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*News Advisory
For Immediate Release*

West Contra Costa Public Education Fund Awards Grants to Winning Recipients at November 3rd School Board Meeting

Richmond, CA (November 2, 2010) - West Contra Costa Public Education Fund (The Ed. Fund) awards its 2010/2011 school year grants on Wednesday, November 3rd, during the West Contra Costa Unified School District School Board meeting. The meeting will begin at 5:30; grants will be awarded at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend the meeting held at LoVonya DeJean Middle School, 3400 Macdonald Avenue in Richmond.

For over 28 years, The Ed. Fund has supported teachers as they strive to offer public school children an excellent education in West Contra Costa. The Ed. Fund will be awarding over \$45,000 to 67 teachers, principals, staff and/or community leaders from 29 West Contra Costa schools. In support of literacy in West County, 24 of the approved grants are for literacy projects. Grant recipients from across the school district have applied for Mini-Grants of up to \$500 and School-Wide Grants of up to \$1000.

“Supporting innovative projects that will enhance the educational experience of West Contra Costa students is a highly leveraged way for The Ed. Fund to support public education, and at the same time we can recognize the innovation and creativity of the people working in our schools,” notes Interim Executive Director Rick Smith. Projects funded with this year’s grants reach across the disciplines. Successful grant applications share characteristics including creativity, added educational benefits, and the potential to make a positive difference in students’ lives. From gymnastics to science, gardens that will assist with language development to sets of books for classrooms and family math and literacy nights, Ed. Fund grants continue to make a difference for thousands of students. Details about the winning grants will be available at www.edfundwest.org.

Teachers, principals, students and community members with projects that will benefit classrooms are eligible to submit grant applications each year for their school. There are 59 schools in the WCCUSD; 61% of schools in the district submitted applications and 49% of schools in the district were awarded grants. 67 applications were accepted; granted funds total over \$45,000. Each grant application goes through a rigorous selection process, as there are far more requests for support than funds to meet them.

Robert Bunce, Program Director at The Ed. Fund comments, “Schools are able to do amazing things with grant money. It is rewarding to directly affect children’s classroom experiences.” Updated monthly with current grant opportunities and scholarship information, The Ed. Fund website is a key resource for teachers, principals, community members and students in West County.

The Ed. Fund grants program is maintained through the generous donations of individuals, Buck-A-Month participants, attendees and sponsors of the annual Excellence in Education banquet, and special grant funds from Mechanics Bank, Bernard and Alba Witkin Trust, the Red Oak Realty Opportunity Foundation, and Chevron Richmond Refinery.

About The West Contra Costa Public Education Fund (The Ed. Fund)

Founded in 1983, The Ed. Fund is a non-profit, public education fund dedicated to inspiring student achievement, encouraging commitment to lifelong learning, honoring and supporting teachers, and building community partnerships committed to public education in West Contra Costa County. For more information call (510) 233.1464 or visit www.edfundwest.org.

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