

March for Science Indianapolis Gives Back to Area Educators with STEM Grant Program

- *March for Science Indianapolis is awarding grants to local teachers who submit a creative, engaging STEM curriculum that can be replicated in classrooms across the state*
- *Priority is given to applicants from high-need Indianapolis schools who create an engaging, high-impact curriculum*
- *Application deadline is Nov. 25, 2017 and recipients will be announced Nov. 26*

INDIANAPOLIS – Nov. 12 2017 – March for Science Indianapolis, an all-volunteer science advocacy group, is giving back to area teachers with a passion for science, technology, engineering and mathematics education (STEM).

The 2017 March for Science Indianapolis STEM Classroom Grant will reward select applicants who design and submit a new and exciting STEM curriculum that can be replicated in schools throughout the state.

The \$250 to \$500 grants – backed by the organization’s surplus funds following a successful fundraising campaign – will be awarded to applicants based on the following priorities:

1. The school is located within the Indianapolis Public School system.
2. The school is among those with the greatest need for additional STEM funding.
3. The curriculum is engaging and high-impact.

“We want to give back to the Indianapolis community,” said Rufus Cochran, co-chair for March for Science Indianapolis. “In doing so, we are giving preference to Indy-area schools and students with the highest need for hands-on, engaging curricula that they might not receive otherwise.”

In this case, “highest need” means schools that, for example, reside in low-income areas, are underfunded, or have a high percentage of students on free and reduced lunch.

“It’s important that these grants go to curricula that will pull in students with hands-on activities that inspire curiosity and wonder,” Cochran added, “while at the same time, educators can guarantee that they’re using the funds creatively to reach the highest number of students.”

To ensure that an engaging STEM curriculum reaches the maximum number of students, educators across the state must be able to replicate and apply it in their own classrooms.

Grant recipients must provide post-implementation documentation to the organization.

“Science is the most powerful tool humanity has to acquire knowledge about – and understand – the world around us,” Cochran said. “Increasing scientific literacy and communicating its importance to the general public will unite people across the world – regardless of race, religion or political affiliation – in the pursuit of knowledge to build a better life for our generation and the next.

“That pursuit starts in the classroom,” he added.

The deadline to apply is 11:59 p.m. Nov. 25, 2017. March for Science Indianapolis will announce grant recipients Nov. 26, 2017 at StarBase Indy.

To view grant guidelines and apply, visit <https://sciencemarchind.org/grants/>

About March for Science Indianapolis

March for Science Indianapolis is an all-volunteer organization uniting Indiana’s community of passionate science enthusiasts and advocates as a diverse, nonpartisan group to celebrate science and scientific professionals. MFS Indianapolis works with science communication and advocacy groups throughout the city to create engaging science programming for events, provide a networking resource and raise awareness of science education events throughout the region.

The organization is sponsored by the Indiana Science Communication and Education Foundation (INSCEF). INSCEF is a 501c3 non-profit formed by local STEM professionals to promote scientific literacy and improve science communication.

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