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Freeport-McMoRan Announces 2017 Grant County Community Investment Fund Grant Recipients

SILVER CITY, NM, May 4, 2017 — The Freeport-McMoRan Foundation announced grant recipients of the 2017 Community Investment Fund. Eleven nonprofit organizations were awarded a total of \$400,000 at an awards ceremony held on May 4, 2017, at the Silver City Grant County Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Grant County.

The Grant County Community Investment Fund (CIF) was established in 2011 as part of Freeport-McMoRan's objective to support sustainable benefits for the communities in the areas where we operate and to assist them in appropriate ways to ensure their self-sufficiency beyond the presence of our operations. The CIF is governed by a committee consisting of seven community leaders from diverse organizations and two Freeport-McMoRan representatives from Grant County. The community representatives were selected by the Grant County Community Partnership Panel, a stakeholder engagement process established nine years ago to foster open and ongoing dialogue with the community that creates opportunities for the company and the community to work together to develop thoughtful solutions that address priority issues.

The Community Investment Fund Committee cultivates and selects programs to receive financial support based on established criteria to address the priorities identified by the community and strives to assist in the success of recipient programs.

The 2017 grant recipients include:

Aldo Leopold Charter School***Grant County Youth Entrepreneurship Program – \$25,000***

In an effort to provide youth of Grant County with the skills and experience necessary to succeed in a work environment, the Youth Entrepreneurship Program will coordinate with project partners to provide entrepreneurship and job readiness programming to over 500 students in Grant County.

Community Partnership for Children***CPC/LINKS: Hub and Relief Squad – \$45,000***

To address the shortage of skilled staff available to operate early childhood centers, CPC/Links will build a hub to recruit, train, certify, mentor and manage a pool of relief workers for early childhood centers. The hub will increase the capacity of the centers and provide more consistent quality childcare for the community.



Mimbres Region Arts Council

Imagine THAT! – \$16,500

Funding will allow Mimbres Region Arts Council members to utilize their creative talent to develop critical thinking skills in Grant County students. Through the establishment of a traveling art museum, students will be involved in project-based learning that supports the development of 21st century skills.

Opportunity High School

Vocational Education – \$80,000

Opportunity High School will address the need of placing residents in local skilled jobs by engaging high school students in career and vocational pathways in Grant County. OHS provides students the ability to take an alternative route in the education process to become successful and productive Grant County citizens.

Silver Consolidated Schools

Project Fast Forward – \$53,000

Project Fast Forward will create a local professional learning community that utilizes technology seamlessly throughout content areas. The project will build upon the success of the first annual Copper Country Summit featuring Google for Education and will engage more teachers in utilizing technology on a daily basis.

Silver Consolidated Schools (Harrison Schmitt Elementary School)

SPACE Tech: Supporting Progress and Cultivating Excellence with Technology – \$38,500

In connection with the increased professional learning and development available to educators in Grant County, fifth grade students at Harrison Schmitt Elementary School will have the opportunity to participate in rigorous, collaborative STEM activities through the purchase of one-to-one classroom technology.

Silver City Museum Society

Silver City Museum Roof Renovation – \$5,000

Funding will assist with the development of a plan to improve critical infrastructure at the Museum allowing it to serve its mission as a community hub, tourist attraction and artifact collection, presenting the unique and varied history and culture of southwest New Mexico for residents of Grant County and beyond.

Southwest Center for Health Innovation

Summer Academies 2017 – \$40,000

FORWARD NM and its partners will provide free Summer Academies, SMASH (Summer Math and Science & Healthcare) and HCA (Health Careers Academy), to local middle and high school students. The programs expose students to STEM related career pathways available in Grant County, increasing the chances of students remaining in or returning to work in the area.

The Imagination Library of Grant County, Inc.

R.I.S.E. – Reading Inspires Successful Education – \$17,000

Funding will support Imagination Library's book distribution program. Research specific to the program has shown that it has had a positive impact on participating children's reading attainment levels while also promoting and encouraging a love of reading.



**Town of Silver City and County of Grant
Event Coordinator – \$50,000**

This partnership between the Town of Silver City and Grant County will allow for data driven analysis of existing community events and coordination of planning and promotion of future events. Such work will allow for a more thorough understanding of the economic impact of event tourism with a goal to increase the quality of the events, number of visitors and revenue.

**Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team, Corp. (WESST)
WESST's Etsy Based Business Development Project – \$30,000**

Combining the offerings of Etsy and DreamBuilder, WESST will work with local individuals to develop their entrepreneurial skills through training and the establishment of professional learning communities. With a goal to establish 20 new businesses in Grant County, WESST will make capital available to local business owners through their micro-loan program.

“Through the Grant County Community Investment Fund, our goal is to enable the community to adapt to meet the social and economic needs of its residents, becoming increasingly sustainable over time,” said Tracy Bame, President, Freeport-McMoRan Foundation. “We are pleased to be a partner in supporting processes and activities that assist in creating a vision for the future, establishing action plans, and implementing the kinds of programs and initiatives that will help the community reach its goals. The projects supported through the CIF represent the path to a viable future and we thank the engaged community leaders, members and nonprofits who are working to create successful, sustainable communities.”

Information about Freeport-McMoRan community investments and programs may be obtained by visiting FreeportInMyCommunity.com.