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# Press Release

**Monday, October 8, 2018**

**5:30p.m. – One AISD Center – 241 Pine Street – Atrium Area**

The Abilene Education Foundation and the Abilene ISD will be honoring the STAR Teacher Grant recipients on Monday, October 8th, before the scheduled AISD Board of Trustees' meeting. The reception will take place at 5:30 p.m. in the Atrium Area. The recognition of the recipients will take place at 6:00 p.m. in the AISD Boardroom.

The Abilene Education Foundation is the non-profit that serves the teachers and students of the Abilene Independent School District through the enrichment of its programs. STAR (Supporting Teachers with Academic Resources) Teacher Grants are awarded each September for classroom projects that support curriculum and enrichment activities. The STAR teacher Grants are funded primarily through the AISD payroll deduction donation campaign, retired AISD teachers, matching funds from Kaye Price Hawkins/Priceless-Literacy and the Greathouse Foundation, a few special grants in memory of long time teacher Mary Ann Polnick sponsored by retired superintendent Dr. David Polnick and his daughter Julie, and several individual donors.

*"As a first grade teacher, I get a tremendous amount of joy from reading out loud to my students. Last year, I noticed many of my students reading levels started to improve when I had them follow along in a book as I would read it out loud. I looked into purchasing a listening center for my classroom where students can listen to audio books while reading along with a hard copy. I was shocked to find out the cost was almost \$700! I heard about the Abilene Education Foundation STAR (Supporting Teachers with Academic Resources) grant application and decided to apply over the summer for the learning listening center and won! I am excited to report that many of my students are already improving and some are even comprehending new words for the first time! Thank you AEF" – Jessica Liddell, first-grade teacher Dyess Elementary.*

AEF awards STAR Teacher Grants (up to \$1000) each September to deserving teachers, based on grant proposals submitted during the summer, for a wide array of projects - from I-pads and technology, vocabulary and reading manipulatives, books, flexible seating options, to incentives designed to reward classroom attendance. Grants are read, evaluated, and ranked (blindly) by a panel of readers. AEF received an impressive 150 applications. Of those, AEF was able to award 72 grants to 96 teachers across 22 campuses, totaling \$55,000 in funds to support curriculum and classroom enrichment.