News Release

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Media contact:
Stacy Conrad
Communication Specialist
conrads@centergrove.k12.in.us
317.881.9326 ext. 1641

Two Center Grove Educators Awarded Lilly Creativity Grants

(March 10, 2015) – The Lilly Endowment awarded $10,000 grants to Middle School Central Principal Nora Hoover and Center Grove Elementary Fourth Grade Teacher Stephen Blackburn. They were chosen from a pool of 500 teachers, principals, guidance counselors, and school media specialists from around the state.

The Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program encourages educators to tend to their own intellectual, emotional, and physical well-being so that they are better able to engage and challenge their students.

Nora Hoover plans to use her grant for a project titled "Messages Whispered in the Wind: What the Tree Told the Teacher". In her application, she said she would use the grant to find inspiration from trees that have survived a range of circumstances, including lightning, time, adverse weather and growing conditions; and create a book of reflections and photographs illustrating the lessons learned from trees.

Stephen Blackburn plans to use his grant for a project entitled "Predators on the Prowl". In his application, Blackburn said he would like to study large predators across North America and South Africa, including wolves, grizzly bears, lions, and hippos; dive with great white sharks; and start and environmental club at school.

The Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program awards 100 grants each year to support educators' summer projects of personally and professionally fulfilling activities. Since the program began in 1987, more than 2,700 Indiana educators have received grants.

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Photo attachments: Nora Hoover, Stephen Blackburn