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Northwest STEM Hub announces 2019 Community Innovation grant winners

Hillsboro - The [Northwest STEM Hub](#), a program developed by [Northwest Regional Education Service District](#) that aims to get students in three counties in Northwest Oregon excited about science, technology, engineering and math, recently released the names of 11 mini-grant recipients.

Through a partnership with the [Oregon Department of Education](#) and [Oregon Community Foundation](#), the Northwest STEM Hub will provide \$34,000 in funding for projects in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties. The projects will take place between April and September, 2019.

All of the grant recipients work with children between preschool-age and community college-age. The grant application requested projects that would embrace equity, economic prosperity, innovation and partnership.

Darryl Spitzer, of Tillamook Bay Community College expressed his gratitude for the funding. “Thanks for selecting the college [Tillamook Bay Community College] as a recipient. It is meaningful and will have a lasting impact,” he says.

And the winners are:

- 1. Laptops for Lego Robotics and Neah-kah-nie Makerspace:** Neah-kah-nie Middle and High schools will purchase laptops for their robotics club. They will also purchase equipment, materials and storage for their growing makerspace and associated programs. The Makerspace Robotics Lab will enable students to conduct rapid prototyping, where students will be able to quickly design and fabricate parts for robots and other projects.
- 2. Tillamook Head Start and Tillamook Early Learning Center Outdoor Learning Environment:** Tillamook Head Start and Tillamook Early Learning Center will renovate their outdoor learning environments so they incorporate STEM principles, like patterns, investigation and phenomena. In collaboration with other community partners, the groups will improve the natural environment so students have more exposure to the natural world.

3. **Clatsop County AERO Aerospace and Electricity 4-H Club:** The AERO Club will purchase electronics, rockets and slot car kits for its club members. The goal of this club is to use the science and technology of aerospace engineering and electricity to excite and engage children in Clatsop County.

4. **Robotics, Coding and Simple Machines for ALL:** Warrenton Grade School will purchase robotics and tech equipment and materials. The items will be used to teach middle schoolers how to program simple robots (Sphero and RVR). The students will then take their skills to special education students in lower grade levels. Students with limited language skills, limited mobility and/or developmental delays will have the opportunity to learn how to control robotic devices.

5. **Equipping Loggerbots FRC Team Space:** The First Robotics Club (FRC) Team at Vernonia School District will expand access at its metal shop. This expansion will allow more students to design innovative robots and learn critical metalworking skills. The grant funding will purchase worktables, workbenches, cabinets, lockers and storage for safety goggles.

6. **Oceans, Bays, and Watersheds-TELC Summer Preschool Programs:** The Tillamook Early Learning Center will provide scholarships for 10 students to attend summer programs. The funding will also be used to purchase supplies and pay staff to develop curricula. Each week during the summer, the group will partner with a different community organization.

7. **STEAM Learning Kits:** The Scappoose Library will create STEAM Learning Kits so that students can learn more about biology, electronics, art and math. Learning activities will be reinforced with subject books and material. Kits will be available for in-library use or for check-out.

8. **Foraging Pathways to STEM Careers:** Nestucca High School will collaborate with Tillamook Bay Community College to develop a shared curriculum to get students excited about STEM. One aim is to determine safe and appropriate equipment and materials by age group.

9. **Bringing Project-Based Learning to Warrenton Schools:** Project-based learning is an innovative educational approach that works especially well with STE(A)M activities and STE(A)M resources. Funding will be used for professional development and makerspace supplies for teachers who want to integrate project-based learning into their classrooms.

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10. **Drones at Tillamook Bay Community College (TBCC):** TBCC is working with community partners to develop a program for drone use in Tillamook County. TBCC has developed a Part 107 Remote Pilot License class and wants to increase Drone offerings in the College's Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, which include, Agriculture, Natural resources, Criminal Justice and Manufacturing Technology and will use these funds to purchase the drones.

11. **Tillamook High School CNC Plasma Cutter:** The Tillamook Future Farmers of America Chapter (FFA), an agriculturally based student leadership organization, will use the funding to supplement the purchase of a CNC Plasma Cutter System. This system will allow the FFA, Agriculture Science and Industrial Tech students to learn how to use computer programming to control tools for cutting sheet metal into precise and replicable parts aligned with industry standards. This knowledge will allow students to align their skill sets to modern, relevant standards in the manufacturing industry.

Northwest Regional Education Service District [is the largest](#) of Oregon's 19 education service districts. It serves 20 school districts in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington counties. These school districts serve more than 124,000 students. Through state funding, contracts, and private and public grants, the agency provides a wide range of special education and specialized services to students in the region. Depending on need, children receive services from birth to age 21. Services include early intervention and early childhood special education; K-12 special education; instructional and school improvement programs for students, educators, child care providers and community members; outdoor school; dual-credit, GED and online educational options; and technology, administrative and business services.

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