

NEWS RELEASE

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McDowell Foundation Projects Reflect Educational Issues of the Day

Once again this year the successful applicants from the Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation for Research into Teaching mirror the many and varied issues that educators face in the classroom and the community.

An all-time high of 20 groups will share the \$85,000 allotted in the 14th year that the Foundation has been distributing funds for teacher action research in the province.

A program in Saskatoon to look at how Gay Straight Alliances can work to create safe, supportive schools for all students regardless of sexual orientation is just an example of the wide variety of timely topics that will be delved into.

Another program being carried out in Saskatoon at Joe Duquette School is to look at tackling issues related to Aboriginal students' level of success in high school math and science.

A group of Assiniboia teachers wants to focus on language development as part of their commitment through a rural networking process that will include mentoring and assessment strategies.

The variety of topics is further exemplified by the fact that whereas one group is looking at creating a reading buddy program for kindergarten students and older students, there's also a group in Regina that is going to look at an after school reading program that will include not only the students at Imperial Community School but also community volunteers, including seniors.

The recent \$10,000 bequest to the Foundation from the estate of Dorothy Rutherford Clarke was the stimulus for several projects looking at reading at the primary school level.

Whereas last year the lion's share of the successful applicants came from Saskatoon, the group this year represents no less than a dozen communities throughout the province including such first-time contributors as Assiniboia, Kenaston, Weyburn, North Battleford, Yorkton, Estevan and Melville.

Following is a complete list of the successful applicants:

- 1) *Differentiated Instruction to Support Literacy in Grades One and Two*. Cynthia Foster, Myra Dunbar, Jenise Vangool and Diane Cote. Father Vachon School, **Saskatoon**. Grant: \$3,600. DOROTHY RUTHERFORD CLARKE PROJECT.
- 2) *On the Track with Super Start: Filling the Gap Created by Differing Levels of Readiness Skills*. Jackie Etcheverry, Brenda Sparrow, Lori Rissling, Barb Lilly and JoAnne Kasper. Battlefords School Division, **North Battleford**. Grant: \$4,000. DOROTHY RUTHERFORD CLARKE PROJECT.
- 3) *Guided Reading to Improve Instruction in a Grade One Classroom*. Sheila Dosch and Mary Ellen Barreth. St. Mary's School, **Estevan**. Grant: \$2,500. DOROTHY RUTHERFORD CLARKE PROJECT.
- 4) *R.E.A.D. (Read Eat and Digest)*. Joni Darke, Karen Lind and Joanne Vonau. Imperial Community School, **Regina**. Grant: \$4,000. DOROTHY RUTHERFORD CLARKE PROJECT.

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- 5) *Kindergarten-Grade Three: Improved Literary Success through Assessment and Evaluation*. Kylee Glover and Tracey Kiliwnik. South Central School Division, **Weyburn**. Grant: \$2,600.
- 6) *A Multi-Age Approach to Quality Education in Reading*. Susan Maserek, Jan Niebergall, Brandy Knourek, Melanie Lamberty and Laurie Koval. Davison School, **Melville**. Grant: \$2,500.
- 7) *Building Literacy Skills Through Reading Buddies*. Jasmin Tiessen. Vincent Massey Community School, **Prince Albert**. Grant: \$2,202.
- 8) *Learning Together: Intergenerational Literature Circles as Sites for Multi-layered Learning*. Lynn Lemisko and Margaret Epp. Valley Manor School, **Martensville**. Grant: \$8,760.
- 9) *Commitment to Learning*. Kathy Enns, Tish Karpa and Myrna Briggs Enns. **Kenaston** School, **Davidson** High School, and **Central Butte** School. Grant: \$4,600.
- 10) *Toward Caring and Respectful Schools for All Students: An Action Research Project with Teacher Leaders of Saskatoon School Gay Straight Alliances*. Randy Wimmer and co-investigators from the University of Saskatchewan and Saskatoon schools. **Saskatoon**. Grant: \$6,812.
- 11) *Expanding Horizons: Development of Best Practices through a Rural Networking Process*. Sharon Connor and Heather Hobbs. Red Coat Trail School Division, **Assiniboia**. Grant: \$7,678.
- 12) *How Do Gender-Specific Classrooms Promote Success of Students in a Middle Years Setting?* Troy Froehlich, Derek Hassen, Jana Coward and David Markewich. St. Joseph Middle School, **Swift Current**. Grant: \$2,500. *TENTATIVE*.
- 13) *Comprehension Strategy Instruction*. JoAnne Kasper. Battlefords School Division, **North Battleford**. Grant: \$1,894.
- 14) *Refocusing a School: The Professional Learning Community as an Agent of Change*. Grier Swerhone, Doug Gilmour and Susan Pattison. North Park Wilson School, **Saskatoon**. Grant: \$7,020.
- 15) *Creating a Health Enhancing High School*. Louise Humbert, Dwight Kirkpatrick, John Dewar, Jack Nepjuk, Margaret Louko, Shauna Pierce and Kelly McPhee. Evan Hardy Collegiate, **Saskatoon**. Grant: \$5,080.
- 16) *Unleashing the Power of Collective Intelligence*. Terri Cote, Heather Gantefoer, Vi Maeers, Beth Warkentin, Twyla Mensch and Wendy Willis. Sacred Heart Community School, **Regina**. Grant: \$4,900.
- 17) *Guided Reading: Philosophical and Practical Direction*. Shannon Hahn, Doreen Rathgeber, Mandy Mehling and Renae Bylsma. St. Mary's School Plus, **Yorkton**. Grant: \$6,641.
- 18) *Factors Contributing to the Success of Aboriginal Students in High School Mathematics and Science*. Florence Glanfield and Darryl Bazylak. Joe Duquette High School, **Saskatoon**. Grant: \$8,306.
- 19) *Instructional Strategies and Story Experiences for Improving Expressive Language in K and Grade 5 Buddy Classrooms*. Maureen Buhlmann, Kathleen Herman and Janet Peti. St. Francis Community School, **Regina**. Grant: \$2,436. *TENTATIVE*.
- 20) *Utilizing Photobooks to Increase Family Involvement in the Learning/Teaching of Mathematics*. Lois Spitzer, Korrin Leier, Edvige Pierno and Janet Peti. St. Francis Community School, **Regina**. Grant: \$6,883.