

The following are the project summaries
from districts who received funding for the
2015-16 Challenge Grant Program for the Gifted:

**Jefferson County School District
Jefferson County Schools
K – 12**

Project Title: CATS (Creative & Academically Talented Students) Chronicle

I. Project Summary

Jefferson County has not had a prescribed curriculum for the school system in many years. The intent of this project is to provide a designed gifted curriculum that requires students who will be identified to use higher level thinking and problem-solving skills to meet clearly stated outcomes and objectives while learning real world business skills. Furthermore, the project will serve as a means to promote and advertise the newly created gifted program in Jefferson County. The project will also be the beginning of a publication that will support the gifted program in the small Jefferson County community for the existence of the gifted program.

Instruction

The main purpose of this grant for gifted students is to increase the understanding of various careers while gaining real-life business experiences, promote the gifted program and keep the community informed of the many accomplishments of the gifted program..

Other goals included:

- Gifted students will use higher-level thinking and problem-solving skills to meet clearly stated outcomes and objectives.
- Gifted students will learn authentic business skills and will use these skills to publish the school newspaper, *CATS Chronicles*.
- Gifted students will show an improvement in their journalistic writing skills.
- Students will improve their organizational skills in order to meet newspaper deadlines.
- Use Math skills to determine the cost effectiveness of newspaper and how to maintain a profit.
- Learn skills in government laws “freedom of speech”

Awarded: \$6,500

**Tech Tools for Gifted Teenagers:
Amplifying Florida Standards with the Latest Productivity Design**

1. Project Abstract

Tech Tools for Gifted Teenagers is designed to equip gifted students at Ormond Beach Middle School, the district's model middle school, with productivity tools in all subjects. This is a school and district collaborative project between Ormond Beach Middle School, Daytona State College's School of Education, and Volusia County School District's Technology and Gifted Departments. Through this collaborative effort, 12 Teachers of the Gifted will receive training to effectively incorporate technology into their instruction. This will allow the students and future educators to increase engagement and bolster academic achievement. Approximately 145 gifted students in grades 6th through 8th will master the Florida Standards through an environment rich with professional discourse while maximizing the digital literacy of the students and teachers.

Awarded: \$18,500

Hillsborough County Public Schools

Collaborative Curriculum Challenge Grant
Advancing Mathematics Performance 2

1. Project Abstract or Summary

Advancing Mathematics Performance 2, a collaboration between Hillsborough County Public Schools, Pinellas County Schools, and the University of South Florida will impact 785 3rd grade gifted students. The project will be implemented in 2 phases: Phase I will provide fifty (50) 3rd grade gifted education teachers in both districts with interactive online professional development and coaching for an advanced curriculum targeting measurement skills aligned with the Florida Standards; Phase II opens the training to 200 teachers of gifted students throughout Florida. The goals of this project are to improve teaching practices and increase academic performance of gifted students in mathematics. Outcomes include a redesign of 3rd grade gifted math instructional practice and improved content knowledge of students.

Awarded: \$35,000