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WGU Missouri News – For Immediate Release

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WGU Missouri Awards \$6,700 in Grants to 10 Teachers in the St. Louis Metro area

The K-12 teachers were among dozens in Missouri and Illinois that were selected by the online, nonprofit university to receive funding for their innovative classroom projects

St. Louis (Aug. 22, 2022) – Ten K-12 teachers from the St. Louis area have received grants totaling \$6,700 through WGU Missouri’s “Fund My Classroom” initiative. The grants will be used to fund innovative classroom projects that foster learning in new, unique ways. The teachers who received the funding include:

- **Olivia Roberts, a second-grade teacher at Glasgow Elementary School in the Riverview Gardens School District**, who received a \$3,000 grant to transform the school’s community garden and courtyard, which will provide her students with a hands-on opportunity to learn how to plan and maintain a garden/courtyard, while gaining experience in sustainability, team building and community.
- **Natalie Dicker, a second-grade teacher at Old Bonhomme Elementary School in the Ladue School District in Olivette**, who received a \$250 grant to create STEM bins in her classroom, filled with a variety of hands-on building activities to help foster creativity among students.
- **Tanya Tinerella, a 3rd grade teacher at Sorrento Springs Elementary School in the Parkway School District**, who received a \$559 grant to purchase Wonder Workshop, a STEM-based curriculum that will allow her students to learn the concepts of robotics and coding.
- **Nichole Boul, a 4th grade teacher at Fairmount Elementary School in the Francis Howell School District**, who received a \$110 grant that will be used to add a variety of building kits, magnetic drawing boards and other STEM-based games to her classroom.
- **Caitlin Slinkerd, a 1st grade teacher at Fairmount Elementary School in the Francis Howell School District**, who received a \$1,000 grant that will allow her to add a variety of games and hands-on learning activities to her classroom, providing her students with more opportunities for collaboration and interaction with peers.
- **Whitney Crabtree, an English teacher at Windsor High School in the Windsor C-1 School District in Imperial**, who received a \$500 grant to create a classroom library, filled with a variety of young adult novels of varying interests for her students to independently read.
- **Chandra Andrews, a 5th/6th grade teacher at Sigel Elementary School in the St. Louis Public School District**, who received a \$300 grant to create a “Calm Down Corner,” a private, comfortable, and calming space where students can learn how to self-regulate their emotions.
- **Jenecia Sims, an English teacher at Sumner High School in the St. Louis Public School District**, who received a \$200 grant to fund her classroom propaganda project, providing her

students with poster-making supplies that will enable them to create their own slogans and learn about misleading information.

- **Heather Hall, a fourth-grade teacher at Albert Cassens Elementary School in Edwardsville Community Unit School District 7**, who received a \$300 grant to purchase Tinker Crates, featuring hands-on learning activities that will spark creativity and curiosity using STEM principles.
- **Beth Maue, a kindergarten special education teacher at Highland Primary school in Highland Community Unit School District #5**, who received a \$480 grant to purchase a variety of calming materials, activities and toys to create a calming classroom environment for her students and meet their social emotional learning needs.

The innovative classroom projects were among 80 across Missouri and Illinois chosen by WGU Missouri to receive funding. The nonprofit, fully online university issued a call in March for K-12 teachers across the state to nominate proposed classroom projects by April 17 for the opportunity to receive full or partial funding through its “Fund My Classroom” initiative. Collectively, more than 200 nominations were received across both states. Most grants were awarded during Teacher Appreciation Week, which ran from May 2-6.

“We received nominations for some amazing classroom projects, and we are happy to bring so many to life through this year’s ‘Fund My Classroom’ initiative,” said Dr. Terrance Hopson, Regional Vice President of WGU Missouri. “When it comes to expanding classroom curriculum and employing innovative techniques to engage and challenge students, teachers are often limited by costs. This initiative is an opportunity for WGU to give back to teachers, who go above and beyond to educate our students, by providing them with funding they can use to further enhance learning both in and out of the classroom.”

To learn more about the “Fund My Classroom” initiative and the work WGU Missouri is doing to help teachers advance their careers, visit missouri.wgu.edu.

About [WGU Missouri](http://wgu.edu)

WGU Missouri is a competency-based, online university created to expand access to higher education for Missouri residents. The university offers more than 60 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the fields of business, K-12 teacher education, information technology, and health professions, including nursing. WGU Missouri faculty members serve as mentors, working one-on-one with students, offering guidance, support, and individualized instruction.

Established in 2013 through a partnership with nationally recognized Western Governors University, WGU Missouri is open to all qualified Missouri residents. The university is nonprofit and self-sustaining on flat-rate tuition of about \$7,600 per year for most programs.

Degrees are granted under the accreditation of Western Governors University, which is accredited through the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). Nursing College programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE*), and the Health Informatics program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM).

More information is available at missouri.wgu.edu or by calling 855.948.8493.

*Western Governors University offers nursing programs that are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (*One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 5380, Washington DC 20036, 202-877-6791*).

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