



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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J. MARION SIMS ANNOUNCES NEW HORIZON EDUCATION GRANTS

LANCASTER, SOUTH CAROLINA, March 1, 2017 –The J Marion Sims Foundation announced a new grant program to the community today.

“We have proudly supported innovative teaching in Lancaster and Chester counties since 2000,” said Robert Folks, Chairman, J. Marion Sims Foundation. “Last year, we took a pulse of the community and involved our teachers in a review of what matters most to them when supporting students. We also looked at best practices nationally among communities focused on improvement,” said Folks.

“We designed this program with the input of our teachers and education leaders,” said Susan DeVenny, President & CEO, “The Horizon Education Grant provides another tool to help shape transformational learning experiences for our students and ultimately a healthier community for all of us.”

Replacing the Teachers’ Pet Grant program, the Horizon Education Grant offers opportunities for student learning within the framework of a healthy community, and encourages thinking beyond the traditional classroom. The Horizon Education Grant also promotes collaboration between educators, parents. and students.

The new program is open to any educator or team of educators in Great Falls, Fort Lawn, Lancaster County schools, and at the University of South Carolina Lancaster. Successful Horizon Education Grant proposals must incorporate two or more of 11 healthy community indicators. Applicants must also note how their proposal supports the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.

“The new collaboration component of the Horizon Education Grant fits right in with the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate we are all focused on,” said Stephanie Barber, Reading Coach, and former educator at Great Falls Elementary School. “When our students enter the work force or go to college, they have to know how to collaborate with others. Exposing them to different ideas and collaborative work outside of the classroom will be beneficial to our students and community in the long run.”

“As a teacher, I value collaboration both outside and inside the classroom. A team approach with colleagues, parents, and students is the center of an effective and successful education program,” said Lisa Bridges, Andrew Jackson High School teacher and J. Marion Sims Foundation Trustee. “Embedding the profile of the graduate and the healthy community indicators into the grant program helps all of us focus our efforts on building transformational classrooms and communities.”

The deadline for May 2017 Horizon Education Grant awards is April 15, 2017. Subsequent application deadlines are August 15, 2017 and November 15, 2017. For more information and to access the application, visit www.jmsims.org.

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The J. Marion Sims Foundation is entering its third decade of service to the community, with a focus on transforming the health and wellness of Lancaster, Fort Lawn, and Great Falls, SC. For information about Horizon Education Grants and other programs, please visit www.jmsims.org or contact the Foundation at (803) 286-8772.