For Immediate Release

Toshiba announces $105,300 for 23 Innovative Classroom STEM Projects

New grant awards from the Toshiba America Foundation to support exciting Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) education programs in grades 6-12

Orange County, Calif. February 4, 2025-- The Toshiba America Foundation (TAF) today announced $105,302.37 in grants for 23 innovative classroom STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematic) projects in grades 6 through 12.

The grants will enable students in grades 6 through 12 to explore a wide range of subjects, including agriscience, astronomy, biology, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, environmental, food, forensic, marine and rocket science. Additionally, these grants will address local community issues through innovative hands-on lessons, such as coding, drone, robotics, AR, VR, and sustainability initiatives. The common thread across all 23 projects is the incorporation of novel ways to introduce STEM disciplines into the classroom.

One such grant recipient is. Mr. Pietrzak, a 17-year veteran teacher at Haddonfield Middle School in Haddonfield, N.J., and a professional magician hopes to use Toshiba grant funds to transform his classroom into a STEM focused escape room that mimics the immersive experience of a movie set. This will provide a dynamic learning environment where students can address STEM based puzzles and challenges in an intense, narrative-driven scenario where key concepts can be changed and puzzles adjusted to enhance hands-on learning.

"STEM occupations are vital to the long-term growth and stability of the U.S. economy," said John Anderson, President of TAF. "STEM education is key to cultivating the critical thinkers, problem solvers, and innovators that will drive our country forward. Through these grants, TAF is empowering teachers to create more dynamic and engaging STEM classrooms that inspire and challenge students to pursue careers in these essential fields. By investing in the next generation of STEM leaders, we are laying the foundation for a brighter, more prosperous future for all."

TAF's grants take a "direct-to-teacher" approach by aiming to fund projects designed by innovative classroom teachers, which brings immediate results. Teachers are able to enhance the way they teach STEM subjects because the grant supports equipment for hands-on experiments and project-based learning in the curriculum. TAF believes that learning STEM subjects through this type of experience is a lot more fun and engaging than just reading a textbook.

STEM educators interested in applying for a K-5 TAF grant should apply here by Oct. 1. STEM educators interested in applying for a 6-12 TAF grant can apply here. The deadlines for > $5K are May 1 and Nov. 1. The deadlines for < $5K are March 1, June 1, Sept. 1, and Dec. 1.

About Toshiba America Foundation

Founded in 1990 with support from Toshiba Corporation and the Toshiba America Group Companies, Toshiba America Foundation (TAF) is a non-profit grant making organization dedicated to helping classroom teachers make STEM learning fun and successful for K to 12 students in U.S. schools. TAF grants support public and nonprofit private schools throughout the United States. For more information, please visit: www.toshiba.com/taf.

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A list of TAF Grant Recipients:

School	Project	Teacher	$
ACADEMY OF ARTS AND ACADEMICS, SPRINGFIELD, OR	Global Science Social Justice Community Project	Katie Ryan	1,779.24
Acadia Academy, Lewiston, ME	Mrs. Masse's Sixth Grade Science Project: Augmented Reality	Masse Tuesdae	7,500.00
ADAIR COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL, COLUMBIA, KY	Dynamic Earth: Interaction of Earth's Systems	Angel Woodrome	1,500.00
BELMONT RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL, LEESBURG, VA	Belmont Ridge Middle School FACS Culinary Garden	Kelly Merritt	1,560.00
Frontier MS, Hamburg, NY	Frontier Middle School Environmental Engineering	Sean Kirby	4,000.00
Global Outreach Charter Academy, Jacksonville, FL	Harvesting Knowledge: An Experiential Approach to Aquaponics and Horticulture	Aaron Stiebohor	8,539.00
Haddonfield M.S., HADDONFIELD, NJ	Immersive STEM Escape classROOM	Edward Pietrzak	6,500.00
John Overton High School, Nashville, TN	Catalyzing Chemistry Education through Experimental Design: Green Chemistry and FTIR Integration for Safe Student-Led Experiments	Gregory Smith	10,000.00
Lawrence E. Elkins High School, Missouri City, TX	Project Castle Garden	Pamela Guidry	5,000.00
LYND PUBLIC SCHOOL, LYND, MN	Maple Syrup in Lynd Public School	Martin Boucek	4,300.00
MAULDIN HIGH SCHOOL, MAULDIN, SC	Prisms Virtual Reality at Maulding High School	Brian Lovejoy	2,340.00
MONMOUTH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, TINTON FALLS, NJ	Robotics and Machine Learning	Sarah Mantz	4,991.35
NEW VILLAGE GIRLS ACADEMY, LOS ANGELES, CA	Rocketry For Underserved Girls	Christa Hollis	3,620.00
NORTH COUNTRY UNION HIGH SCHOOL, NEWPORT, VT	North Country Reach for the Stars Project	Aaron Miller	2,817.94
Odessa High School, ODESSA, TX	O.H.S. Astronomy Telescopes Fund	Zachariah Haverly	6,500.00
OWENSBORO MIDDLE SCHOOL, OWENSBORO, KY	STEM for OMS	Stephanie Huff	4,873.96
PETAL HIGH SCHOOL, E PETAL, MS	The Forensic Fowl Body Farm at Petal High	Sara Zimmer	2,950.00
Providence Cristo Rey High School, INDIANAPOLIS, IN	From Canvas to Lab: Discovering the Chemistry of Art	Ann Kellison	7,500.00
SHERWOOD GITHENS MIDDLE SCHOOL, DURHAM, NC	Spheros For Science!	Rebecca Burns	4,034.00

SOUTH FORK HIGH SCHOOL, STUART, FL	Pinwheels and Prototypes: A STEM Journey for Intensive Readers	Patricia Phillips	4,261.00
Spanish River High School, BOCA RATON, FL	Performing CRISPR and Arabidopsis Plant Transformation Experiments in the Biotechnology Classroom	Mary Fish	7,650.00
TACOMA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, TACOMA, WA	SOTA Microplastics Studies	Megan Jacobsen	500.00
WANTAGH HIGH SCHOOL, WANTAGH, NY	Using Micro Sensors & Scientific Computing to Investigate Novel Questions in Science	Cassey Clark	2,585.88
Total			**105,302.37**