

Profession First Regional Foundations

A Study of the Perceptions of Applegate Award Recipients

by

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Introduction

The John Russell Applegate Foundation has distributed approximately \$1,000,000 over the past seven years to improve education predominately in the Nebraska counties of Custer, Dawson, Frontier, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, and Perkins. Teachers in the counties listed can apply for up to \$5,000 to support classroom instruction or provide for professional development activities. One hundred eighty-two grants have been distributed to teachers for these purposes

Background of the Foundation's Grants

John Applegate, the son of a rural Nebraska teacher, was a rancher in Sutherland Nebraska and bred Morgan horses. In 2000 he was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Remembering his mother, Geri, and doing what small town folks do so well, some of the local educators went to visit John and to offer him support. John expressed concern about the welfare of his Morgan horses after his death and about the state of education in the country. As they visited him for the last time, the educators fondly recalled their memories of teaching with his mother. The conversation seemed to comfort John as he listened intently. Struggling to get the words out he asked, “Could teachers use money to purchase things for their classrooms? Would it help teachers if they could get support to go back to college for an advanced degree?” The educators paused, reflected, and shared with him that teachers always had items they wished they could have in the classroom and that any help for teachers would be beneficial. Applegate created the John Russell Applegate Foundation and funded it in the amount of 2.5 million dollars. Part of the funding was to ensure care for his horses, but the majority of the funds went to improve education.

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to determine the recipients’ perceptions of the impact of the grants on innovative and effective learning experiences for students.

Methodology

One hundred and eighty two teachers who received the grants were surveyed using online survey software which used a Likert-type scale with five choices from strongly agree to strongly disagree. One hundred and fifteen responded for a response rate of 63.19%. Prior to receiving the survey link, a short, personalized letter was emailed to each subject informing him or her of the study, and informing each teacher that a link to the survey would be emailed within a few days. The letter contained the necessary information to permit the subjects to make an informed consent to participate in the study as per the requirements of the Instructional Review Board of

the University of Nebraska Kearney. An invitation link was emailed to each subject and a follow up message was sent every Tuesday for a month or until the teachers responded, whichever occurred first. The unedited results are in Appendix A.

Process

A 20 question survey was administered. The survey had essentially six question areas: 1) Did the funding help the teachers improve student achievement? 2) Did the students benefit from the funding? 3) If funding had not been available from the Foundation, would funding have been available elsewhere? 4) Was the technology or strategies time consuming and difficult to implement? 5) Was there a significant impact due to the funding? and 6) Should the recipient and/or other teachers spend the time and energy in the future to apply for the grants?

Did the funding help the teachers improve student achievement? Questions one and six were analyzed and the respondents were resoundingly positive. Sixty two percent of the respondents strongly agreed that the funding helped them design and develop strategies that improved student learning while 32% agreed with the statement. Similar responses (55% and 40%) were given when asked if the funding helped the recipients improve their instruction. On both questions only five percent responded with “neutral” as a choice.

Did the students benefit from the funding? Ninety six percent of the respondents to question two replied that they strongly agreed or agreed with the statement and only 1% disagreed with it. As could be expected, there were numerous positive comments which discussed the benefits for the students and the teachers from the funding.

If funding had not been available from the Foundation, would funding have been available elsewhere? When questions 7 and 8 were examined it appeared the teachers were in agreement

that the Applegate was the only funding source for their projects. Eighty two percent strongly agreed or agreed that their districts would not have funded their projects and 88% felt that only the Foundation would have provided a funding source. The comments expressed a belief that without the funding from Applegate, their projects simply would not have been able to proceed.

Was the technology or strategies time consuming and difficult to implement? Due to the hectic and busy nature of teaching, often time is as valuable, if not more so, than money. Had the experience been time consuming it is the researchers' belief that many recipients would not have taken on the task. The time commitment and the application process were not seen as impediments to the teachers. Only 14 teachers (12%) believed that the application process took time away from their teaching, while just two of the 115 respondents felt the application was difficult to complete. Six percent felt that they had insignificant time to implement their projects.

Was there a significant impact due to the funding? Ninety nine percent of the teachers felt that the funding had an impact on their classroom and 98% strongly agreed, agreed or were simply neutral on the funding having an impact on the region itself.

Should the recipient and/or other teachers spend the time and energy in the future to apply for the grants? None of the recipient's disagreed with the statement "I would encourage other teachers to apply for an Applegate Grant" while only two percent indicated they would not apply for future grants. These positive reflections indicate to the researchers that overall the recipients were satisfied with the time and effort it took to apply for the grants and to implement their projects.

Implications for Educational Service Agencies

Throughout society, governmental entities compete against each other for public funds. The outcome often limits funding for innovative projects. However, foundations can become a rich source of supplemental funding, allowing the recipients to expand innovative and research based practices within a profession.

The John Russell Applegate Foundation is somewhat unique in the fact that the foundation is dedicated to a profession as opposed to an entity such as an identified school district or intermediate agency. Rooted in a deep-seated love for his mother who was a teacher, John Russell Applegate chose to leave his gift to a profession, namely teachers, to use for innovative practices in the classroom and to further their post-secondary education.

A few members of the Educational Service Unit #16 (ESU #16) staff knew John Russell Applegate before his death and some had known his mother Gerri, who taught in the Sutherland Public Schools, in Sutherland, Nebraska. As a result of this gift to education, Marge Beatty, Administrator of ESU #16, would encourage intermediate agency administrators to “think profession first” when seeking to design a regional foundation. The profession of education and specifically “teachers” may have greater appeal to potential donors than leaving a sum of money to an agency.

The John Russell Applegate Foundation was awarded to teachers in a region of the state of Nebraska, where the majority of the teachers reside within the Educational Service Unit 16 (ESU #16) boundaries and a few surrounding counties. Consequently, ESU #16 personnel have partnered with Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation out of North Platte, Nebraska to publicize the availability of funds, design the application process, assist teachers in completing

applications, support innovative practices, and provide staff development as needed. In addition, ESU #16 has been a recipient of funds allowing the agency to promote innovative and research-based practices in the schools; develop local expertise through participation in several national train the trainers events; provide mobile labs for innovative technology; support for PK-12 mental health and “at risk” youth; fund virtual field trips for area students; and host nationally known content specific speakers to support regional staff development. Finally, the John Russell Applegate Foundation has become a positive recruiting and hiring tool for the ESU, especially in areas of personnel shortages.

The research of this process provided statistical data that supports positive teacher perceptions toward the foundation and the application process. It further suggests areas for improvement. Based upon the research and related comments of participants, the authors believe the foundation is supporting teachers and innovative practices on a regional basis that is well beyond governmental resources for education.

Summary

The recipients were very positive about the results of their projects including the application process, the time commitment, the energy expended and the experience. The comments were overwhelmingly and uniformly positive with a few negative comments about communication issues, such as not being told by their schools that they had received the awards. That particular issue can be readily solved by the awarding source ensuring that an email is sent to the awardee along with the message to the school district.

Most importantly, the broad consensus of the teachers was that the impact on their students’ learning was considerable and beneficial. Considering the amount of the funding and

the length of time it has been provided, many students have gained significantly from the John Russell Applegate Foundation's awards to education in those affected counties. If Geri Applegate and her generous son John were alive today, they would see how instrumental their investment in education has been and continues to be for improving the learning environment for and the knowledge and skills of the students of Custer, Dawson, Frontier, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, and Perkins counties.

Appendix A

Applegate Foundation Grant Report

1. Question 1 of 20 Applegate funding has helped me design strategies for improved student achievement

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Strongly Agree	71	62%
2	Agree	37	32%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree	6	5%
4	Disagree	1	1%
5	Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	Total	115	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	1.45
Variance	0.41
Standard Deviation	0.64
Total Responses	115

2. Question 2 of 20 Students in my classroom have benefited from the Applegate Grant award

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Strongly Agree	85	74%
2	Agree	25	22%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree	4	3%
4	Disagree	1	1%
5	Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	Total	115	100%

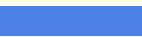



Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	1.31
Variance	0.34
Standard Deviation	0.58
Total Responses	115

3. Question 3 of 20 Applying for the funding took time from my classroom instruction

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Strongly Agree	1	1%
2	Agree	13	11%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree	26	23%
4	Disagree	48	42%
5	Strongly Disagree	27	23%
	Total	115	100%

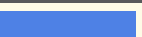



Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	5
Mean	3.76
Variance	0.94
Standard Deviation	0.97
Total Responses	115

4. Question 4 of 20 The application form was easy to complete

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Strongly Agree		35	30%
2	Agree		61	53%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree		17	15%
4	Disagree		2	2%
5	Strongly Disagree		0	0%
	Total		115	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	1.88
Variance	0.51
Standard Deviation	0.72
Total Responses	115

5. Question 5 of 20 The application process is right to focus grant awards on high need areas of education

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Strongly Agree		33	29%
2	Agree		65	57%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree		16	14%
4	Disagree		1	1%
5	Strongly Disagree		0	0%
	Total		115	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	1.87
Variance	0.45
Standard Deviation	0.67
Total Responses	115

6. Question 6 of 20 The Applegate award helped me improve instruction

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Strongly Agree	63	55%
2	Agree	46	40%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree	6	5%
4	Disagree	0	0%
5	Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	Total	115	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	1.50
Variance	0.36
Standard Deviation	0.60
Total Responses	115

7. Question 7 of 20 If Applegate funding was not available, my school would have funded my request

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Strongly Agree	5	4%
2	Agree	3	3%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree	12	10%
4	Disagree	51	44%
5	Strongly Disagree	44	38%
	Total	115	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	5
Mean	4.10
Variance	0.98
Standard Deviation	0.99
Total Responses	115

8. Question 8 of 20 The only way I was able to fund my request was through Applegate funding

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Strongly Agree	50	43%
2	Agree	49	43%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree	15	13%
4	Disagree	1	1%
5	Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	Total	115	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	1.71
Variance	0.52
Standard Deviation	0.72
Total Responses	115

Question 9 of 20 I have had little time to implement the items funded through the Applegate Grant

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Strongly Agree	1	1%
2	Agree	6	5%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree	16	14%
4	Disagree	45	39%
5	Strongly Disagree	47	41%
	Total	115	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	5
Mean	4.14
Variance	0.82
Standard Deviation	0.91
Total Responses	115

Question 10 of 20 Applegate funding is important to teachers

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Strongly Agree	94	82%
2	Agree	19	17%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree	2	2%
4	Disagree	0	0%
5	Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	Total	115	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	1.20
Variance	0.20
Standard Deviation	0.44
Total Responses	115

Question 11 of 20 The Applegate grant has profound impact on our region of the state

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Strongly Agree	81	70%
2	Agree	29	25%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree	4	3%
4	Disagree	1	1%
5	Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	Total	115	100%

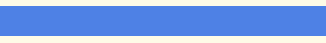



Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	1.35
Variance	0.35
Standard Deviation	0.59
Total Responses	115

Question 12 of 20 I would encourage other teachers to apply for an Applegate Grant

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Strongly Agree	88	77%
2	Agree	24	21%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree	3	3%
4	Disagree	0	0%
5	Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	Total	115	100%

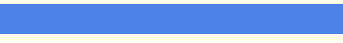


Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	1.26
Variance	0.25
Standard Deviation	0.50
Total Responses	115

Question 13 of 20 I will apply for Applegate funding in the future

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Strongly Agree		80	70%
2	Agree		23	20%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree		10	9%
4	Disagree		2	2%
5	Strongly Disagree		0	0%
	Total		115	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	1.43
Variance	0.53
Standard Deviation	0.73
Total Responses	115

Question 14 of 20 The \$25 Million donated to teachers makes me feel teaching is important

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Strongly Agree		83	72%
2	Agree		24	21%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree		8	7%
4	Disagree		0	0%
5	Strongly Disagree		0	0%
	Total		115	100%




Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	1.35
Variance	0.37
Standard Deviation	0.61
Total Responses	115

Question 15 of 20 I believe the Applegate funding honors teachers

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Strongly Agree	76	66%
2	Agree	33	29%
3	Neutral - neither agree nor disagree	4	3%
4	Disagree	2	2%
5	Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	Total	115	100%




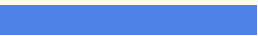
Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	1.41
Variance	0.42
Standard Deviation	0.65
Total Responses	115

Question 16 of 20 I believe teachers need to know that donors see their profession as important

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Strongly Agree		85	74%
2	Agree		28	24%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree		2	2%
4	Disagree		0	0%
5	Strongly Disagree		0	0%
	Total		115	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	1.28
Variance	0.24
Standard Deviation	0.49
Total Responses	115

Question 17 of 20 The Applegate Grant has had little impact on my classroom

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Strongly Agree		1	1%
2	Agree		0	0%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree		5	4%
4	Disagree		47	41%
5	Strongly Disagree		62	54%
	Total		115	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	5
Mean	4.47
Variance	0.44
Standard Deviation	0.67
Total Responses	115

Question 18 of 20 I was able to implement the items I received through the grant

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Strongly Agree	64	56%
2	Agree	45	39%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree	5	4%
4	Disagree	1	1%
5	Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	Total	115	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	1.50
Variance	0.39
Standard Deviation	0.63
Total Responses	115

Question 19 of 20 I need professional development in order to implement what I received through the grant award

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Strongly Agree	1	1%
2	Agree	9	8%
3	Neutral - nether agree nor disagree	24	21%
4	Disagree	53	46%
5	Strongly Disagree	28	24%
	Total	115	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	5
Mean	3.85
Variance	0.83
Standard Deviation	0.91
Total Responses	115

20. If you have any comments or anything you would like to share with us, please feel free to use the space below.

Text Response

Another person completed the fund paperwork, so I answered "neutral" on those two questions. I am retiring this year, so that's why I answered I wouldn't be using the funding in the future.

I would be really nice to know if there was a rubric that is used in "grading" the various grants. It would also be nice to have full funding for some grants. I realize that it is important to fund many different projects, however if there are a few projects that are above the rest then why can't they receive full funding so that the nature of the grant can be carried out to the fullest extent possible.

Sometimes teachers are left "guessing" what might be funded by the Applegate grant each year. It was my impression that it was meant to fund improved teaching. Yet, I do not believe staff development is always funded.

I would like to give a huge thank you to the Applegate grant foundation. I have been able to implement many things to my art classroom that would not have been possible without the grant. I have received a projector, glass fusion materials, easels, and digital cameras. This is an amazing gift that has improved my teaching, students, and curriculum. Thank you!

Lack of funding can sometimes limit the creativity of teachers. The Applegate grants allow teachers to create, develop, and implement projects that may have fallen to the wayside had it not been for this outside funding source.

I greatly appreciate the Applegate Gate funding, not just for myself, but for all the teachers in the area! With school budgets getting slashed, many essential instructional tools have become "wish lists" for teachers. At least the Applegate Grant makes me feel like I am appreciated as a teacher.

Funding through the Applegate Grant has allowed me and my students to broaden our classroom through the purchase of several technology related items that most schools would/could NOT have funded.

The Applegate Grant is an excellent opportunity for teachers to explore new learning strategies with students. It is a great opportunity - thank you.

I believe I should have waited to fill out this survey. However, ended up answering the questions based on the Read Natural program The Applegate Grant funded our school a few years ago. I am not only grateful for being awarded the funds to purchase Kindle Fires for my classroom, I feel like a little child at Christmas - full of excitement and anticipation! Thank you, Tracy Ryland

The Applegate Grant is wonderful! I was able to purchase items for my classroom that I would not have been able to purchase otherwise. My students have used the materials over and over again.

Thank you so much for your donation of Kindle Fires! They have really increased student interest in both math and reading. I am able to use them with all levels of learning. They have been so successful, that we are looking for funding to purchase more to allow even more student access. Without your program, this project would not have been achieved.

Thank you for the opportunities provided through funding professional development for teachers. With limited school budgets, many schools have cut back on support for PD. Applegate has provided funds so our teachers can attend technology conferences as well as subject area workshops. We are grateful.

It is an honor to have been chosen for the Applegate grant. I think that when a teacher has a great idea to get something new started in their classrooms, it is often difficult to convince administration that this new idea will be a good use of "hard to get funding." When I was awarded this grant, this was the only way we could have

started our project. Now that the project is in place, the school is proud to say we completed this monumental project.

This is a great organization that provides funding to schools and directly impacts student learning. I am very pleased with the Applegate Foundation.

With the Applegate grant I was able to implement new technology in my classroom, all through my teaching I have loved technology and thanks to that first Applegate grant I was able to learn more about creating podcasts, then Imovies and now my classes are creating digital books. Schools can help only so much with funding and many times, those little things needed to improve our learning are not available that easy. Thank you for helping me become a better teacher.

We received a grant to be educated on differentiated instruction. Not only has my classroom been completely transformed, but I as a teacher have been transformed. We were able to do a workshop at the ESU about what we learned and were asked to also present a school workshop. I feel that what we shared benefitted other teachers in our region. Thank you for making a tremendous impact on education!

I am so very grateful for the Applegate Grant funding. I have received two Applegate Grants over the years and without them would not have the technology I have available in my classroom for my students. The students are excited when they receive the new technology and our school would not be able to get these items for students without the help of the grants.

Thanks for considering the grants that we have written for Adams Middle School. They have really benefited the teachers.

It is such a special grant for us! I feel like to be a teacher is really worthwhile because the grant is so specific. For teachers only! Thanks a lot! That helped me a lot with the cultural stuff and students and I both definitely benefited from it.

The Applegate grant is an excellent way for teachers to gain funding for projects or programs that will enhance student learning. The program I have received through the grant has benefited my students for several years.

This grant is AMAZING!!!! Thank you for everything!

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

I am so grateful for the Applegate Grant. As a member of a small, non-federally funded school, we are unable to purchase items that promote hands-on learning, health/fitness, music, art, and technology. Through the grant, I was able to obtain many items that encourage hands-on learning in the sciences and mathematics. These items have had a great impact on my classroom.

The Applegate Grant helped my classroom and instruction significantly. Through the grant, we purchased four iPads, which has improved my students' engagement and effort on reading and math standards. Thank you so much for your generosity, we truly appreciate it!

My students and I thank you!

I have not received the funds for the grant I applied for this fall due to a "paper trail" problem, so I haven't been able to purchase and utilize the equipment in my classroom. I do think communication to the grant recipients could be a bit more streamlined. I had no idea that I received the grant that I applied for this fall, because I didn't receive the letter. Had I known that I had received the grant, I would have purchased the video cameras so my students could have used them and benefitted from them this semester. But I am still very grateful, and anxious to get those cameras into my students' hands in the fall!

I appreciate the Applegate funding.

Applegate funding is such a benefit to support teachers with resources and classroom technologies that would otherwise not be available. There are items that we have been so excited about implementing that the students get excited too! Applegate has helped improve student interest in education!

The Applegate Grants I received benefitted 100% of the students in my band. Without the funding I received I would not have been able to do some of the things that I have accomplished with the Hershey Band.

I greatly appreciated the grant! We saw a huge increase in the ability of the students to quickly recall their math facts. We purchased a classroom set of FlashMasters with the funding. When students were finished

with their seat work, they could pull this out and work on mastering their math facts. In the second grade classroom, we had 5 students working on division. That is excellent progress! Thank you!

I sincerely appreciate the Applegate funding I received for 14 kindles added to my classroom. I have a full set so each student has technology in their hands that motivates them to read. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We have absolutely terrible sound equipment for K-12 music programs and it really interrupts their performance efforts. The technology coordinator and I applied for an Applegate Grant to update this technology and support the growing fine arts in Western NE (commonly referred to as the "black hole of music" because of the little resources we have.) We were very disappointed not when it was declined, but to find out that the committee deciding considered our request to be "furniture." It's very much so updated technology we applied for and because it's not considered we are only contributing to the decline of fine arts in Western NE.

I was fortunate to write and receive monies from the Applegate Foundation for 3, 4 ? years to run the Math and Science Day at the Fairgrounds. We brought in around 230 area kids to have hands on sessions. After the funding was awarded to other projects, not ours, we stopped the day. I think it is important to spread the grants around but was a bit sad to see the end to our project.

I feel very fortunate to have been awarded the Applegate Grant on more than one occasion. How lucky we are, as educators, to have such a generous and proactive foundation available to help us in our efforts to improve student instruction.

Applegate Funding has inspired me to research and acquire additional tools to help students improve learning and the true beneficiaries are the students. I have also used Applegate Funding to help teachers strengthen their teaching skills and that has been extremely successful, especially in meeting the diverse needs of students.

I would like to say thank you for the grant and I will be filling out the grant request again in the future.

I received an educational smartboard through Applegate and have absolutely loved it. I have designed lessons to go with our Saxon math program and the kids are more attentive and there is more active participation. Thank you for the resource.

Thank you for the opportunity to complete this survey. I have applied and received grant funding through Applegate. My concern is that there appears to be no rubric or system that guides the grant readers in determining who or what is funded. Typically grants are "rated" on how well they met the stated need, how the budget supported the need, etc. Each area of the grant was 'weighted' or given a score. The best grants were then funded first and to the fullest - others were either funded partially or not funded at all. All those who submitted a grant received feedback as to how their grant was rated so that they could do a better job on the next submission. To date many of the grants I have submitted have received partial funding but no feedback has been supplied as to the reason why or what could have been done to make the grant stronger. Partial funding of a grant proposal without feedback, in my opinion simply leads to everyone "overstating" their budget so that when they receive "half" it might be enough to implement the grant. Partial funding also leaves projects in limbo and in jeopardy of not being completed because of lack of funds for the full proposal. If the grant is written correctly the budget should legitimately be linked to the statement of need - not overstated. More guidance and feedback to the grant writers would provide them the opportunity to improve their proposals and the opportunity to fully implement their projects.

Applegate funding has allowed me to implement projects for teachers that are both innovative and accessible. Without these funds my teachers would not receive these unique professional development opportunities. Thank you!

I like and appreciate the idea of the Applegate grants and funding, however I feel the award process could use some revision. There is no feedback to applicants as to why their grant was not funded. Rarely is a grant ever fully funded, usually it is only partially funded. Rather than lots of partial funding, it might give the grant process more validity and credibility if there was a rubric in place to allow the grant award team members to score each grant based on the subject matter of the grant, the vision, and the impact of the grant in a fair and objective manner. If the rubric allowed teachers/schools to remain anonymous the grant committee would not be seen as funding or not funding a specific school or teacher. Then using that rubric, grants that were innovative, well written and worthy could receive full funding rather than partial. Often times if a grant is only partially funded, the applicant is not able to proceed with implementing the grant if they needed the full

amount. The Applegate funds are a valuable resource to teachers and could be made even more effective with just a little bit of revision at the administrative level.

I appreciate all the apple gate grant does for teachers. I think it is a wonderful opportunity to receive funding for tools and projects my school would not otherwise fund. I do feel that almost all technology is helpful and sometimes does not get funded because a similar project was already funded for a different classroom.

I am very grateful for the grant that my class received. It allowed us to have an excellent learning experience with very little cost to the students.

I am sorry this took so long. I did not receive it until school was out. I am very thankful for the grant.

I think the Applegate grant has had a profound effect on my teaching. The items that I have received have been a great asset to my classroom and would NOT have been available to me without the grant.

Authors

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