

NEWS RELEASE

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Fewer projects to share the riches from McDowell Foundation

Ironically, even though there were fewer successful applications for funding from the Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation for Research into Teaching this year, the 10 projects actually shared in a larger pool of money provided by the Project Review Committee.

Whereas last year the 21 grants shared in just under \$80,000, the amount allotted this year amounted to \$84,693 for 10 new projects and one continuing project.

Not surprisingly, given the amount of attention being paid to School^{PLUS}, several of the projects encompassed that theme and in at least two cases, the research projects will include the components of Health and Justice as envisioned.

Two of the projects which received the lion's share of the funding were "Parent Engagement and Leadership", which is being headed up by Debbi Pushor and the staff at Princess Alexandra Community School in Saskatoon, and "Fostering Environmental Stewardship" that is being undertaken by the staff at Silverspring School in Saskatoon with the mantle of leadership to be assumed by Bruce Arthur, Krista Ford, Isabelle McCrea and Donna Nazar.

These two projects received \$25,000 and \$16,300 respectively.

Another environmental link is featured in the Saskatoon project that includes Janet McVittie, Arlene Lazecki, Scott Thompson and Shelley Loeffler (\$4,400). Their project is entitled "Assessing the Hard to Assess: Student Learning in a Middle Years Outdoor Education School".

Meanwhile, those which will probably be most closely aligned to the School^{PLUS} model include "Restorative Action in the Elementary School: A Community-Based Approach to Peace Building and Conflict Resolution" which is being done at Vanscoy Elementary in the Saskatoon (West) school division. Krista Memory, Michaela Keet, Cindy Keet, Jane Dimnik and Bria Huculak will head up this project, which was awarded a grant of \$4,476.

Joyce Polowski, Carol Henry and Susan Whiting of Prince Albert will be collaborating with colleagues in the health sector to implement the project entitled "F.U.E.L. (*Foods Used Effectively for Healthy Living*) Promoting Healthy Food and Nutrition Choices among Rural High School Children".

Overall, there was considerable variety in terms of topics with literacy as a recurring theme on three collaborations, albeit with quite distinct approaches.

"Measuring the effects of literacy growth on Mathematics" is a project led by Michael Bradford and staff of Mayfair Community School, while in the case of Keith Jorgenson's Punnichy-based project; the emphasis is on "Building Bridges in a Community - Teaching Literacy through a Community Newsletter Project". Evan Hardy Collegiate in Saskatoon is another setting that will feature a literacy initiative with the assistance of a \$6,400 research grant.

"Collaborating to Make a Difference" looks at the Adaptive Dimension and differentiating instruction in Saskatoon Catholic French Immersion schools. Hélène Cook and Elaine Stakiw will spearhead this \$7,500 project.

Rounding out the list is the \$3,931 earmarked for "Encouraging Student Attachment to School" which is being undertaken by Saskatoon researchers Myra Comrie, Suzanne Zwarych, Rick Clark and Murray Guest.