

Chip Fraser

Ventura USD

It's My Life

\$5,000

This is a student-centered project that is both content and process. It is designed to educate, encourage and empower students about what the adult world offers (and demands), and how to be motivated, aware and equipped to meet those challenges confidently. *It's My Life* focuses on improving those skills that have been shown to be keys to postsecondary success: goal setting, problem solving, character development and confidence building. The curriculum, which will be introduced to teachers at Pacific High School, will assist each student in recognizing their own potential, interests and passions through positive participation in teacher-directed activities.

Nancy Hillard

Gonzales USD

WhyTry Program

\$4,500

This project centers around *WhyTry*, a social skills program that uses a multisensory approach to teach critical social and emotional principles that help students learn to persevere despite setbacks. The proposal is focused on incoming 9th-graders at Gonzales High and provides training to their teachers. *WhyTry* will be presented to all freshmen students during their once-a-week homeroom period in an effort to instill a greater connection to school and a sense of supported academic success. The program also fosters parent and community connections to ensure a strong support network.

Elizabeth Hinnart

Gonzales USD

Eighth Grade Academic Decathlon

\$5,000

This school project would support Fairview Middle School's challenging Academic Decathlon program. The grant will enable the previous program, which was centered around spring standardized tests, to be expanded to the whole school year. Because the decathlon is focused in four subject areas, and students take standardized tests in these same subjects, it is hoped that the program will result in higher test scores overall. Grant funds will provide student incentives, as well as after-school tutorials with subject-area teachers.

Mariana Robles

Riverside USD

ArtTech Program

\$4,925

This project is intended to develop an Arts and Technology (ArtTech) strand at Hawthorne Elementary School. The new strand will include at least one classroom in each grade K through 6, as well as four K-6 special education classes. Thirteen teachers are committed to participate next year and will devote one lesson per week to cover the California Standards for the Arts. This work will give 350 students the opportunity to experience art integrated into other curricular areas and to benefit from increased and improved use of the educational technology available at the school. Previous local and federal grants have supported arts education at the school and there is a strong parent and community component built into the program.

Robert Sautter

San Francisco USD

Triumphs in the Classroom

\$5,000

This project supports the work of the Equity-Centered Professional Learning Community at Flynn Elementary School. The ECPLC uses strength-based techniques in their attempt to create a space where teachers support one another. By uncovering, discussing, analyzing and reflecting on the techniques, practices and strategies that they know work in reaching students of color, they will be able to raise the academic achievement of all students. The intended outcome of the work of the ECPLC is to reform the school from within.

Jack Riviere

Santa Clara USD

Digital Skills for a Digital Age at
Cabrillo Middle School

\$5,000

This project will enable the staff at Cabrillo Middle School to have complete access to the most useful and creative Adobe software tools and to enable students to use these tools for projects in a variety of classes. Teaching students to use this software not only makes their learning experience intrinsically motivating, it also supplies them with useful digital skills for their future. Sixth-graders will be taught through tutorials linked to the school's website, while seventh-graders will be able to enroll in a semester-long Tech Literacy class. Eighth graders will be able to use these tools to produce the school newspaper, literary magazine and yearbook.
