FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Science Foundation ArizonaFinished the Year Supporting Eight Rural Schools to Enhance Computer and Science Labs

PHOENIX (Dec. 16, 2014) – Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) is ending the year with another round of computer and science lab grants as part of the SFAz Rural and Remote Initiative. With $213,241 funds from Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation, eight rural schools will implement a computer or science lab in memory of Joyce Marley Corrigan, one of the original Board members.

When SFAz conducted its Rural and Remote Education Needs Survey in May 2013, educators identified as a top priority the need to increase science and technology programs in schools.

Schools in rural communities were encouraged to submit a request for proposal to fund much needed technology upgrades for science and computer lab equipment and programs. SFAz received a total of 50 proposals, which then went through an external peer review process before final approval.

As a result, the grants from SFAz will support improved technology for STEM programs in the eight rural schools. Students will have the opportunity to enhance their research and analytical capabilities, understand real-world field experiences, learn about future career opportunities in STEM fields and more importantly become excited of the possibilities tied to science and technology.

“By supporting computer and science labs in schools we can help close the impending skills gap which the nation currently faces,” John A. Kriekard, Director of Education for SFAz. “Students will have the opportunity to expand their STEM education and explore the endless career possibilities.”

SFAz received funding from Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation includes:

- Alchesay High School, located in Navajo County, will be awarded $30,264 in grants for furnish a STEM lab to increase student achievement and prepare youth to be educated citizens and career ready in STEM fields.
- Eloy Elementary School, located in Pinal County, will be awarded $39,942 in grants to equip a STEM lab to prepare students to meet the new AZ College and Career ready standards. As well as improve student outcomes by integrating STEM into the curriculum.
- Holbrook Junior High School, located in Navajo County, will be awarded $19,953 in grants to expand the use of technology in science with the objective of helping all of their students increase their technological literacy in 21st century skills and scientific inquiry.
- Huachaca City School, located in Cochise County, will be awarded $13,330 in grants to provide seventh and eighth grade students with a significantly more rigorous science curriculum.
• Round Valley High School, located in Apache County, will be awarded $40,306 in grants to foster the school’s overall goal of STEM literacy for all graduates by improving student performance in math and science.
• St. Johns High School, located in Apache County, will be awarded $24,446 in grants to implement STEM enrichment activities for students.
• Superior Unified School, located in Pinal County, will be awarded $13,065 in grants to improve student learning in technology knowledge and skills critical for students to contribute and function in today’s information technology society.
• Young Public School, located in Gila County, will be awarded $31,935 in grants to enhance their Science Technology Engineering and Mathematic Computerized Robotics program (STEMCoRoPro).

“We are excited to fund these computer and science labs in honor of Joyce Marley Corrigan, who was a strong advocate for excellent education across the state, including our rural communities,” said Nancy Elitharp Ball, chief financial officer and board member for The Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation. “As people make New Year’s resolutions, we encourage everyone to support education in Arizona.”

Through the Rural and Remote Initiative, SFAz has committed to providing teachers the tools they need to improve academic achievement and develop the skills to implement Arizona’s College and Career Ready Standards and Next Generation Science Standards.

About Science Foundation Arizona
Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization initiated in 2006 by the Greater Phoenix Leadership Inc., Southern Arizona Leadership Council and the Flagstaff Forty in conjunction with the executive and legislative branches of state government. SFAz serves as a catalyst for high-wage, knowledge-based jobs and economic diversity through administration and strict oversight of research, development and education grants to public education and other non-profit research performing institutions. For more information, visit www.sfaz.org and like us on Facebook.

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