**Woodstock Community Unit School District 200**

**For Immediate Release**
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# D200 Ed Foundation awards $34K for teacher grants

A sensory garden for pre-K and kindergarten students, a Shedd Aquarium tour for an environmental student organization, and ukuleles for budding young musicians — these are just a few of the more than $34,000 in projects the Woodstock D200 Education Foundation will fund this year.

Foundation Board members held their annual Impact Grant presentation ceremony for Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 educators on Oct. 15 at Woodstock North High School.

For more than 30 years, the Foundation has raised money each year and awarded Impact Grants to educators who've applied for them to fund unique programs and items that supplement their students' education.

"It's our pleasure to reward the many creative ideas of the outstanding teachers in District 200 and help them bring them to life, providing something special for students at all grade levels," said Diana Frisbie, co-chair of the D200 Education Foundation.

The volunteer Board hosts a Groundhog Day fundraiser each February with an auction and raffle as its primary fundraiser, the history of which dates back to 1993, coinciding with the filming of "Groundhog Day." The film's producers donated set items to benefit D200 students, and the Education Foundation was formed.

While the Groundhog Day theme remained, local donors and supporters fund the annual Impact Grants.

"We're so grateful to our many donors and generous sponsors who allow us to continue this mission for more than three decades. We couldn't do this without the community's support," Foundation co-chair Cindy Meyer said.

Here are some highlights of other Impact Grants funded by the D200 Education Foundation for
the 2026-2027 school year:

- Prairiewood Elementary School teacher Julie Joslyn received $750 for art supplies to complete a mural project in the school gymnasium
- Northwood Middle School teachers Keely Healless and Ryan Schmidt were awarded $1,520 to bring eighth-graders to the Illinois Holocaust Museum.
- Woodstock North High School educators Cory Knopik and Julianne DeLuna were provided $1,340 to provide real-world experiences for young adults in the Life Connections program with various disabilities.

- Dean Street and Mary Endres elementary school students in Chess Club will purchase new chess timers through a $973 grant written by educators Christina Lauff, Luke Moyta, Michelle Swiderek, and Anna Rivera.
- All schools received a $750 grant, so band students will have an opportunity to perform with the Northside Brass Quintet thanks to an approved grant written by high school band directors William Kraemer-Simpson and Kevin Fredrick.

The D200 Education Foundation Board is comprised of the following individuals: DIana Frisbie, Cindy Meyer, Melanie Dougherty, Larry Baier, Linda Gabrielson, John Schuette, Gigi Carlson, Bob Teuber, Marti Frisbie, Maggie Sullivan, and Joanna Bacon.

Community members interested in supporting future grants or learning more about the Woodstock D200 Education Foundation can visit their website https://d200edfoundation.org or participate in the upcoming Groundhog Day fundraiser in February.