

# Farmers<sup>®</sup> News Release

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## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Total of \$150,000 in Educational Grants Awarded to 60 Teachers Across America to Drive Positive Change in Nation's Classrooms**

*Farmers Insurance Announces Second Round Winners of Thank America's Teachers Program Raising Total to \$300,000 in Grants Awarded to Teachers*

**Woodland Hills, Calif. (July 28, 2015)** – Farmers Insurance<sup>SM</sup>, one of the nation's largest multiline insurers, announced the second round of 60 winning teachers of its Thank America's Teachers \$2,500 educational grant program. To date, a total of \$300,000 has been awarded to 120 teachers across the nation. Farmers, inspired by the great work done by teachers every day, created the Thank America's Teachers initiative, to say thank you to teachers and give away more than \$1,000,000 in educational grants in 2015.

Launched at the 2015 Farmers Insurance Open in San Diego, California, Thank America's Teachers features an iconic yellow school bus that is traveling coast-to-coast delivering opportunities to say thank you to teachers who give their time, talent and knowledge to ensure that our nation's children become smarter and better prepared for the future.

Through Thank America's Teachers, Farmers will give away more than \$1,000,000 to educators in 2015 and the public will help determine who receives the grants at [www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com](http://www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com). Farmers will award 180 grants valued at \$2,500 throughout the year. There will be a total of three rounds of 60 winners announced and teachers are urged to submit proposals for the final round starting August 1 and ending in October. In addition, six Dream Big Teacher Challenge grants of \$100,000 each will be awarded to help support innovative educational programs in communities across the country.

"The teachers receiving these grants have demonstrated a true passion as educators, and have made lasting impressions on the lives of their students," said Kelly LaMar, managing lead of Thank America's Teachers at Farmers Insurance. "Farmers is proud to be able to provide the necessary funds to help further advance education in their classrooms."

Whether online at [www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com](http://www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com) or at stops in communities across the country, if a person has the email address of the teacher they wish to thank, their thank you will be delivered to that teacher in the form of an electronic postcard. It's a simple way to let teachers know of the difference they make or made in the lives of their students.

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Ways the public can join the effort to Thank America's Teachers:

- Go to [www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com](http://www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com) to thank a teacher and vote for a teacher's proposal
- Once thanked, teachers can visit [www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com](http://www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com) to submit a proposal for a \$2,500 grant and for one of six \$100,000 grants as part of the Dream Big Teacher Challenge

Below is a list of the latest group of 60 winners (note to editors, details of the winning proposals and access to the winning teachers are available by contacting Farmers Media Relations representatives listed above):

<b>Name of Teacher</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>City, State</b>
Allison Floyd	Tobias Elementary School	Kyle, Texas
Amy Rodriguez	P.S 212	Brooklyn, New York
Andrea Amidon	C. Grant Grimshaw Elementary	LaFayette, New York
Barbara Pickel	Parkview School	Steger, Illinois
Becky Tri	Kasson Middle School	Kasson, Minnesota
Beth Ristig	Madison Elementary School	Everett, Washington
Brandice Horning	Kasson-Mantorville Elementary School	Kasson, Minnesota
Carrie Swidecki	Louise Sandrini Elementary School	Bakersfield, California
Chelsea O'Neil	St. Francis Primary	Billings, Montana
Classie Nolan	Frederick Middle School	Frederick, Oklahoma
Colleen Lau	Kasson-Mantorville Elementary School	Kasson, Minnesota
Curtis Naylor	Kasson-Mantorville Elementary School	Kasson, Minnesota
Cynthia Ledbetter	Benton Academy	Benton, Mississippi
Ellie Fries	Prairie Branch Elementary	Grain Valley, Missouri
Eugene Firsich	Edward Gonzales Elementary School	Albuquerque, New Mexico
Guadalupe Garcia	William J Clinton Elementary	Penitas, Texas
Heidi Diercks	Kasson-Mantorville Elementary School	Kasson, Minnesota
Holley Gifford	Kennedy Elementary	Rexburg, Idaho
Holly Lopez	Parkview School	Steger, Illinois
Jane Mouttet	Mesilla Valley Christian Schools	Las Cruces, New Mexico
Jeanine Peters	Parkview School	Steger, Illinois
Jennifer Anderson	Kasson-Mantorville Elementary School	Kasson, Minnesota
Judy Dinkel	Yukon Middle School	Yukon, Oklahoma
Judy Griscom	Walnut Springs Elementary	New Braunfels, Texas
Julie Truesdell	Edna Hill Middle School	Brentwood, California
Katie Kittinger	Tortuga Preserve Elementary	Lehigh Acres, Florida
Kaye Lysen	Madison Elementary School	Everett, Washington
Kristen Reardon	C. Grant Grimshaw Elementary	LaFayette, New York

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Laura Beckett	Madison Elementary School	Everett, Washington
Lauren Lagesse	Parkview School	Steger, Illinois
Lili Wong	Clovis West High School	Clovis, California
Lilliam Guilbee	Welleby Elementary	Sunrise, Florida
Lisa Chapman	C. Grant Grimshaw Elementary	LaFayette, New York
Lisa Pickens	Laurel Elementary	Billings, Montana
Lisa Wendt	Parkview School	Steger, Illinois
Mandy Helsel	Parkview School	Steger, Illinois
Maria Spucces	JHS 194	Whitestone, New York
Mary Ann Chavez	Raymond Gabaldon Elementary	Los Lunas, New Mexico
Marybeth Mugavin	Weaver Elementary	West Memphis, Arkansas
Melissa Hudak	Parkview School	Steger, Illinois
Nancy Nowak	Del Sur Elementary	San Diego, California
Nicole Kinney	St. Elizabeth	Kansas City, Missouri
Patti Guthrie	Rocky Ridge Elementary	Graham, Washington
Persia Wirth	Cabrillo Middle School	Santa Clara, California
Roseanna Gonzales	Canyon Breeze Elementary	Avondale, Arizona
Ryan Christensen	Kasson-Mantorville Elementary School	Kasson, Minnesota
Sali Ortiz	Elk Grove Elementary	Elk Grove, California
Shannon Prescott	Benton Academy	Benton, Mississippi
Sharon Koenig	Columbia Central	Steger, Illinois
Sherri Grinage	Madison Elementary School	Everett, Washington
Sherry Doyle	Parkview School	Steger, Illinois
Susan Andrews	Parkview School	Steger, Illinois
Susan Shell	Marsh Elementary	Michigan City, Indiana
Susy Smothers	Madison Elementary School	Everett, Washington
Tami Edwards	Alameda Middle School	Pocatello, Idaho
Teresa Miller	C. Grant Grimshaw Elementary	LaFayette, New York
Tiffany Hile	Jefferson Elementary	Shawnee, Oklahoma
Wayne Kettler	Madison Elementary School	Everett, Washington
William Moses	Parkview School	Steger, Illinois
Wynne York-Jones	West Woodland Elementary	Seattle, Washington

Farmers Insurance is working with AdoptAClassroom.org, a national non-profit, to help teachers acquire the supplies and equipment they have requested in their proposals.

For more information about upcoming bus stops or the initiative, please visit:  
[www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com](http://www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com)

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## **About Farmers Insurance**

Farmers Insurance Group of Companies is a leading U.S. insurer group of automobiles, homes and small businesses and also provides a wide range of other insurance and financial services products. Farmers Insurance is proud to serve more than 10 million households with over 19 million individual policies across all 50 states through the efforts of over 50,000 exclusive and independent agents and approximately 22,000 employees. Farmers Insurance Exchange, the largest of the three primary insurance entities that make up the Farmers Insurance Group of Companies®, is ranked No. 264 on the 2015 Fortune 500 list of largest companies.

For more information about Farmers, visit its Web site at [www.farmers.com](http://www.farmers.com) or at [www.facebook.com/FarmersInsurance](https://www.facebook.com/FarmersInsurance).

## **About AdoptAClassroom.org**

AdoptAClassroom.org (AAC) gives teachers a hand by providing much needed classroom supplies and materials to help their students learn and succeed. As an award-winning 501(c)(3), AAC makes it easy for donors to provide funding and support to K-12 classrooms in public, private and charter schools throughout the U.S. On average, teachers spend \$500 of their own money each year to equip their classrooms - 10% of teachers spend more than \$1000 annually. Since 1998 AdoptAClassroom.org has raised over \$22 million and benefited more than 5 million students throughout the U.S. AAC holds a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. For more information, or to adopt a classroom, please visit [www.adoptaclassroom.org](http://www.adoptaclassroom.org)

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