



Contact: Bill Bell  
Phone: (540) 955-0430  
E-mail: [bbell@ccefinc.org](mailto:bbell@ccefinc.org)  
Website: [www.ccefinc.org](http://www.ccefinc.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CLARKE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$61,000 IN TEACHER GRANTS**  
Teachers Receive Enhanced Instructional Tools

**BERRYVILLE, Va., January 23, 2009** – The Clarke County Education Foundation announced its annual Teacher Grant Awards totaling \$61,691 today at a luncheon honoring all 180 teachers in the Clarke County Public Schools. Foundation President, John Hudson, said in remarks at the luncheon that “this is one of the programs of which we are the proudest, and one that we hope contributes to keeping our excellent teachers here in the Clarke County system.”

This is the first year that the Foundation has hosted all Clarke County teachers at its awards event. The Foundation wished to honor all teachers in the system for their hard work and initiative. Thirty-four grants were made, averaging \$1,814 apiece, all of them enhancements to support instruction ranging from \$126 (Primary, science instruction, body systems) to \$7,175 (Clarke County High School, career/technical education, robotics).

The purpose of the grants to teachers is to help them implement new ideas of their own about how to improve the quality and effectiveness of teaching in their classrooms.

Much of the funding for these Teacher Grants comes from the Foundation's annual Gala dinner and auction, which this year netted about \$43,000 in funds specifically for this purpose. In addition the Foundation drew from investment income from endowments designated for these purposes, as well as a year-end mailing to support these grants.

**About the Clarke County Education Foundation, Inc.**

The Clarke County Education Foundation (CCEF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing private support to the Clarke County (Virginia) Public Schools. As an independent public charity, the foundation is dedicated to promoting, expanding, and augmenting the educational opportunities for students and staff in the county school system by generating private support and involvement to enhance these publicly maintained services.

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