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**2023 Bent Tree Foundation Awards Pickens County Teacher Grants**

By

Debbie Ford, Chair

Bent Tree Foundation Grant Program

On October 10, 2023, Gerald Hunter, Chairman of the Bent Tree Foundation, Debbie Ford, Chair of the Bent Tree Foundation Grant Program, Mike Moffitt and Nancy Davis, both Bent Tree Foundation Directors, had the pleasure to continue the commitment of the Bent Tree Foundation Mission by presenting nine Pickens County Educators and Administrators at Pickens County schools with grants totaling over $8,000. The grant funds were raised through a variety of fundraising events and the generous donations of many Bent Tree residents. Each of the grants was personally presented to the school administrators and educators for implementation of their respective grants during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Hill City Elementary School Principal, Angela Kretschmar, accepted grant funds for grant recipients Andrea Gartell for her grant entitled “Flexible Seating” and Jenny Richards for her grant entitled “Tinkering with “Tinker Tars”.

Scott Stephens, Tate Elementary School Principal, accepted funds for grant recipient Krista Newton for her grant entitled “Mirrors and Windows: Diverse Books Matter 1-4”.

Harmony Elementary School Assistant Principal, Stephen Hunter, accepted funds for grant recipient Jennifer Valeriana for her grant entitled “Interdisciplinary Units for Kindergarten”; Tiffany Griffis for her grant entitled “Super Size Our Centers” and Mandy Ledford for her grant entitled “Flexible Seating For SPED Students”.

Corey Thompson, Jasper Middle School Principal, accepted funds for Rhonda Noe’s grant entitled “Motivation, Movement, and Maps”. Mr. Thompson also accepted grant funds provided by Bent Tree Foundation Board member Nancy Davis, in memory of her husband Dr. Monte Davis, professor emeritus at Georgia Tech, for Lydia Kress whose grant was entitled “Expanding Horizons: Enriching Through Atlases”.

Pickens High School Principal, Matt Combs, accepted funds for Scott Hamilton’s grant entitled “Preparing Special Ed students for Future Employment”; Dennis Wilson’s grant entitled “OSHA 10 Certification” and Jeremy Sellers grant entitled “Change of PACE”.

The Bent Tree Foundation looks forward to hearing about the educational impact and/or results of the individual grant implementations at the end of the school year. In addition, the Bent Tree Foundation would like to thank the Bent Tree Foundation Grant Review Committee members and former educators: Jodi Thurmond, Mike Moffit, Nancy Davis and Nancy Moffitt for their dedication and review of the 2023 grant applications on behalf of the Bent Tree Foundation.