

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$30,500

IN EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION GRANTS

Nine lower shore schools honored for innovative programs

November 18, 2005) – The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore honored nine schools in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties with \$30,500 in grants through the Foundation’s 2005 Excellence In Education Program.

As one of the Community Foundation’s six grant programs, Excellence In Education awards are made annually through a competitive process to public and private schools on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. Grants are made to those schools that have demonstrated through innovative and creative programs a particularly meritorious concern for their students and communities.

Grants were awarded to the following schools during ceremonies held at Dove Pointe in Salisbury:

- James M. Bennett High School – Awarded \$4,857 to provide equipment and support materials to enhance the ability of math and science teachers to perform quantitative lab activities with their classes.
- Cedar Chapel Special School –Awarded \$5,000 to help fund “Project Greenhouse”, a hands-on, real-life activity that enables students to develop and maintain an on-site greenhouse for all students at the school, plus opportunities for career training.
- Marion Sarah Peyton Elementary School –Awarded \$2,500 to support the “What Kids Need to Succeed “ program that will allow teachers to participate in weekly sessions with students and parents to promote and strengthen parental involvement with their children’s education.
- Pittsville Elementary and Middle School –Awarded \$2,835 to help support a “Family Boatbuilding Program” that creates an opportunity for students and parents to work together on a project designed to help both gain an understanding of how to better communicate with each other. Additional benefits include lessons about the environment and history including local expeditions to ecosystems and historical sites.
- Prince Street Elementary School – Awarded \$5,000 for project “Nothing but Net”, a 10-week incentive program designed to encourage positive behavior through the use of basketball and guidance lessons. Students from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore serve as coaches and role models for the elementary students as they lead them through the program and a community service project.

- Salisbury School – Awarded \$2,399 to help fund a web-based library system that allow students, staff and parents to access the library card catalog from any computer at school or from their homes and find books and web sites for research and literature.
- Westside Primary School – Awarded \$951 to fund a project titled “Learning about Local Landforms” than enables kindergarten students to become familiar with their geographic surroundings including several lessons about the natural environment.
- Whittington Primary School –Awarded \$2,000 to support “Math Survivor,” an activity that makes learning math skills fund for kindergarten through second grade students. The project covers an eight-week period where students are challenged to solve a given problem and successful “survivors” are recognized. The project culminates in a final Challenge Week of math activities.
- Wicomico County Board of Education –Awarded \$5,000 to support the Wicomico County Truancy Reduction Pilot Program, a six to nine month effort that involves getting truant students and their families to work together to reduce school absences in children ages 5 to 16.

For the first time at an Excellence in Education Awards event, the Community Foundation honored one school for having the best program of the year. This recognition was made by awarding the first annual Mary Gay Calcott Award of Excellence. The overall award was presented to Pittsville Elementary and Middle School.

The award is named for the late Mary Gay Calcott, a professor of English at Salisbury University whose life embodied her teaching ideals of liberal education; teaching students to think, to express themselves with clarity and to care about the world they live in.

The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore is a charitable foundation dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents of Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties by building charitable endowments, maximizing benefits to donors, making effective grants and providing leadership in addressing community needs.

More information about the Excellence in Education program is available [on this website](#), by calling the Foundation at 410-742-9911.



Cedar Chapel Special School representatives Debra Quilter and Diana Brooks accept the award from CFES President Spicer Bell.



Pittsville Elementary: CFES President Spicer Bell congratulates Joyce Dunn.



William Curtis, Karen Lee Brofee and Stan Pruitt of the Somerset County Board of Education attended the awards ceremony.



Tanisha Armstrong and Steve Brewer, representatives of the Wicomico County Board of Education, accepted county awards from President Bell.



Debra Quilter, Willie Jackson and Diana Brooks of the Worcester County Board of Education attended the awards ceremony.



Recipient of the Mary Gay Calcott Award: Pittsville Elementary. Shown: Sandy Poole, Joyce Dunn and Linda Hutchinson.