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For Immediate Release

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Fisher-Titus Awards Area Schools \$27,000 in Education Grants

Fisher-Titus Medical Center's Health Education Grants have been supporting health and science initiatives in the classroom for 19 years. This year, nine local schools will receive a total of \$27,000 to achieve goals and make math, science and health education fun for their students.

Fisher-Titus Medical Center's Health Education Grant Distribution Program was established to fund innovative educational programs in the areas of math, science and health for schools in the Fisher-Titus service area.

"We are so excited and proud to continue this long standing tradition," said Lorna Strayer, Fisher-Titus president, during the 19th annual Fisher-Titus Health Education Distribution Program luncheon. "We salute you for the work you do, and thank you for your tremendous focus on developing young minds in traditional and non-traditional ways – for it is this same group of students who represent our future workforce. It makes sense that we work together for the betterment and sustainability of this great community."

Since 1996, 175 grants have been awarded through this program. Every year, Fisher-Titus awards local school districts health education grants. During a luncheon ceremony Friday, January 23 at Fisher-Titus Medical Center, the Medical Center awarded this year's grants to 9 local school districts.

More than \$768,400 has been distributed in the 19 years the program has been in existence, according to Matt Gross, chairman of the Fisher-Titus Medical Center's Board of Directors.

"Fisher-Titus Medical Center's vision is 'to enhance the quality and safety of life of each person we serve' and our board, medical staff and employees believe that enhancing the education foundation of our communities through work with our schools make the entire region a better place to live, work and worship." Gross said.

This year \$27,000 was distributed to Edison Local Schools, Monroeville Local School District, New London Local Schools, Norwalk City Schools, Norwalk Catholic School, South Central Local Schools, Wellington Schools, Western Reserve Local Schools and Willard City Schools.

Applicants were required to submit a grant proposal to Fisher-Titus that included a detailed explanation of the project to be funded. Grants were approved by the Fisher-Titus Medical Center board of directors. Under this program, school districts may receive grants up to \$3,000.

During the luncheon, each recipient presented a brief summary of the program last year's grant funded and information about this year's plan for the grant.

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Cutline:

During a luncheon ceremony on Friday, Jan. 23 at Fisher-Titus Medical Center, the Medical Center awarded Health Education Grants to 9 local school districts. Fisher-Titus and school representatives pictured front (from left) are Brad Romano, New London Local Schools; Dennis Doughty, Norwalk Catholic School; Rodge Wilson, Western Reserve Schools and Alicia McKee, South Central Local Schools; and President Lorna Strayer, Fisher-Titus Medical Center; back row (from left) Chairman Matt Gross, Fisher-Titus Medical Center Board of Directors; Thomas Roth, Edison Local Schools; Dr. Will Folger, Norwalk City Schools; Stanley Mounts, Wellington Schools; Jeff Ritz, Willard City Schools; and Bob Butler, Monroeville Local Schools.

NOTE TO REPORTER / EDITOR:

Brief descriptions of this year's funded programs are provided, along with a contact name for you to call if you would like further information.

**SHER-TITUS MEDICAL CENTER
HEALTH EDUCATION GRANTS**

Edison Local Schools

Thomas Roth, Superintendent, 419-499-4272

Edison Local Schools is seeking a \$3,000 grant to purchase 100 Logitech ClearChat USB microphone headsets. These headsets will be used by Grade 3 students at Edison Elementary, Grades 4-8 students at

Edison Middle School and students at Edison High School during Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing.

PARCC has begun transitioning question strategies from paper/pencil to application and authentication of knowledge based on visual, auditory and verbal assessments. In support of PARCC's initiative, teachers and educators from consortium states have also begun the exciting work of developing speaking and listening tools that will help teachers measure how well students gain understanding of ideas from others through active listening.

During the spring 2015 testing, all students will be assessed in PARCC with real-life scenarios which will be presented through visual and auditory methodology. The assessment will expect students to communicate a knowledge-based verbal response using facts and speaking skills based on the information seen and heard. Student access to a headset is a required technological component for this portion of the test.

Monroeville Local Schools

Ralph Moore, Superintendent, 419-465-2610

The abundance of available K-12 classroom technology products can be staggering, and finding appropriate products to meet the needs of a 21st century classroom is a difficult task. Teachers, administrators, technology coordinators, and the like, are constantly being targeted for software products, hardware products, and everything in between at such a variance in price ranges that it is difficult to determine what will not only meet the technology needs of today's classroom, but will continue to be sustainable over many years without becoming obsolete.

The Monroeville Local School District proposal for grant funding by Fisher-Titus Medical Center is a request for technology that will directly support understanding of science and mathematics concepts from elementary to high school levels. Eight document cameras will be purchased and used regularly to engage young students in learning science, math, health and other related subjects.

Document cameras previously purchased for the district were intended to be shared, however the versatility and ease-of-use of the technology has increased its demand and sharing is no longer sufficient.

To purchase the document cameras, Monroeville Local Schools is requesting \$3,000. The additional costs required for implementing the project will be assumed by the school district.

New London Local Schools

Brad Romano, Superintendent, 419-929-8433

New London is requesting a \$3,000 grant that will go toward improving critical thinking skills through lab work for the middle school and high school students. The school district anticipates using those students to pay it forward and work with the elementary students in creating hands-on learning activities with the equipment. The projected outcome is that the students will be able to make good decisions and improve their problem-solving ability. These students will be stronger students who will be successful in higher education opportunities.

By creating several cross-curricular units that encourage experiential learning using STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) models, students will gain valuable analytic skills that will open many career paths. High school anatomy classes are exploring different career fields through the incorporation of guest speakers and inside and outside the classroom activities. Anatomy will be attending North Central State College, where they will be meeting with the dean of health sciences Jim Hull, reviewing laboratory equipment and examining a cadaver. High school biology will be experimenting with planarians, gel electrophoresis and bioenergy as presented by OSU ATI. Freshmen physical science students will be using

a trebuchet from last year's grant funding to examine Newton's laws. We need to incorporate as much technology as possible to keep the students moving forward and growing in a dynamic world.

The units are designed to first benefit the high school and middle school students, giving them opportunities to solve real world problems. The older students will then mentor a student from the middle school, sharing what they have learned and encouraging the younger student to start using their critical thinking skills. By adding hands-on activities to the curriculum, a student has the opportunity to experience problem-based learning. As he/she evaluate their end product and make conclusions, the student improves their critical thinking skills.

Norwalk Catholic School

Dennis Doughty, President, 419-668-3005

Norwalk Catholic School strives to be a leader in developing students with a readiness for careers in Math, Science, and the Health Care professions. As a district, Norwalk Catholic School realizes the need to continually provide students with innovative and dynamic ways to learn math and science. The challenge is to provide students with resources that will be contemporary with those found in higher-education and/or the workplace, while still maintaining financial stability.

St. Paul High School/Norwalk Catholic Junior High School is requesting \$3,000 from the Fisher-Titus Medical Center Health Education Grant to be used to purchase a classroom set of 30 Graphing Calculators. These instruments will be used in the Junior High School Math and Science labs to investigate higher application of math and in its application towards technical and science inquiry. This technology will help our educators develop the next generation of scientists, engineers, and healthcare providers. This will impact approximately 110 students.

The TI-84 Plus graphing calculator offers three times the memory, more than twice the speed and a higher contrast screen than the TI-83 Plus model. Its keystroke-for-keystroke compatible, too. The TI graphing calculator can be used on the PSAT, SAT, and ACT college entrance exams and AP tests. The TI-84 calculator is embedded in the new PARRC testing program to be implemented in the State of Ohio later this spring.

Norwalk City Schools

Dr. Will Folger, Superintendent, 419-668-2779

The kindergarten and first grade Science/Health teams at Maplehurst Elementary School are requesting \$3000 for an iResponse System. We are requesting three class sets of 30. These are hand-held clickers where teachers can formally and informally assess students. Questions are given to students on a specific topic and students respond using their clicker. Teachers get quick feedback as to their students' understanding of what they have learned. These clickers will help improve students' critical analytic thinking skills.

There are 19 science teachers that will be utilizing this system in their classrooms. The science teachers will create lessons based on our science content standards. Lessons will be created and shared among the teachers. Research shows that students learn best through hands-on experimentation and being directly engaged which the system will allow. The requested grant funds will be used to purchase this system so that students can attain these goals. More than 225 students at Maplehurst Elementary School will benefit from having the iResponse System.

South Central Local Schools

David Brand, Superintendent, 419-752-3815

The funds allocated by this \$3,000 grant will be used to purchase equipment, programs and materials for the science and health classes in the South Central School District. The funds will be divided among various programs that enhance science and health education at South Central. The money will be used to

fund the COSI on Wheels program, a kindergarten “Science Night,” a variety of hands-on science materials and visual aids, and a camcorder.

The science and health departments have aligned their course of study to the state model based on the new Federal Common Core Standards have been implemented in the schools. They have also scoped and sequenced the curriculum to ensure a complete coverage of all areas of science. The equipment will be used to thoroughly teach concepts important to a well-rounded education in the areas of science and health as well as areas covered by the Ohio Achievement Test and the Ohio Graduation Test based on the new Common Core Standards. There are many topics in science and health that are better taught, understood, and retained by students through the use of hands-on activities. This equipment will help our students receive a better education. Educators will be encouraged to purchase materials that can be shared by other teachers so that the funds are spent efficiently. In years past, the funds South Central received were used in the above manner and it has worked out very well. The teachers and students at each level were excited about the materials they were able to get. These additional funds seemed to invigorate and enhance instruction at all grade levels.

Wellington School District

Stanley Mounts, Superintendent, 440-647-4286

The Wellington School District and Wellington FFA established a Greenhouse Management program within the high school to increase the students’ interest and learning of basic science principles. The program offers a hands-on aspect to the science curriculum. A critical component of this class is a greenhouse for the class to use. The greenhouse will be used not only for education and research in the classroom but also to grow produce for the school’s cafeteria. Another aspect of the program allows for collaboration between the high school and the elementary science programs. The high school students will use what they learn in the classroom to teach the elementary students. The younger students will be able to start seeds and watch their plants begin to grow. Because the school district implemented a community garden with four raised beds in front of the elementary school, the seeds that are started in the greenhouse are then planted by the high school and elementary students into the community garden. This allows both high school and elementary students to not only learn about the science behind the plants, but also see it in action. Students are excited to see and taste the vegetables that they grow and want to learn more about the needs of plants to insure that they keep their plants healthy.

The greenhouse management class is taught daily at the high school level for approximately 50 minutes per day. The course will apply principles of science, engineering, and business to support the sustainable propagation and production of plants in a commercial nursery or greenhouse facility. Management of soil/media, water and nutrient distribution, lighting, ventilation and temperature, and pests are learned and applied. Students demonstrate knowledge of propagation methods, plant health, nutrition, and growth stimulation. Students develop successful business, communication, marketing, and sales strategies for use in the greenhouse and nursery industries. Research and experiments into the growing requirements of plants become more realistic. The real life applications gained by using the greenhouse to learn basic science principles allow the students to gain a deeper understanding of the topic. During the second semester of the class, the high school students invite the elementary classes to spend time learning about plants with them. Students in grades Kindergarten through 3rd grade are able to learn about science by planting their own vegetable seeds and watching the plants begin to grow. The plants are then transplanted into the community garden and cared for throughout the summer by both the students and the community. Students are able to “harvest” produce from their plants and therefore take ownership in their own learning.

The school district is requesting a \$3,000 grant which will be put toward the cost of the foundation for the greenhouse structure. The Wellington FFA has already received grant money which was used to purchase a greenhouse and ventilation equipment. Additional funding will also come from the Wellington FFA Alumni along with the labor to set up the greenhouse. Shannon Thome, Wellington FFA Advisor, will direct the project.

Western Reserve Local School District

Rodge Wilson, Superintendent, 419-660-8508

Western Reserve high school and middle school are in a collaborative effort to improve the technology in the science department. In order to advance science curriculum, Western Reserve is in need of a new Smartboard with projector. The Smartboard with projector and software will cost a total of \$3,525.00. The school district has requested a \$3,000 grant from Fisher-Titus to help pay for the equipment. The Science Department at Western Reserve utilizes a great deal of technology in our instruction. This technology includes the use of Smartboards, mimio interactive equipment, clickers, Google for education, and a variety of online virtual labs and numerous other applications to engage the students in learning.

The Smartboard will enable us to meet the educational goals of the Western Reserve continuous improvement plan and the goals of state benchmarks and new science learning standards. Smartboards give the students opportunity to interact with content on a kinesthetic level. Students will acquire knowledge to improve our science scores while developing 21st century skills that will prepare them for future educational endeavors.

Willard City Schools

Jeff Ritz, Superintendent, 419-935-1541

Willard High School would like to request a \$3,000 grant from the Health Education Grant Program, sponsored by Fisher-Titus Medical Center, to allow for the purchase of Chromebooks for the students in 7th grade Science class. The Chromebooks would give our students access to the educational resources available on the web. The use of the funds received from this grant would allow for peer collaboration in the classroom.

Ryan Bond is the seventh grade science teacher at Willard High School. He has taught in our district for 14 years. He currently has 157 students in his classes. With the help of the Health Education Grant Program, Mr. Bond would be able to offer science lessons that encourage hands-on and minds-on interaction.

Mr. Bond has estimated that the total cost for this project would be \$3201.00. This total includes the purchase of eleven Chromebooks, license and warranty and White Glove Configuration Service so they are ready to use right out of the box. These Chromebooks will be utilized multiple times throughout the week for individual and group activities.

The outcome of this project is to enhance the science education of students by integrating real world data and 21st century skills.

