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News from UCOR

Safely Delivering the U.S. Department of Energy's Vision for the East Tennessee Technology Park Mission

For Immediate Release

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UCOR awards 24 mini-grants for local school projects

Oak Ridge, Tenn., May 31, 2012 – URS | CH2M Oak Ridge LLC (UCOR) is pleased to announce 24 winners of the UCOR Education Mini-Grant Program. One of UCOR's primary objectives is to support and encourage education initiatives. The Mini-Grant Program was designed to recognize and support excellence in teaching by providing funds to assist classroom teachers for specific projects or curricula, focusing primarily on science, technology, engineering, and math.

"We have schools doing outstanding and exciting things in their classrooms, but many times they are limited by a lack of materials and supplies. These grants will help schools provide creative and innovative experiences for their students," said Leo Sain, UCOR President and Project Manager. "As a technology-based company, UCOR understands the importance of supporting education. For the past couple of decades, fewer students have been pursuing math- and science-related careers. If we are to remain competitive, both as a company and a country, we must reverse that trend. Helping schools excite students about math and science is one way of doing that."

The successful teachers, proposed projects, and schools are:

- Jason Abercrombie, "Establishment of Basic Biotechnology Infrastructure," Halls High School
- Cassie Belcher, "Barn Owls," Philadelphia School
- Lynne Berney, "Owl Pellets and Food Webs," Karns Elementary School
- Jennifer Borr, "The Science of Sound," Loudon High School
- Sandy Buttrum, "iPad for Teacher/Student Use in Classroom," North Middle School
- Holly Christianson, "Hatching Inquiry," Farragut Primary School
- Conni Durfee, "Geometric Solids Manipulatives," Karns Elementary
- Joe Foy, "Use of Advanced Data Collection Devices to Capture, View, and Analyze Sensor Data in Math and Physics Classrooms," West High School
- Leanne Gentry, "Calculators for the Classroom," Norris Middle School
- Robbie Herrell/David Humphrey, "Green Construction," Anderson County Career and Technical Center
- Nicole Jett, "Differentiated Brightlink Learning," Claxton Elementary
- Michelle LaDue, "iPad Understanding," Briceville Elementary
- Meg Law, "Science in Stereo," Northwest Middle School

- Tommy Mariner, “Solar Telescope for Naval Science Astronomy Module,” Anderson County High School
- Vicki McKamey, “Feather Talk,” Grand Oaks Elementary School
- Kim Meredith/Amber Elkins, “STEM Interactive Software,” Lake City Elementary
- Rachel Yates Minardo, “Document Cameras to Supplement Brightlink Technology,” Claxton Elementary School
- Rhonda Phillips, “Animal Classification,” Grand Oaks Elementary
- Ann Riddell, “Mobi ~ Mobile Interactive Whiteboard,” Grand Oaks Elementary
- Shannon Smith, “Microsoft IT and Business Academy,” Anderson County Career and Technical Center
- Ann Stafford, “One Small Step for Me...One Giant Leap for My Future,” Loudon Elementary School
- David Tracey, “Math + NSPIRES = SUCCESS,” Clinton Middle School
- Kelly Raye Williams, “Inquiry Labs for Science Experiments,” Lake City Elementary
- Kelly Raye Williams, “Math Manipulatives and Visuals,” Lake City Elementary

Applications were screened and awardees selected using a blind process that prevented members of the selection panel from knowing the names of the teachers or the schools applying. Schools in Roane, Anderson, Loudon, and Knox counties were eligible to submit proposals.

UCOR plans to award the mini-grants annually.

UCOR is the Department of Energy’s Environmental Management contractor at the Oak Ridge Reservation. The URS-led team is responsible for deactivation and demolition of the K-25 facility at ETTP, as well as other specific scopes of work at ETTP, the Y-12 National Security Complex, and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

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