

PEN FOUNDATION AWARDS FIVE EDUCATORS WITH GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

TEACHER RECEIVES GRANT FUNDS FOR AUTISTIC STUDENTS



Nancy Tucker receiving grant

Nancy Tucker of River Hall Elementary in Lee County was awarded \$500 to help autistic kindergarten students learn to read. Tucker, who has worked with kindergarten-aged children for over seven years, saw a need to serve her autistic students with learning opportunities that were interactive, effective, and could be used daily. With much research, Tucker decided that using Leap Frog Schoolhouse products with the class of seven or more students would be the perfect fit. PEN is pleased to offer her the grant funds to better educate these special needs students through Tucker's initiative.

SCIENCE TEACHER TO RECEIVE FUNDS FOR LAB EXPERIMENTS



PEN Member, Keith Calloway (right) presents Melanie King (left) classroom start-up grant

PEN awarded \$500 to Melanie King of Boca Raton Community Middle in Palm Beach County to improve the science labs of middle school science stu-

dents. As a science teacher, King has seen the value of hands-on learning with her students through engaging lessons where students are able to see science applied in real life rather than through a textbook. She plans to use the funds to conduct labs on dissection, blood typing and how to conduct basic medical procedures with her seventh grade pre-med academy students. Not only will these funds enable King to provide her students with enhanced learning opportunities, she will be able to share her resources with her colleagues at her school, making the grant reach beyond just one classroom.

PEN PROVIDES TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



PEN member, Robin Brown (left) presents scholarship to Leslie Phillips (right).

PEN of Florida awarded Leslie Phillips of Valleyview Elementary in Polk County a scholarship to attend a professional development conference. As a kindergarten teacher, Leslie Phillips understands the need to stay abreast of current teaching methods in order for students to achieve to their fullest potential. For that rea-

son, professional development conferences are an important source of inspiration, rejuvenation of zeal for teaching, and practical information for teachers wishing to hone their craft. With PEN of Florida's scholarship award, Phillips will be able to attend the Conference for Florida Kindergarten Teachers in Orlando, FL in order for her to cultivate her instructional skills and enthusiasm for teaching.

TEACHER RECEIVED GRANT FOR DEVELOPING GED STUDENTS' WORKPLACE SKILLS

Jacquelyn Crutchfield of The Academy of Academics and Technology in Leon County was granted \$250 by PEN of Florida to implement a workplace skills curriculum for GED students. Crutchfield, who teaches a dropout prevention program for grades 9-12, seeks to utilize the funds to aid the students in career exploration, workplace skills, and use of technology in their occupations. Crutchfield hopes that this curriculum will help prepare her students for completing their high school education and be able to expand the program to benefit all

students learning potential.

Kindergarten Teacher to Receive Grant for Publishing Students' Writings



PEN member, Robin Brown (left) presents grant to Marilyn Speece (right).

Marilyn Speece of Bayshore Elementary School in Manatee County received a grant to publish and showcase her kindergarten students' writings. Through this classroom project, Speece aims to develop her students' literacy and technology skills as well as their self-confidence and school pride. With the purchase of a book publishing package, Speece will be able to have her students' work professionally published and showcased. She also plans to share her skills and resources with other teachers so that they may develop their own classroom literacy initiatives.

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