



Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer

School District U-46  
Educational Services Center  
355 E. Chicago Street, Elgin, IL 60120-6543  
Tel: 847.888.5000 x5007  
Fax: 847.608.4173

U-46.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 10, 2019

**Contact:** Mary Fergus

Phone: 847-888-5000, ext.4160

## **U-46 Educational Foundation Awards Mini-Grants to Eight U-46 Staff**

*Recipients awarded \$500 for innovative projects to enhance student learning*

ELGIN - The U-46 Educational Foundation typically funds Districtwide initiatives and events but earlier today awarded mini-grants of up to \$500 each to eight teachers across the District to support their bright new ideas in teaching and learning. U-46 Educational Foundation Board members throughout the school day Thursday surprised teachers in their classrooms with the awards, called Innovation Mini-Grants.

The Foundation funded projects such as the start of a family book club, a mentoring program for students, and high school biotechnology experiments. The Foundation Board selected the winning projects from 27 proposals.

“Each of these grants will provide activities that enhance, enrich, and complement existing opportunities in U-46 for students, families, and staff,” said U-46 Educational Foundation Board President Bud Wilson. “We are excited to continue supporting innovative programs in U-46 in the years ahead.”

The U-46 Educational Foundation was initiated in 2006, when a group of community leaders and district supporters came together to recruit board members, establish by-laws, and seek non-profit status as a 501 (c) (3) organization. The mission of the U-46 Educational Foundation is to acquire and dedicate resources to enhance the quality of education for U-46 students. The Foundation’s [impact](#) to date has largely been on Districtwide projects.

The list of winning recipients are as follows:

Grant Recipient	Position	School	Project
-----------------	----------	--------	---------



Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer

School District U-46  
 Educational Services Center  
 355 E. Chicago Street, Elgin, IL 60120-6543  
 Tel: 847.888.5000 x5007  
 Fax: 847.608.4173

U-46.org

Philip Church	Science Teacher	Bartlett High School	Biotechnology
Sarah Rabe	Principal	Centennial Elementary School	Sensory Paths
Lisa Holbrook	MTSS Lead Teacher	Elgin High School	Maroon Mentoring Program
Heather Flick	Science Teacher	Eastview Middle School	Eastview Science Olympiad Team Supplies
Rachel Pinkepank	Title 1 Teacher Interventionist	Hillcrest Elementary School	Hillcrest Families Read! A Parent-Child Book Club
Michelle Esmenda	Secretary	Glenbrook Elementary School	Glenbrook Elementary Outdoor Marquee
Haley Levitan	School Psychologist	Ontarioville Elementary School	Flexible Seating
Martha Laskus	Early Childhood Teacher	Horizon Elementary School	Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Program: Table and Manipulatives

###

*School District U-46 serves families in 11 communities: Bartlett, Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood and Wayne, as well as portions of Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago. In total, the District encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley, approximately 45 minutes west of downtown Chicago, and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. Nearly 39,000 pre-K through twelfth graders attend the 57 District schools and programs. To learn more, Visit the U-46 [website](#), or like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).*