literacy nights this spring, with families coming in jammies and bringing blankets and flashlights. (Favorite stuffed animals are welcome too!). Families will rotate through different activities, will have a bedtime snack, and can read a new book (to take home) by flashlight in these partial 'sleepover' events. These events will be led by Amber Plante, Chris Bresnahan, Renee Boylan, Gail Gingras and Margaret Petzold.

Jerilyn Beauregard received two awards totaling \$700. The first will be for a vocal improvisation seminar with Dr. Stephen Paparo, assistant professor of vocal music at UMASS. Dr. Paparo will visit Gateway and work with high school choral groups on different improvisational techniques. Beauregard, who also teaches Spanish at the high school, will bring the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet Company to Gateway in the Fall, in a project co-funded by the Local Cultural Councils of Blandford, Chester, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Chester and Worthington.

First grade teacher Jennifer Bak won \$340 in funding for a "Museum on the Go – Reptile Encounters" visit at Littleville Elementary School this winter, in a program offered through the Springfield Science Museum. This visit will enhance a cross-curricular study about habitats, sets of animals in each habitat and the characteristics of each habitat. This unit of study will feature a 45-minute visit from the program with each first grade classroom, where they will learn about reptile habitats, adaptations, life cycles and behaviors.

The Gateway Education Foundation formed in 2011 to enhance the educational opportunities of the students in the Gateway Regional School District. To date, the Foundation has raised over \$53,000 through donations from staff, parents, alumni and community members, as well as small grants, fundraisers and business sponsorships.

Donations are tax deductible and may be made at any time of the year. Online donations are accepted on the Foundation's website (www.GatewayEducationFoundation.org). Checks made payable to the Gateway Education Foundation may be mailed to 12 Littleville Rd., Huntington, MA 01050.

###