



Friends,

The end of the year is such an exciting time at ITEF, as we begin to receive applications from educators across our region who have an idea for using technology to change the way their students learn.

Our Innovation Grant cycle opened on November 1 and will close on January 31. These are our largest grants, and they provide an amazing opportunity each year for area schools to implement innovative programs that have lasting impacts.

As we look ahead to the next great innovations in education in our region, it is also a great time to check in with our current innovation grantees and see their projects in action. We've included an update on each of our six 2017 innovation grantees below, and hope their ideas inspire you to think about what is possible for your school.

I am also pleased to share that in a recent special session, the ITEF Board voted to revise our mission to reflect a widening of our giving lens. Our mission now states:

With a keen eye on underserved schools and communities, the Innovative Technology Education Fund seeks to accelerate learning in K-12 spaces through the innovative uses of technology.

What idea will you propose that will make your school one of our 2018 innovators? Remember: Innovation should be the foundation of your proposal. We want to know what you want to accomplish for students, and then what technology, tools, and training are needed to get you there.

Our upcoming workshop will provide tips and information to help make your application successful. We also invite you to visit our [website](#) to learn more.

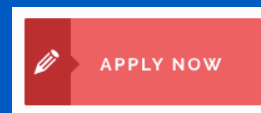
Also, make plans to join us for our fourth annual Art of the Possible event on Thursday, April 19 at the Missouri Botanical

What's Happening

2018 Innovation Grant Cycle

Applications will be accepted

November 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018.



Pre-Proposal Grant Writing Workshop

Make the most of your application opportunity by joining us for an informative Q&A session!

January 11, 6-8pm

Held at ITEF's office:

CIC@CET Building

20 S. Sarah Street

St. Louis, MO 63108

RSVP required - email

itef@innovted.com to join.

Save the Date!

Art of the Possible

April 19, 2018

Missouri Botanical Garden

Lean Into Learning: Grants for Professional Development

The second year of our Lean Into Learning professional development grant initiative was a huge success, with educators taking on a variety of learning activities. We awarded \$90,000 to educators from 15 districts and schools to attend conferences, visit schools across the

Gardens. This is a wonderful evening full of learning, networking, and inspiration for area educators. Perhaps we will announce your school as one of our 2018 Innovation Grantees that evening!

Sincerely,

Charmaine Smith
Chief Executive Officer
Innovative Technology Education Fund

Checking In: An Update From Our 2017 Innovation Grantees

Last spring we announced the recipients of our 2017 Innovation Grants. Since that time, educators at these six schools have been busy setting up new programs, acquiring equipment and training, and, finally, incorporating their ideas into the classroom.

As we near the mid-point in the school year, below are updates on how these ideas are coming to life for area students.

Adams Elementary: Rooted in STEM



What they proposed:

A hands-on, experiential project that challenges students to integrate technology into the existing school garden.

Where they are now: "We have installed a solar powered wireless weather station in the garden and the students have begun tracking the weather changes in their journals utilizing their computers. We have initiated electronic journaling, which

includes, tables and graphs of temperature, rainfall, and humidity. Teams of students successfully created geodesic domes from straws and pipe cleaners. It was amazing to see how quickly they grasped the concepts of circuits and manipulation of computer programs to change parameters of the lights. I think our biggest success is illustrated by the fact that students are very eager to come to Saturday School and excited to share what they have done with other students!"

Lift for Life Academy: Building Perspective and Empathy Through 21st Century Photography

What they proposed: While exploring emerging technology, like drones and advanced optics, art students will use the camera lens to identify and solve problems.

nation, collaborate with neighboring districts, participate in online learning through Harvard Graduate School of Education, attend Stanford FabLearn 2017, and participate in a 'make and take' Raspberry Pi workshop.

Our community of innovative educators is ready to learn and grow in so many unique and exciting ways. We understand that professional development can take many forms, and are open to different ideas and initiatives.

A staff retreat at Long Elementary school introduced teachers to innovative spaces around the community and helped them envision what was possible for their classrooms. One participant noted, "I loved having the chance to talk to new people and think out of the box. The retreat got me excited about new things."

The online application will open again on June 1, 2018. Professional development opportunities must be completed by December 31, 2018, and there is a \$3000 limit. This is a popular grant. Please consider applying early. Once the funds are depleted, the grant will close.

ITEF is excited to support educators as learners. More information about this initiative can be found on our website.

<http://innovted.com/2017/04/05/lean-into-learning-2016/>



We are pleased with the path that SWiIFT, our student-written grant program, has taken during its third year. In 2017, three schools are SWiIFT participants, and they have been working hard to incorporate student voice and choice.

Where they are now: "Almost every student has said that their favorite part of class is taking photographs. We have spent several classes walking around the school campus in order to practice photography skills. Additionally we have taken one walking field trip to Soulard Farmer's Market and another field trip to the graffiti floodwall."

Lift for Life, Innovative Educator, Alicia Brand has built a website to showcase the project: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/SXzc3zE1fYuBb/>

The Soulard School: Sow, Grow, Video

What they proposed: Using the culinary arts program to give students an expanded and hands-on view of food, food systems, and growing cycles.



Where They Are Now: "The students have participated in trainings with SPOT Media Production Group, learning about new terms and software, and are successfully implementing this knowledge. Their video quality has improved and they are able to analyze what makes a video successful and reflect on what parts could be improved. The staff has also felt a stronger connection between STEAM, nutrition, and classwork, which has helped build community and collaborative experiences."

"I think it's a good way for people to learn about our school and community. They are learning how we grow fresh foods and use it in our cooking."

- Fifth grade lab class student project leader

Forder Elementary: Two Stars to the Left, Straight on To Learning!

What they proposed: This project uses field missions to excite, inform, and ignite intellectual curiosity and includes students, family, and community.

Where they are now: Forder's vision, innovation and enthusiasm for the project, and their fundamental belief in inclusion is exciting.

Check out this video to learn more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jDtitYHop0&feature=youtu.be>

The school is hosting "Family Missions" based on stargazing (9/11), coding rovers (11/16), building rovers (2/21), and rocketry (4/18).

Walbridge Elementary: Wildcats Innovation



Coldwater Elementary in Hazelwood (pictured above) has a student-led garden initiative under the guidance of their outstanding leader **Stephanie Knight**, a third grade teacher. **Nipher Middle School** in the Kirkwood School District is working on projects under the exceptional direction of **Adam Scimone**, SOAR specialist. Finally, **Hudson Elementary** in the Webster Groves School District is supporting student projects through the excellent leadership of **Sam Pitlyk**.

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What they proposed: A STEAM space in a neighborhood school that engages and fosters student curiosity while encouraging student collaboration.



Where they are now: "Our project acknowledges that our students learn more when they are given the opportunity to design and create."

Walbridge has developed partnerships with Boeing and Washington University, and hosted a successful Science Night for families in October.

"I'm looking forward to using the coding software. I can't wait to start programming robots."

- Ronald, 5th grade

Ritenour School District: Project Based Learning: Empowering Students to Improve Their World

What they proposed: In this district-wide innovation, mobile-themed carts introduce a variety of problem solving experiences to students, and ignite project-based learning, ending with a public exhibition.

Where they are now: Ritenour has completed an update of their Gifted Center and assembled the first of nine mobile learning carts, focused on food and nutritional sciences. They also hosted a project-based learning conference with teachers from High Tech High.



CHARMAINE SMITH,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BRENDA WATT,
CHIEF INNOVATION OFFICER




ITEF provides grants that advance innovation in the classroom by funding the types of projects that inspire educators to prepare students for a technology-filled future. Project proposals may support single-grade classrooms, multiple grade levels, entire schools, or collaborations with a 501c(3) non-profit partner serving students and/or classroom educators from an accredited school or a charter school.

Since 2008, ITEF has provided more than \$3 million in grants to area schools, funding programs including transforming libraries into makerspaces, introducing robotics and animation to elementary art students, and converting an RV into a mobile innovation center that serves an entire district. ITEF also provides educators with inspiring opportunities to grow and learn in their field.

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