

# Projects Offer Linkage for Drivers, Educators

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Date: Nov 21, 2010

Nearly a half dozen teachers now have the money they need to offer some compelling projects to their students, courtesy of a local organization and the groups that help support it.

The Solano Community Foundation this year provided nearly \$30,000 to fund 68 mini grants to help teachers across the county provide enhanced educational opportunities to their students. The mini grants provide funding for learning projects in arts and culture; health and wellness; media and technology; math and science; and reading and literacy.

The foundation, through its Education Plus! Mini-Grant Program, has awarded 626 grants, totaling about \$274,000, since the program's inception.

Nearly 140 teachers applied for the grants this year, compared to around 100 last year. That's a significant increase and, I believe, is indicative of the tough economic times our schools are facing.

The 68 grant recipients were honored Wednesday at the foundation's Teacher Recognition Dinner, which took place at the Fairfield Community Center and saw Fairfield City Councilman Rick Vaccaro serving as emcee. A number of public officials were also in attendance, including Mayors Harry Price of Fairfield and Len Augustine of Vacaville, John Vasquez from the Solano County Board of Supervisors, Solano County School Board member Mayrene Bates and Vacaville City Councilwoman Dilenna Harris.

Efforts such as the SCF mini grant program can -- and do -- help teachers bridge the gap between what they need to educate our children and the resources they have to do so. To the foundation and groups like it that are pulling together to boost educational opportunities for our children I say, your efforts are appreciated.

Keep up the good work.