



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Justin Scott-Coe
PHONE: (909) 267-2116
(909) 267-2165
EMAIL: jscottcoe@mvwd.org

Monte Vista Water District Service Area Teachers Receive Funds for Water Education Activities

MONTCLAIR, CA The Water Education Water Awareness Committee (WEWAC) has awarded more than \$13,000 to local educators to conduct water-related education activities. Of the 26 grant recipients, 10 were selected from the Monte Vista Water District's service area. A total of \$5,250 was awarded to Lehigh Elementary, Monte Vista Elementary and Montclair High School teachers for investments in curriculum development, technology, fieldtrips and other activities.

"We are thrilled to have so many teachers in our service area participating in regional educational programs," said Board of Directors President Sandra Rose. "The goal of the EduGrant program is to bring water education into the classroom, and our teachers have done an excellent job finding creative ways to use grant funds to teach our youth about the importance of water."

Grant recipients completed their classroom projects by the end of the 2015-2016 academic year with WEWAC representatives conducting classroom visits to view the project and/or receive oral and written reports highlighting project outcomes.

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One of this year's EduGrant winners, Dr. Russell Okinaka from Montclair High School, is now an 8-time grant recipient. Dr. Okinaka is an Advanced Placement Environmental Science instructor who uses the awarded funds to purchase science equipment for his classroom. This year, he purchased a turbidity sensor, conductivity probe, and a pH sensor to help students compare the quality of reclaimed water to tap water. He and his students attended the June 8 board meeting to present their project findings to the board of directors.

"The EduGrant program has provided me with equipment that has enhanced my ability to present information to students as well as opportunities to enhance their laboratory and research experiences," said Dr. Okinaka. "My students get to participate in research activities that are normally conducted at the college or university level."

Additional EduGrants of up to \$600 each were awarded to the following teachers and schools in the District service area:

- Jackie Albay-Yenney of Montclair High School
- Sandra Cortes of Lehigh Elementary School
- Michele DeCasas of Lehigh Elementary School
- Kay Hoover of Monte Vista Elementary School
- Argy Leyton of Montclair High School
- Reyna Nides of Lehigh Elementary School
- Tina Ramsey of Montclair High School
- Jennifer Ron of Lehigh Elementary School
- Susan Villarroel of Lehigh Elementary School

WEWAC is a consortium of conservation professionals representing 15 cities and water agencies located in western San Bernardino County and eastern Los Angeles County. In addition to the EduGrant program, WEWAC sponsors an annual high school video contest, conducts teacher workshops, and provides scholarships to college-bound students. For more information about these programs, visit www.usewaterwisely.com.