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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NEF ANNOUNCES WOW! PRIZE WINNERS

**Naperville, IL - April 9, 2017** - The Naperville Education Foundation (NEF) is proud to announce the 2017 Annual Grant Awards WOW! Prize Winners. The WOW! Prize is given to award winning grant proposals that “knocked the socks off” of the evaluation teams. This year, NEF awarded \$62,326 in grants to thirty-four projects. *Four of these thirty-four projects will be presented a WOW! Prize from NEF.*

The NEF Programs Chair, Jessica Jozwiak and Co-Chairs, Neveen Michael and Amy Schade, have been keeping the WOW! Prize winners a closely guarded secret, until now. Starting April 6<sup>th</sup>, the committee along with many NEF Trustees, Board of Education Members and the D203 Superintendent, made their way to the various locations to surprise each grant writer in person! “This is the third year we have awarded the WOW! Prize to grant recipients. We are always impressed by the caliber of grants that come in, but – when they just ‘*knock your socks off*’ NEF wants to be certain they are recognized!” said Jessica Jozwiak, NEF Program Chair.

### **Physical Health Category : Get Off Your Buns and Run: Have Some Summer Fun!**

Get off your buns and run is a district-wide summer running program for elementary (K-5) students. This program will provide an opportunity and accessibility to include all interested district elementary students to learn how to run properly and safely; healthy living; the role of nutrition, and mostly to have fun! All genders and ages will work and run together building a framework of inclusion and collaboration for no charge at a central location. Grant Writers: Kathy Mueller- Community Member and David R Cleveland-Teacher

### **Social Emotional Learning Category: Student Organization That Helps Elderly Integrate Technology Into Their Lives(KC2H): Kids Care to Help.**

Kids Care to Help (KC2H) is a student-led volunteer program that pairs student with retirement center residents who wish to learn how to use their smartphones, tablets, and computers to make their lives more satisfying. The program provides participants with one-on-one, 30 minute help sessions customized to each participant’s needs, desire and learning pace. Grant Writers: Lauren Pollack- Student and John Pollack- Parent

### **Cultural Category District 203 Dual Language Community Fair**

The Dual Language Parent Advisory Group will hold a fair at the end of the 2018 school year to bring the dual language community together to celebrate the bilingualism of our children, the many cultures represented within our D203 dual language community, strengthen and foster connections within our dual language community, and promote greater understanding of the dual language program for the community at large. Grant Writer: Melissa Soline-Parent

**STEM Category : Taking Inventory**

This STEM/ Technology –based project is designed to teach District 203 multi-needs special education student’s real-world skills that will allow them to be more employable in the highly technical workplace of today. With no-technical positions on the decline in America, ALL our District 203 students should be trained to hold more technical jobs. This project is intended to place new technologies into the hands of our special needs students so that they, too, may join the ranks of America’s more technological workforce. Grant Writers: Michael R Klick-Teacher and Dr. Alma TanTorres-Administrator

This year, **NEF will be Celebrating 25 Years** of raising money and funding grants for programs that enhance and enrich the educational experience of Naperville 203 students. The Foundation mission is to “encourage creativity, innovation and excellence in our students” and our purpose is to supplement our school community with private donations to provide essential needs, enrich the educational experience beyond the classroom and provide academic assistance to all students in D203. Other NEF programs include the Kid Booster Anonymous Fund, Study Skills Academy, the Start the Day Program, and the Trustee Awards.

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