



NC BEAUTIFUL
EMPOWERING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

NC Beautiful Presents Nineteen North Carolina Schools with 2014 Windows of Opportunity Grants

Elementary, Middle, and High Schools across the state are awarded grants that promotes environmental awareness and preservation

NC Beautiful, a provider of environmental education and beautification opportunities that elevate the quality of life of North Carolinians, has announced this year's recipients of the organization's environmental education grants. Eighteen schools were awarded Windows of Opportunity Grants that are available to certified, full-time K-12 teachers in the state of North Carolina.

Windows of Opportunity provides up to \$1,000 grants to NC teachers to reward their creativity fostering environmental stewardship, leadership, and awareness and initiating a sense of community service. Since 1999, NC Beautiful has awarded tens of thousands of grant dollars to schools all across North Carolina—from the mountains to the coast. NC Beautiful Executive Director, Steve Vacendak, says that the goal of NC Beautiful is to offer a Windows of Opportunity grant annually in all 100 counties in North Carolina.

"Promoting and fostering environmental stewardship is a state-wide commitment," says Vacendak. "By rewarding our teachers throughout our state for their innovation and hard work, we can ensure that our children and grandchildren are participating in a project that sparks a lifelong interest in nature. They will appreciate this beautiful state even more for having had a teacher who went above and beyond to give them a hands-on, real-world experience. We are proud to be a small part of that discovery."

The Windows of Opportunity Grants were created to cultivate an appreciation of natural environments by helping children get out of school and into natural settings. The grants also build leadership awareness, develop environmental educational mentors and ambassadors, create materials and resources that can be used by other K-12 students, and develop a sustainable, outdoor program, which will continue well after the grant period ends.

The following is a list of the 2014 Windows of Opportunity Grant recipients, including the name of the teacher submitting the winning entry:

- Bess Adcock, Granville Central High School, Stem (Granville County)
- Amy Alexander, River Road Middle School, Elizabeth City (Pasquotank County)
- Alison Edwards, School for Creative Studies, Durham (Durham County)
- Tricia Gaible, Sparta Elementary School, Sparta (Alleghany County)
- Heather Hale, Green Leadership & World Languages Magnet Elementary, Raleigh (Wake County)
- Cliff Hudson, Riverside High School, Williamston (Martin County)
- Jason Hunning, Athens Drive High School, Raleigh (Wake County)
- Debra Jones, Contentnea/Savannah School, Kinston (Lenoir County)
- Sherry Maines, Glade Creek School, Enice (Alleghany County)
- Celeste Maus, Perquimans County High School, Hertford (Hertford County)
- Jake Melnyk, Greene Early College High School, Snow Hill (Greene County)
- Nancy Pepper, Green Valley School, Boone (Watauga County)
- Stacey Pierce, Perquimans Central School, Winfall (Perquimans County)
- Jake Pittillo, Clear Creek Elementary School, Hendersonville (Henderson County)
- Catherine Rohrbaugh, Dillard Drive Middle School, Raleigh (Wake County)
- Jennifer Schwachenwald, Wake Forest Elementary School, Wake Forest (Wake County)
- Tiffany Mayo, West Carteret High School, Morehead City (Carteret County)
- Paul Gainey, ASPIRE Program, New Bern (Craven County)
- Lisa Chestnutt, Mattamuskeet Early College High School, Swan Quarter (Hyde County)

Entries for next year's Windows of Opportunity Grants will be accepted online starting July 2014. For more information, visit www.ncbeautiful.org.



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About NC Beautiful

NC Beautiful has been part of the state's environmental preservation community for over 40 years—supporting awareness, education and beautification efforts that affect our quality of life. Today, we concentrate on hands-on and merit-based programs designed to empower our citizens to preserve the natural beauty of the state of North Carolina. Whether it's school children building outdoor classrooms, graduate students developing cutting edge research, or a Boy Scout troop planting azaleas at an elder care facility, we make it possible for North Carolinians to keep NC Beautiful. For more information, visit www.ncbeautiful.org.

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