



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Urbandale Education Foundation Awards Making A Difference Grants To Urbandale Educators

*For the third annual grant cycle, the Urbandale Education Foundation enthusiastically awards over \$7,000 to Urbandale educators as part of the "Making A Difference" Grant Program*

**URBANDALE, Iowa – November 5, 2015** – The [Urbandale Education Foundation](#) (UEF) is honored to have the opportunity to award over \$7,000 today to Urbandale educators as part of the UEF Making A Difference Grant Program. The program is intended to provide [Urbandale Community School District](#) (UCSD) educators the opportunity to receive funds in order to assist and support creative ideas or projects that align with the district vision: to bring learning to life for everyone. UEF Board of Directors, accompanied by building administrators, awarded a total of eight grants by surprising educators in their classrooms with a celebration and award ceremony. Grant recipients include: Myron Peterson, Gretta Richardson and Mike Moreno at Urbandale High School, Deann Pair and Carla Madson at Urbandale Middle School, Jane Wilson at Rolling Green Elementary and Janelle Kerr and Jackie Meunier at Olmsted Elementary.



Urbandale Education Foundation Board members presenting Making A Difference Grant Award to an Urbandale educator on November 5, 2015: UEF Board President Steve Schuler, UEF Board members Matt Gardner and Adam Obrecht, grant recipient and Urbandale High School Physical Education teacher Mike Moreno, UHS Principal Dr. Brian Coppess, UEF Board members Rose Ann Schuler and Dan Meyer.

In its third consecutive grant cycle, the UEF has seen a steady increase in both grant applications and available funds. This increase in grant participation and funding is a reflection of the Board of Directors' dedication and passion for building greater awareness of the UEF throughout the district and community in order to better support students and educators. The UEF funds projects and initiatives not supported within existing school budgets, and is keenly aware of the growing need for supplemental funding due to lower levels of state funding. Although the UEF has seen an increase in the amount of funds available for awarding grants, the funds are still insufficient to meet all grant application requests.

"As a former school board member, I really understand the funding issues facing our schools," said UEF Board President Steve Schuler. "The Urbandale Education Foundation's purpose is to raise funds to

support Urbandale schools in a variety of ways. The Making A Difference Grants directly support the creative ideas and programs of our educators. We are delighted to be able to fund these grants.”



Urbandale Education Foundation Board members presenting Making A Difference Grant Award to an Urbandale educator on November 5, 2015: UEF Board members Matt Gardner and Adam Obrecht, Olmsted Elementary teachers Maggie Peterson and grant recipient Janelle Kerr and UEF Board member Rose Ann Schuler.

UEF Making A Difference Grants will support more hands-on learning throughout the district. Olmsted Elementary will have an opportunity to implement an ESL Language Acquisition through Music Therapy program and a Kindergarten Literacy Night. Rolling Green Elementary will receive support for an ELL Family Night. Urbandale Middle School will receive support for staging needs of their theatre group as well as enhancing their gardening learning center. Urbandale High School will be able to better support Anatomy & Physiology students exploring how physical activity improves bodies. In addition, Urbandale High School Instrumental Music program students will benefit from incorporating innovative applications on a new iPad and the PEOPEL PE program will expand opportunities for physical activity with special needs students.



Urbandale Education Foundation Board members presenting Making A Difference Grant Award to an Urbandale educator on November 5, 2015: Urbandale Middle School Principal Loren DeKruyf, UEF Board members Dan Meyer and Matt Gardner, grant recipient and UMS Family and Consumer Science Teacher Carla Madson, UEF Board members Adam Obrecht and Rose Ann Schuler and UEF Board President Steve Schuler.

The UEF is in the unique position to provide support for Urbandale schools, award scholarships to Urbandale High School graduates and connect Urbandale alumni through the merger and partnership of

three organizations: Urbandale Education Foundation, [Urbandale Dollars for Scholars](#) and [Urbandale Alumni Association](#). UEF Board of Directors would like to thank all UCSD supporters that have contributed to the UEF over this past year. To learn more about how you can become involved and make a positive difference for Urbandale students, educators, schools and the vitality of the Urbandale community, visit: [UrbandaleEducationFoundation.com](http://UrbandaleEducationFoundation.com) and follow on Twitter [@SupportUCSD](#).

#### **About Urbandale Education Foundation**

The Urbandale Education Foundation (UEF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to enhancing the educational experience of students in the Urbandale Community School District by funding projects and initiatives not supported within existing school budgets. The UEF raises funds through grants and private donations and then invests in enhanced educational programming, innovative technology, scholarships for graduates, state-of-the-art facilities and lifelong learning opportunities. The UEF is in the unique position to provide support for Urbandale schools, award scholarships to UHS graduates and connect Urbandale alumni through the merger and partnership of three organizations: Urbandale Education Foundation, [Urbandale Dollars for Scholars](#) and [Urbandale Alumni Association](#). The UEF is dedicated to making a difference in the future of Urbandale schools, students and the vitality of the Urbandale community. To learn more, visit: [UrbandaleEducationFoundation.com](http://UrbandaleEducationFoundation.com) and follow on Twitter [@SupportUCSD](#).

Urbandale Education Foundation  
11152 Aurora Avenue  
Urbandale, IA 50322

#### **Contact:**

Dena Soenke  
Communications Partner  
Urbandale Community School District  
(515) 868-1879  
[soenked@urbandaleschools.com](mailto:soenked@urbandaleschools.com)

###