



16700 Norwalk Boulevard, Cerritos, CA 90703

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Scott Smith

562-229-7864

scott.smith@abcusd.us

ABC Education Foundation Funds 28 Grants Totaling More Than \$65,600

March 18, 2024, Cerritos, CA—The ABC Education Foundation, a non-profit organization supporting ABC Unified School District students and schools, announced its 10th annual mini-grants program to support classroom projects and districtwide programs. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Foundation will award 28 grants totaling \$65,694.73. Highlights from this year's funded programs and projects include:

- AutoNation Toyota of Cerritos Toyota Tundra Grants of \$10,000 each were awarded to Cerritos High School to fund additions to the school's journalism program and Fedde Middle School to fund an Engaged Readers program with access to books and a Newsels subscription
- Books with culturally diverse stories for 10th Grade English Language Arts classes at Gahr and Whitney High Schools
- iPads to teach Adult Transition students work-related skills and technology for students with special needs
- Supplies for the District's Mental Health Professionals to use with students
- Gardening and art supplies to bring the Mesoamerican and Medieval periods to life for 7th Grade World History and Science students at Carmenita Middle School
- STEM sets for 2nd Grade students at Carver Elementary School
- Multicultural books in students' home languages for Elliott Elementary School
- ALEKS digital math support program for students at Fedde, Ross, and Haskell Middle Schools
- Creating a LEGO League robotics team at Niemes Elementary School
- A new Literacy Lab full of books and materials for Melbourne Elementary School students
- Gardening supplies for the Growing Together program for Head Start preschool students at Willow Elementary School
- Soil, plants, and gardening supplies for the Tetzlaff Middle School Garden Club
- Reading and literacy supplies at Willow and Palms Elementary School

“Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we continue to be able to support these remarkable programs that impact ABCUSD students,” said Foundation Chair Heather Summers. “Our goal is to continue to grow so we can increase our impact.”

The ABC Education Foundation is an all-volunteer organization with a mission to provide financial support for the schools of ABC in order to maintain consistently high-quality educational opportunities for the children of the communities served. In 2022, AutoNation Toyota Cerritos provided a large donation to the ABC Education Foundation which created two \$10,000 Toyota Tundra grants as part of the annual program. Their donation is also providing significant support for other Foundation programs over the coming years.

“The support our schools receive from the ABC Education Foundation is amazing, and we can’t thank them enough,” said Superintendent Dr. Gina Zietlow. “Each and every grant supports our already high-quality curriculum, providing our students with additional opportunities to continue to learn and grow.”

The ABC Education Foundation distributed the grant funds to the schools at the organization’s annual Donor Acknowledgement and Grant Awardee Event held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at the ABCUSD District Office.

About the ABC Education Foundation

The ABC Education Foundation was founded in 2011 to support all ABCUSD schools with funding for programs in education where State funding falls short. Since inception, the Foundation has funded over \$595,444 in total programs. The annual mini-grant program (started in 2013) makes up \$391,561 of the total dollars funded. The Foundation also provides backpacks for financially disadvantaged students each school year full of school supplies and has distributed over 7,500 backpacks in ABCUSD. In recent years the backpack drive evolved into a program called SEED (School Essentials for Education Drive) where teachers, administrators and mental health professionals in ABCUSD can make individual requests for a student with financial need or their classroom’s social-emotional needs from the Foundation. The Foundation also helped secure \$3.5 million in additional grants for the district. Learn more about the ABC Education Foundation at abcedfoundation.org.