



# Press Release

## **Eudora Schools Foundation Announces 2018 Teacher Fellow Grant Recipient**

**Friday, March 9, 2018; Eudora, KS:** The Eudora Schools Foundation (ESF) announced today the winner of the \$5,000 inaugural ESF Teacher Fellowship. Staff submitted proposals describing individual plans to design and implement a high-quality professional development project to address the needs of their students.

"The review committee was so impressed with the effort and thought that each of the candidates put in to their application in order to take full advantage of the Fellowship opportunity. Now that we have reached this stage, we are beyond grateful for the passion and vision of the recipients. It is an honor for the Foundation to be able to support their efforts," said Matt Bova, ESF Board Member.

A team of three staff members from Eudora Elementary School (EES) have been selected as the first Fellowship recipients. They will spend the next academic year researching and designing a program with the intended outcome of training all teachers to be more successful in managing classroom behaviors and helping students develop essential life skills.

The 2018-2019 ESF Teacher Fellows:

Kelly Mulvihill, Eudora Elementary, Kindergarten Instructor

Ashli Olivera, Eudora Elementary, Technology Instructor

Dace` Inbody, Eudora Elementary, Special Education Instructor

The 2018-2019 Teacher Fellowship, titled *Lost at School*, focuses on researching, training, and developing a plan of implementation to empower fellow staff members to effectively deal with and reach students with "lagging skills". Lagging skills, as described in Dr. Ross Greene's book *Lost at School: Why Our Kids with Behavioral Challenges are Falling Through the Cracks and How We Can Help Them*, are skills such as managing transitions from one activity to another, getting along with others, and having an accurate sense of time.

"Our goal is to create a digital resource of strategies for each lagging skill. It will help with many of the challenges teachers face with classroom management. We will train staff on how to effectively deal with and reach their students, and how to help them grow socially, and emotionally; which in turn will help them grow academically, said Kelly Mulvihill, EES Kindergarten Instructor. "We have a curriculum for math, reading, science, and social studies; yet the social needs of our students are increasing. We need to be trained to provide support and to offer specific ideas to help teachers in an ever-demanding field of behavioral needs."

"This project will bring meaningful change to EES in the way we support students with social and emotional deficits," said Amy DeLaRosa, EES Principal, "For our students so easily labeled as "troublemakers" or "bad kids," the process of navigating the school environment is difficult, and classroom teachers struggle with supporting their needs. This project started as a simple book study in the Fall semester, and quickly became a group of teachers passionately discussing how change could be made to the processes already in place at EES. A change that would mean better identifying the skill deficits and needs of a child while also providing resources and training to teachers and support staff. A change that affects the culture of our entire building."

The ESF worked for two years to secure funding and develop this new program that allows school district professional staff to explore, design, and create an opportunity to make a significant impact on student and teacher success.

"The first-ever Eudora Teacher Fellow represents a new level of innovation and thinking outside the box," said Steve Splichal, Eudora Schools Superintendent, "'Lost at School' will bring a significant shift in practice to Eudora Elementary School that is certain to make a difference to every student. This year's Fellow has set a high bar for future years of the program and illustrates the high standards of the Foundation board and their pursuit of innovation in our schools."

The Eudora Schools Foundation is a nonprofit organization (501(c)(3) that generates resources, builds relationships, and champions public education in Eudora Public Schools. Founded in 2006, the Foundation exists to enhance the quality of education through partnerships with the community. Expenditures are primarily directed toward enhancing classroom instruction and impacting the broadest number of Eudora students.