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Memphis Educators Receive \$5,000 Grant

NEA Foundation Funds African American History Education Project

WASHINGTON, DC (February 25, 2009) – Latonya Taylor and Ledra Pegues of Manassas High School in Memphis, TN received a \$5,000 Student Achievement Grant from the NEA Foundation to develop a history unit to study issues related to slavery. Eleventh grade English students will read *Day of Tears* by Julius Lester, conduct original research, and create presentations. They will also visit Slavehaven, a house that was a part of the Underground Railroad.

The NEA Foundation today announced that it has awarded 47 grants nationwide, totaling \$205,000, to support educators' ideas to improve teaching and learning or professional development efforts. Since 1999, the NEA Foundation has funded 44 grants for Tennessee educators.

"Over the last 40 years, the NEA Foundation has worked to improve public education by strengthening the teaching profession and by investing in programs that focus on student achievement. Through these grants, we are improving the quality of teaching and learning for everyone," said Harriet Sanford, CEO and President of the NEA Foundation. "And this year, we are placing special emphasis on green and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) grants."

The latest grants were awarded to educators in 28 states: Alabama, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

The NEA Foundation reviewed more than 364 proposals received between June and October, 2008. A team of 20 educators, many of whom are former grantees, carefully reviewed all applications and evaluated each one against a set of criteria, according to Sanford. Funded grants were selected based on the quality of the proposed ideas and their potential for enhancing student achievement.

The NEA Foundation plans to fund about 150 of its Student Achievement Grants and Learning & Leadership Grants over the next year. Awardees will be announced in three rounds. Deadlines for the next review periods are June 1, October 15, 2009, and February 1, 2010.

As of February 1, 2009, the NEA Foundation has transitioned to an online application process. "In an increasingly technologically savvy world, we want to encourage educators to use all of the resources they have at their fingertips, many of which can be found on the Internet," Sanford said. "In addition to reducing paper, taking our application process online will make it more convenient, require less lead time, and reduce the number of errors applicants can make."



To guide educators through the new online application process, the Foundation has also created an instructional video that walks prospective grantees through each step of the application. The application and the instructional video, descriptions of current and past recipients, and other helpful information can be found at www.neafoundation.org/grants.

The NEA Foundation has awarded close to \$5.9 million in grants like these in the past decade alone to educators in almost every state in the country.

The NEA Foundation

The NEA Foundation is a nonprofit, public charity created in 1969 and sustained by contributions from educators, corporate sponsors and others. The NEA Foundation offers grants and programs that support educators' efforts to close the gaps in student achievement, increase classroom innovations, salute excellence in education and provide professional development. For more information, visit www.neafoundation.org.