

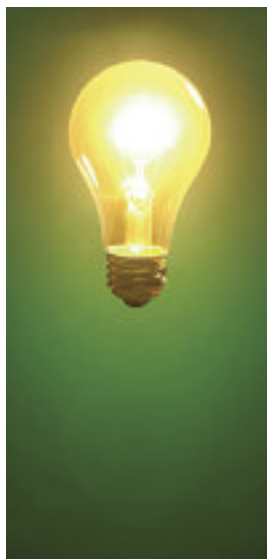


10 Great Ideas you should hear about.

They're happening right here in Helena!

Announcing the Spring 2008 Winners
of the Helena Education Foundation
Great Ideas Grant Program





What is the Great Ideas Grant Program?

Great Ideas grants put money directly into the hands of classroom teachers, empowering educators to turn their ideas for innovative teaching strategies into action. This program:

- Promotes effective and innovative teaching methods, and challenges teachers to improve student performance
- Encourages teachers to strengthen ties between the classroom, other educators, parents, students, and the Helena community
- Helps teachers to extend student learning beyond the limitations of textbooks
- Funds projects to enhance student learning that do not receive tax-based funding

Partnering with Montana businesses:

Great schools are everyone's business. The Helena Education Foundation enriches the lives of our public school students every day through the generosity and support of local and state businesses.

- Grants are named after major donors to the Helena Education Foundation. The amounts of the grants do not reflect the contribution of the donor



Spring 2008 Amount funded: \$19,190 ■ Teachers involved: 83 ■ Students affected: 5,228

1

“ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT RESCUE”: \$1,740

Teacher Recipient: **Niki Whearty**
School: **Helena High School**
Sponsor: **Crowley, Haughey, Hanson, Toole and Dietrich, PLLP**



“Another Attempt at Rescue: Teens, Poetry and Cultural Identity”: This grant brings distinct groups in Helena together so that Montana Indian writers can bring their expertise and vision into the high schools. Secondary students will present their poems, written in workshops with an Assiniboine Sioux poet, at the 2008 Helena Festival of the Book.

Niki Whearty and Jason Loble

2

BLOWING IN THE WIND: \$1,000

Teacher Recipient: **Ken Rasile**
School: **Project for Alternative Learning**
Sponsor: **The Treacy Company**



“Blowing in the Wind” will provide PAL students with first hand knowledge of the issues surrounding viable wind energy in Montana through a variety of collaborative experiences with private and government agencies. Their creative challenge will be to design and construct whirligigs and a kinetic sculpture for a city park.

Kimmy Skiftun, Ken Rasile and Tim Garrett

3

CHINOOK WINDS REACH HELENA: \$2,830

Teacher Recipient: **Barbara Berg**
School: **Jefferson and Smith Elementary Schools**
Sponsor: **Anderson Zurmuehlen & Co. and Employee Benefit Resources**



The Chinook Winds, a professional woodwind quintet from the Great Falls Symphony, presented sessions to Helena fourth and fifth graders and an evening concert for the public. They demonstrated the flute, oboe, clarinet, French horn and bassoon by performing masterworks, by demonstrating ensemble performance and by emphasizing lifelong music enjoyment.

Barbara Berg and Kathy Sampson with the Chinook Winds Quintet

4

“THE HELENA ONLINE ACADEMY”: \$2,916

Teacher Recipients: **Don Pogreba and Jason Neiffer**
School: **Helena High and Capital High Schools**
Sponsor: **Allegiance Benefit Plan Management**



“The Helena Online Academy” will be a project to extend the classroom experience outside of school, providing students with an online site to explore and extend on the ideas taught in the classroom.

Jason Neiffer and Susan Witte

5**SUCCESS—JUST A CLICK AWAY: \$1,890**

Teacher Recipients: **Michelle Dein and Jennifer Mooney**
 School: **Helena Middle School**
 Sponsor: **Rock Hand Hardware**



Student math success is just a click away. Integrating a student response system will incorporate technology to engage struggling students and a variety of learners in an exciting way. It will provide students an opportunity to build confidence while learning necessary math standards.

Jennifer Mooney and Sandy Wikle

6**CONVERSATION AND CULTURE: \$384**

Teacher Recipient: **Toni Person**
 Schools: **Capital High and Helena High Schools**
 Sponsor: **Great Northern Hotel**



High school students from advanced German classes will be matched with native German speakers in Helena and participate in an authentic German meal. Students will use their newly acquired language and learn about the life of their conversation partner in Germany and about the region of Germany in which they lived.

Toni Person and Carol Eichler

7**MILES ON THE TONGUE: \$3,000**

Teacher Recipient: **Kathie Lorang and Katie Meyer**
 School: **Helena Middle School**
 Sponsor: **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana**



“Miles on the Tongue” will provide an assortment of reading genres for middle school students who read significantly below grade level. Using audio books, graphic novels, and non-fiction books, students will select, monitor, and assess their reading progress as they build their fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Kathie Lorang and Katie Meyer

8**MONTANA NATIVE PLANT GARDENS: \$1,830**

Teacher Recipients: **Sandy Wardell and Helen Bosch**
 Schools: **Helena High and Capital High Schools**
 Sponsor: **Diamond Construction**



This project will implement *Indian Education for All* curricula based on Montana native plant studies, including the development of a native plant garden at each high school. The use of native plant studies will positively impact students’ growth by providing students with real world situations to solve problems that will require the use of content knowledge, critical thinking skills and teamwork.

Dean Bjerke and Helen Bosch

9**SEE YOUR SOUND: \$1,800**

Teacher Recipient: **Kevin Cleary**
 School: **C.R. Anderson Middle School**
 Sponsor: **Montana Broom and Brush**



Over one thousand middle school music students will discover the excitement of watching themselves perform on video. As they film themselves throughout the year, evaluate their performance skills, share their efforts with family and friends, and archive the personal video footage they collect, students will learn that it is possible to “See Your Sound”.

Kevin Cleary and Mike Sampson

10**STAY ON THE SAFE SIDE! \$1,800**

Teacher Recipient: **Ashlee Mihelish**
 Schools: **All eleven elementary schools in the Helena School District**
 Sponsor: **Pierce and Associates**



By participating in *The Safe Side Stranger Safety* lessons, kindergarten students in the entire school district will be empowered to make wise choices regarding strangers. Students will view and discuss the DVD within their classrooms, take part in teacher-guided lessons and practice, view and discuss at home with their families.

Ashlee Mihelish and Bill Pierce

Making a difference:

Great Ideas grants funded to date:



- Funded over \$210,000 for 115 different grants to the Helena Public Schools—54 high school grants, 6 grants to Project for Alternative Learning, 22 middle school grants, and 31 grants to elementary schools
- Supported and encouraged the ideas of 75% of Helena's public school teachers
- Enhanced the education and experiences of virtually ALL of Helena's 8000 students

Would you or your business like to sponsor a Great Ideas grant or give a gift to the Helena Education Foundation?

Make an investment in the future of your community today! Thanks to so many generous supporters, Great Ideas grants have helped make these ideas a reality:

- C.R. Anderson Middle School students bring Helena history alive producing films that combine research with historical video newscasts.
- Students at Helena High are engaged in constructing and testing models on an earthquake tremor table.
- Students at Four Georgians and Rossiter produce weekly news broadcasts and Warren School has enhanced its closed-circuit television system to increase student involvement and daily learning.
- High school students and teachers have traveled across the west and beyond on academic fact-finding and mentoring trips.
- Central Elementary students with disabilities have become class historians and video journalists using digital cameras and camcorders while building communication skills with their peer mentors.
- Over 100 students at C.R. Anderson Middle School are learning to select, monitor and assess their reading progress by using audio books to increase their reading levels.
- More books are in the hands of students at Bryant School; audio books are available to students at Capital High; and historical novels enhance the physics curriculum at Helena High.

For more information about Helena Education Foundation events and programs, visit HEF online at www.hefmt.org

The **MISSION** of the Helena Education Foundation is to enrich education in the Helena Public Schools through consistent community investment in time, talent, funding and other resources, providing students, staff and the community with unparalleled educational opportunities and experiences.

The Foundation will achieve its mission by directing resources toward the following **GOALS**:

- Promoting and celebrating student academic success
- Increasing the visibility and value of Helena public schools
- Recognizing staff for creative and innovative teaching
- Promoting the understanding that everyone in the community is responsible for creating quality public education
- Inspiring parents, business and the community to participate with the school district in enriching education



“As an active business in Helena, Mountain West Bank realizes the importance of a quality public school program. Strong public schools are critical to a growing, thriving community as businesses look to attract and retain employees.”

Mike Dalton, President
Mountain West Bank, N.A.

YES! I believe great schools are everyone's business. I want to support this important public education partnership

Method of Payment:

Check enclosed \$ _____ (make checks payable to Helena Education Foundation)

I'd like to pledge \$ _____ Please bill me monthly quarterly
payments of \$ _____ to begin _____

MasterCard / VISA / AMEX amount of \$ _____

Account No. _____ Expires: _____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

Please contact me regarding a planned gift or gift of securities or other assets

The Foundation is a legally incorporated, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable and educational corporation, allowed to receive and distribute funds, property and gifts of any kind for the benefit of public schools located in Helena. It also maintains a qualified endowment. Planned gifts are eligible for the Montana State Tax Credit. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

How would you like to be listed? _____

I am a graduate or former student of the Helena Public Schools

School: _____

When/Graduation year: _____

Send to: Helena Education Foundation
PO Box 792
Helena, MT 59624

You can also make a donation online: www.hefmt.org