

Springfield Education Foundation surprises with grants

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The Springfield Education Foundation celebrated 17 Innovative Educator schools with grants of just under \$35,000. See story under School News.

Drummers marched down Main Street, across campuses and rumbled the hallways of schools all over Springfield Nov. 9 in the Springfield Education Foundation's grant-giving bus tour.

The SEF, which raises funds throughout the year in events like "Night of 11,000 Stars," celebrated 17 Innovative Educator grants of an estimated \$34,846 total among various schools.

Some of the grants were under \$1,000, such as the Rhythmic Development Through World Music grant at Yolanda Elementary, will help students learn rhythm and cultural traditions.

Other grants presented Monday were in several different categories – math, science, foreign language, social science, English Language development, special education and STEM.

According to a news release from the SEF, Innovative Educator grants award up to \$3,000 per educator to teachers to help implement creative academic programs that promote and inspire learning. A foundation committee of volunteers and SEF board members reportedly review all grants through a blind process.

Led by acting Superintendent Sue Rieke-Smith and Ronnel Curry of the foundation, a team of administrators and students in local drumlines marched to various classrooms to distribute the grants directly to teachers.

The list of winning projects this year are all over the map – including aquaponics in a school garden, Chromebooks for science classes, Chinese art, math manipulatives, blacksmithing, after-school string quartet, behavior monitoring materials and renewable energy.