



PhRMA To Award \$2,500 Grant To Tupelo Middle School

Tupelo, Miss. — Mississippi Sen. Hob Bryan and Rep. Shane Aguirre will join Pete Martinez, deputy vice president of state advocacy of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), at Tupelo Middle School on Friday to announce a \$2,500 STEM Pipeline educational grant to support STEM curriculum initiatives.

“The STEM curriculum at Tupelo Middle School prepares students to have rewarding careers and to be good citizens,” Bryan said. “Thanks to PhRMA for recognizing this program and for contributing to it.”

The ceremony will begin at 8 a.m. at the school.

“Our students are learning the importance of problem solving and critical thinking, which attracts future employers in the global market,” Aguirre said. “With PhRMA’s additional resources, we can provide our students with a hands-on learning experience setting them up for future success.”

STEM education in middle school helps to spark creativity and provide connections between real life and math and science. Children who learn the value of STEM-driven careers are more likely to stay engaged and interested while pursuing higher education programs.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our teachers to enhance our STEM curriculum and provide future resources to foster innovation and technical skills,” TMS principal Mark Enis said. “We are grateful for PhRMA’s generous donation and commitment to initiatives which sustain a culture of STEM teaching and learning.”

The Tupelo School District’s mission is to serve the community by providing each student an excellent education that develops skills and citizenship needed for success in a global society. In 2020, the district hopes to receive the District of Innovation designation that is governed by the Mississippi Department of Education. The purpose of the designation is to recognize innovative programs that better prepare students for success in life and work.

“We are excited that these middle school students are exposed to a STEM curriculum and hope to ignite interest in learning skillsets that can lead to a successful career path,” said Pete Martinez, deputy vice president of state advocacy at PhRMA. “PhRMA represents the nation’s leading biopharmaceutical research companies and we want to invest in STEM-related talent and innovators of the future.”

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