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## CenturyLink has awarded more than \$680,000 to Idaho schools since 2005

Sponsored post by CenturyLink on May 18, 2015



### National Hi-Tech Company Helping Idaho Students Become More Computer Savvy

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Idaho K-12 students, teachers and schools are increasing their access to technology with help from a national hi-tech company with a statewide presence.

The Teachers and Technology program, created by communications and data provider CenturyLink, awards grants to Idaho schools looking to upgrade their physical technology and expand their classroom offerings and experiences for their students. The program awards grants to teachers who develop innovative ways to add technology to their classrooms. This year, the CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation awarded seven Idaho schools more than \$25,000 for hardware and software to create a wide-ranging array of learning projects and programs.

#### Student-to-Student Mentoring

One example of innovative use of technology is the use of new iPads at Pocatello Community Charter School to allow older students to mentor their younger peers. "As our older students begin to use technology to better engage in diverse content and develop essential communications and research skills, they will be collaborating with the younger students to help develop their technology skills too," said teacher Lisa McAteer, who submitted the \$5,000 grant application for her school.

#### Fifth-Graders Design Digital Classroom

At Kershaw Intermediate School, Sugar City, teacher Holly Harrison is helping fifth graders create a digital classroom to help their classmates prepare for the Idaho Core Math Standards test. The video training system will be available for students throughout the Sugar Salem School District.

"I find that students relate to information presented by their peers more readily than tutorials created by textbook companies," said Harrison, who submitted the school's \$4,800 grant application. "When a student is able to explain a concept to another student, they both improve their skills."

#### Technology Meets Art

First and second graders at the Christine Donnell School of Arts, Boise, will now have access to new computers

to help them create art for their written stories. Through the use of special applications, students will also use math as part of their artistic learning experience, according to teacher Terilyn Zamora, who won \$4,987 for her school. Eagle High School students will also increase their ability to create art using the school's new smART devices, thanks to a \$4,942 award won by teacher Melissa Stephenson.

### **Designing the Future**

Students at Sage International School of Boise will learn how to create buildings and goods using a new Computer—Aided Design and Drafting software program. CADD programs are real-world tools used by many companies in many industries, making this program a practical tie-in to future workplace skills for students. "Our program simulates real-world production of design and products," said teacher James Dent, who won a \$1,900 award for Sage to purchase the software.

Other CenturyLink Foundation grant recipients included:

Franklin Middle School, Pocatello - \$2,776 for 3D printers to help students become more interested in math by working with real-life workplace technology. Application submitted by teacher Brian Fischer.

Eagle Hills Elementary - \$4,980 for 20 Apple iPad minis to upgrade student access to computers and learning programs throughout the school. Application submitted by teacher Joseph Martin.

"We were excited to see the innovation and creativity in this year's grant applications," said Jim Schmit, CenturyLink vice president of operations for Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. "It's encouraging to see teachers' enthusiasm for bringing new learning tools and techniques into their classrooms, and we are pleased to be able to help expose students to more educational technology in their daily school lives."

CenturyLink has awarded more than \$680,000 to Idaho schools since 2005. The Teachers and Technology program was first launched in the Gem State, expanding nationally after its initial success in Idaho.

For more information on the CenturyLink Teachers and Technology program, including instructions on how to apply for grants, visit <http://www.centurylink.com/static/Pages/AboutUs/Community/Foundation/teachers.html>



*Photo: Sage International School of Boise 2: James Dent, Winning Teacher; Sherri Ybarra, Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction; Jim Schmit, CenturyLink vice president of operations for Idaho, Montana and Wyoming; Bryan Moore, Board Chair, Sage; Don Keller, Executive Director, Sage International*



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