

3 Teachers Earn Professional Development Grants

By Administrator

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RALEIGH: Three North Carolina teachers will get Governor's Educator Discovery Awards to help strengthen their work in the classroom. Shirley Pyon from Mills Park Elementary School in Wake County, Julie-Kate Hazelrigg from Garner Magnet High School in Wake County, and Genal West from Watauga High School in Watauga County will each receive a \$1,000 award to pay for professional development.

The grant is awarded by the North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE).

"Giving teachers more opportunities to develop their skills will benefit those teachers and their students for years to come," Governor Roy Cooper said. "Professional development helps teachers connect what they're teaching in the classroom with the skill students will need to succeed in their future jobs."

The Governor's Educator Discovery Award provides a stipend of up to \$1,000 for PreK-12 traditional public and public charter school teachers to pursue a professional development experience of their choosing. This is the third round of teachers to receive the award and brings the total number of grants awarded to nine. Winning teachers are selected from an impressive and growing applicant pool, demonstrating a strong interest in the program and the opportunities it provides.

The latest teachers to receive grants will use their Governor's Educator Discovery Award in the following ways:

Shirley Pyon, K-5 Stem educator in Cary, will attend the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Creative Constructor Lab. ISTE works to engage and empower a community of global educators who believe in the power of technology to transform teaching and learning, accelerate innovation, and solve problems in education. The conference provides teachers with strategies and tools that can be used to help engage elementary schoolers in project-based learning activities.

Julie-Kate Hazelrigg, high school theater educator in Garner, will attend the Broadway Teacher's Workshop in New York City. This conference features three days of masterclasses

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on contemporary theater and theater-education topics. The Broadway Teacher's workshop will provide tools for preparing students for college auditions and connecting the concepts they learn in a fine arts classroom with cutting-edge performances in professional theaters.

Genal West, high school visual art teacher, will be attending the North Carolina Art Education Association conference in Raleigh. The conference features over 100 workshops and presentations offered over three days. Educators will learn modern artistic techniques, working styles, and gain insight from other educators to develop new projects for their students.

The North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE) is a business-led, education non-profit (501-c3) that operates out of the Office of the Governor. Since 1983, NCBCE has provided a critical link between North Carolina business leaders and the state's education decision-makers, helping to create connections between the education curriculum and the overall work readiness of people across the state.

"All NCBCE members know and strongly support the importance of professional development for teachers across our state. This award makes it possible for educators to bring new tools and techniques into their classrooms. Through their conferences, recipients of this award will be able to apply classroom standards to real-world applications and increase the work-based learning opportunities available to their students," said NCBCE Board Chair, Albert Eckel.

To be eligible for the Governor's Educator Discovery Awards, teachers submit a proposal with details about their teaching experience and the professional development activity they wish to pursue and how it would enhance their efforts to create a work-based learning activity for their students.

Teachers can apply for the next round of grants through November 1, 2019. Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of business leaders and educators. Awardees will be notified of their selection via the phone number or email address provided in their application. p://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=38109465&msgid=463864&act=E9NM&c=1346310&destination=https%3A%2F%2Fnccu.co1.qualtrics.com%2Fjfe%2Fform%2FSV_3sHfhK6lIX2lerj
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The Governor's Educator Discovery Awards are funded by NCBCE member companies. As

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interest in the program has grown with each cycle, NCBCE hopes to raise additional funds to expand the program in future years.