



TEN GREAT IDEAS  
YOU SHOULD  
HEAR ABOUT



[hefmt.org](http://hefmt.org)

The Helena Education Foundation is proud to salute the Spring 2012 winners of the 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.

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

## Showcasing Grant Sponsors:

“Allegiance is a proud supporter of the Helena Education Foundation and their top notch-high quality events and programs. HEF provides an excellent sponsorship value and we are pleased to continue to be part of the great services and programs they provide to the Helena community and our clients and their families in that area.”

—Dirk Visser, CEO Allegiance Benefit Plan Management, Inc.

“We are making a gift to show the appreciation that the class feels for everything that Helena Senior High contributed to our success in life’s journey. Helena Senior High was a great place to receive a quality education. It presented everyone with an opportunity to excel.”

—Bill Walters, HHS Class of 1962

### 1. Authoring the Future

Recipient: Don Pogreba  
School: Helena High School  
Sponsor: Mountain West Bank

*Authoring the Future* will provide students at Helena High the opportunity to help create meaningful content for their courses that is multimedia-rich, visually engaging, and accessible on the Internet using iPads. Students will research and develop online textbooks and be able to access that content easily via the iPads.

### 2. Body Systems: Surviving the Extremes of the Environment

Recipient: Tanner Duncan  
School: Capital High School  
Sponsor: Allegiance Benefit Plan Management

In the “Project Lead the Way” Biomedical Sciences program students immerse themselves in the latest software, advanced materials and cutting edge equipment as they learn through project-based assignments. Evaluating x-rays of broken bones and viewing microscope slides of muscle tissue are just a few of the many ways students will learn real applications. Capital High students will formulate an in depth understanding of the human body and how it is capable of surviving the extremes of the environment.

### 3. iPads for eSci

Recipient: Jim Schulz  
School: Helena High School  
Sponsor: Helena High Class of 1962

*iPads for eSci* places an extremely powerful tool into the hands of freshmen Earth Science students. Part textbook, video screen, lab timer, calculator, internet, camera, and word processor, the iPad will shift the educational paradigm as we know it and engage students like no other technological device.

### 4. Fishy Business: Native and Non-Native Species in Montana

Recipient: Claire Pichette  
School: Helena High School  
Sponsor: Sandy Mac’s Distributing

Students in biology, honors biology and environmental studies programs will raise rainbow trout from eggs, chart their development, learn to identify native and non-native fish species, research the history of rainbow trout introduction in the U.S. and explore the management of fish species with agency officials at the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Park’s Montana Wild outdoor education center.

### 5. Founding Phenomenal Fusion Fundamentals

Recipient: Tom Kain  
School: Capital High School  
Sponsor: Helena School District Administrators

Industrial technology students at Capital High will fabricate metal projects using fusion welding and plasma arc cutting. The projects will be designed by drafting students and the industrial technology students will construct projects based on those plans. Safety equipment included!

### 6. Guitar Into It!

Recipients: Chris Helseth  
School: C.R. Anderson Middle School  
Sponsor: Verizon Foundation

*Guitar Into It* brings a new and exciting approach for middle school students to learn and apply musical concepts needed to be successful in Chorus, Orchestra and Band. Learning guitar in the classroom with a full set of guitars, students will tap into the popular culture of their generation, perhaps inspiring many to be lifelong musicians.

### 7. Exploring Alternative Energies

Recipient: Julie Ladd  
School: Helena High School  
Sponsor: Northwestern Energy

As world demand for electricity and fuels continues to grow exponentially, the need for our population to understand the possibilities of alternative energy sources becomes greater every day. A strong foundation and understanding of different energy technologies will benefit not only the students but society as a whole. Science students will explore different energy transformations and particularly hydrogen fuel cell technology.

Thank you to our Spring 2012 grant sponsors:



CROWLEY FLECK  
ATTORNEYS



**Congratulations!**

Helena Education Foundation Spring 2012 Grant Recipients

Amount funded to date: **Over \$370,790**

**197 grants** involving over **85%** of Helena's teachers

**84 high school grants**      **43 middle school grants**

**7 PAL grants**      **63 elementary school grants**

Enhanced the education and experiences of virtually  
**all of Helena's 8,000 students** over the past ten years



### 8. I Spy, With My Microscopic Eye

Recipients: **Justine Huschka**  
Schools: **Kessler Elementary**  
Sponsor: **Crowley Fleck PLLP**

Teachers utilizing Scope-on-a-Rope will create observant learners while uniting technology and discovery through methods of investigation, perspective and scientific inquiry across all curricular areas. These hand held camera microscopes will excite budding young scientists at Kessler Elementary for many years to come.

### 9. Unlocking the Iron Chef Within You!

Recipient: **Lorie Cope**  
School: **Helena Middle School**  
Sponsor: **Sodexo**

*Unlocking the Iron Chef Within You* will provide middle school students an arena to showcase their collaborating, writing, creating, interviewing, filming, editing and cooking talents. Students will utilize their learning styles and multiple intelligences by creating a culinary experience for their peers, family, school and community.

### 10. Wii are Kinected

Recipient: **Jodi Delaney**  
School: **Broadwater Elementary**  
Sponsor: **D.A. Davidson**

Elementary students will use a familiar technology from their living rooms in the school setting to encourage a healthy lifestyle and academic achievement. While 'exergaming,' students may not even realize they're learning math facts and improving their physical health while playing games with their classmates.

# 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 197 great ideas a reality. Here are some grant highlights:

- The *Birds of a Feather* class will provide PAL students the opportunity to learn the art of bird watching and the science behind bird migrations. Staff and community volunteers will provide hands-on activities during several field trips to educate students on bird identification and characteristics, migration routes used and habitat needs.
- Children with special needs require constant repetitive direct instruction to obtain the skills needed to become independent in limited areas of academics. *Independence is Priceless* is providing Hawthorne and Jim Darcy Elementary children with special needs enrichment through visual, tactile and auditory engagement with technology using the iPad2.
- Machining students at Capital High are engineering and machining the components for building custom fishing rods. Students from the freshman English classes are building their own fishing rods as part of their "A River Runs through It" unit in collaboration with the machining students. What a great way to get young people hooked on fishing in Montana.
- Sixth and seventh grade C.R. Anderson Middle School students have the opportunity to take the Robot Encounter class and build a variety of robots to compete in a series of design challenges that range from a jumping robot to a boxing robot. This weekly "Choice" class is bringing math and science to life in an innovative way.
- Helena High art students are creating an exhibition of self-portraits using the beautiful 170-year process of cyanotype printing. Students are exploring the art and science of photography, guided by two professional photographers and two photography teachers, using digital cameras, studio lights and the latest computer software to produce their negatives.
- Jim Darcy Elementary students are getting "knee deep" in learning as they use their critical thinking and observation skills in an outdoor setting. Using iPod Touches, students conduct their own field investigations in a wetland and riparian area. Combining nature with useful technology is creating an engaging experience that connects science and math.

## For more information about Helena Education Foundation upcoming events and programs, please visit HEF online at [hefmt.org](http://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 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
- Promoting and celebrating student academic success
- Increasing the visibility and value of Helena public schools
- Recognizing staff for creative and innovative teaching



**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)
- 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.

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

Credit card payments are accepted online at [www.hefmt.org](http://www.hefmt.org)

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How would you like to be listed? \_\_\_\_\_

I am a graduate/former student of the Helena Public Schools:

School: \_\_\_\_\_ When/Graduation year: \_\_\_\_\_