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The U-46 Educational Foundation Encourages Families to Honor Teachers Making a Difference

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 3-9

ELGIN - In recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week — May 3-9, 2020 — the U-46 Educational Foundation invites families to make a donation on behalf of School District U-46 teachers who continue to impact their students despite today's challenging circumstances. Funds raised will go toward the Foundation's Teacher Innovation Mini-grant Program.

"Now, more than ever, we are grateful for our teachers," said Foundation President E.C. "Bud" Wilson. "But without face-to-face-interaction, parents are struggling to find ways to let teachers know how valued they are. We hope this campaign will let our teachers know, even though we do not see them every day, they are still changing lives. They are still making an impact, and students are still learning."

Donors are also asked to write a message of 250 words or less to their child's teacher, and to upload a picture or short video to accompany the message. The tribute will then be emailed to the teacher, and, with the parent's permission, excerpts will be shared on the Foundation's website and on social media channels during Teacher Appreciation Week.

The U-46 Educational Foundation, a charitable nonprofit 501(c)3 dedicated solely to supporting U-46 students, teachers, and schools, expands opportunities for U-46 students beyond what is possible with tax dollars. Established more than a decade ago, the Foundation has supported Districtwide events and programs, such as classroom sky shows at the U-46 Planetarium, heart rate monitors for physical education classes, and the

annual TalentFest showcasing high school students. Most recently, the Foundation purchased toiletries and household goods for U-46 families who have been financially impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic and will distribute art supplies to preschoolers later this spring.

Funds raised will be used to provide U-46 teachers with innovation mini-grants during the 2020-21 school year. Past mini-grants allowed teachers to fund innovative projects for their classroom, such a light table for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, a mentoring program for students who have undergone trauma, equipment for biotechnology studies, and funding to develop a parent-child book club. A January 2019 [video](#) captures the excitement during the last award announcements.

More information can be found on this Foundation [website page](#).

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About the U-46 Educational Foundation: Established in 2006, the U-46 Educational Foundation supports School District U-46's students, teachers, and schools by enhancing student learning and well-being. You can learn more by visiting our website: www.u-46.org/Foundation.