

Foundation Grant Winners Use Funds to Help Students

In December 2024, the Firstmark Foundation awarded 20 educators \$1,000 each, as part of their Education Grant program. Selected across 12 school districts, including La Vernia ISD and New Braunfels ISD, these teachers wanted the opportunity to provide for their students, and with the help of Power of the Dollar® members, were given that chance.

Since receiving the funds, they have purchased everything from books and learning materials, to advanced coding tools and gym equipment—and it's all to support students. Creating sustainability in our education community is important, and it is because of our collective journey that we're able to continue building a better future for our local schools!

"We've always wanted to make a motor lab but we didn't have the funds. I saw I could get a Firstmark Education Grant, and since I got it, the kids really enjoy everything they've been given!"

Samantha Santos, 2025 Grant Winner

"Mrs. Bacon, Firstmark, and the DoSeum inspired me to bring life-sized learning to my classroom. Firstmark's grant is allowing my students to gain those strategic thinking skills through play!"

Leticia McNabb, 2025 Grant Winner

"This was a wonderful opportunity to give more to our kids. They are really showing their creativity and imagination — every day they teach me something new!"

Natalie Stuart, 2025 Grant Winner



2024 High Impact Grant Winner Update



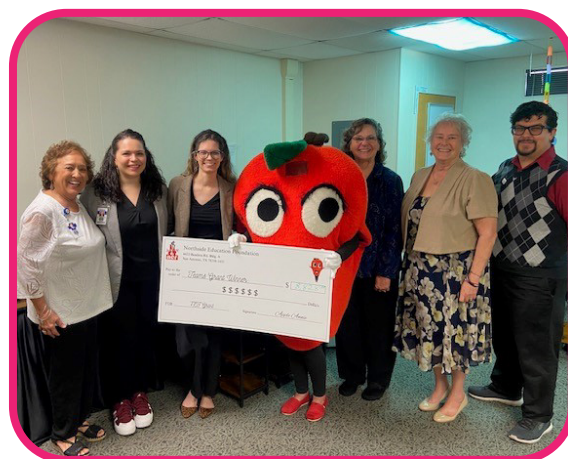
In 2024, the Firstmark Foundation awarded \$100,000 to SAMSAT™ for their Educator Fellows Program, designed to help teachers who serve in underserved communities via Title 1 schools — and the first class has officially graduated, ready to bring project-based learning (PBL) to their classrooms! The program has given 12 educators a unique experience that they will now carry into their classrooms.

A year-long effort, the program provided these 12 educators with three teacher-mentors, monthly training, class field trips to SAMSAT AREA 21®, teacher stipends, open and closing events, and the ability to create their own PBL curriculum.

Congratulations to all the graduates! We can't wait to see the positive impact you'll make with your students!



Foundation Sponsorships & Events



Each year, we provide funds through sponsorships at various school district events, which is then used to support local teachers and students. So far in 2025, we've picked up right where we left off! From January to March, we've contributed to the following foundations and programs:

- 🍎 Alamo Colleges Foundation
- 🍎 East Central School Foundation
- 🍎 Essence Preparatory School's Scholars and Programs
- 🍎 Judson ISD Education Foundation
- 🍎 La Vernia Education Foundation
- 🍎 New Braunfels ISD Education Foundation
- 🍎 North East ISD Educational Foundation

We look forward to helping more foundations and schools throughout the remainder of the year!



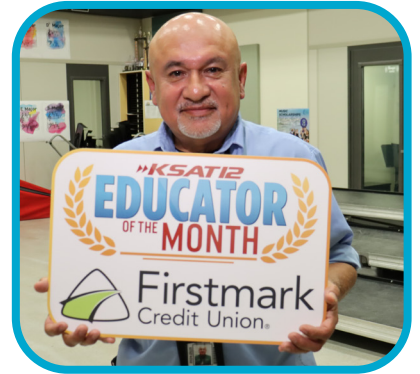
Educator of the Month



Wesley Bauerschlag - January
Northside ISD
Holmgreen Center



Jennifer Peña - February
Northside ISD
Scarborough Elementary



Felix Lopez - March
Southwest ISD
Southwest Legacy High School

Teacher of the Game



Angela Detlaff
Northside ISD
Brennan High School

Educator of the Quarter



Paul Kirby
Nixon-Smiley CISD
Nixon-Smiley High School



These contributions would not be possible without Firstmark's Power of the Dollar® members, who continue to provide a stream of resources to fund important initiatives that help create sustainability within the education system. Through the Firstmark Foundation, we will continue to make a tangible, positive impact in the education community through the collective giving of the credit union's membership.