

# TRF Newsletter

## It's Summer Time!

As schools close for the summer, we want to share some quick updates and preview some amazing programs we are working on for the fall.

### Instructional Innovation Grant Winners Announced

More than thirty schools submitted Letters of Inquiry for the Instructional Innovation Grant, thirteen were invited to apply, and we are now happy to announce the seven recipient schools for 2014: Bishop Conaty – Our Lady of Loretto High School, City Charter Elementary, High Tech Los Angeles, Jackson Elementary, New Los Angeles Charter, St. Ferdinand Catholic School, and USC Hybrid High School.

Projects in this cycle include infrastructure upgrades, professional development, a tablet implementation pilot, and a student-led community outreach program among others. Winning schools have until September 5<sup>th</sup> to raise their challenge portion, which is 50% of the total project cost. We are incredibly excited to be a part of the amazing services these schools offer to their students and we look forward to seeing these projects in action.

While we congratulate the recipient schools, we would also like to acknowledge all the schools that applied for this grant; we are inspired by the effort you put into securing resources for your students and hope to partner in the future!

The next cycle of the Instructional Innovation Grant will start in September with awareness sessions. If you would like to receive an email when dates and locations are announced, please send your contact information to [contact@riordanfoundation.org](mailto:contact@riordanfoundation.org). As always, we will keep you updated as these projects develop and are happy to connect educators who are interested in pursuing similar programs.



Participants from DIY Girls use a 3D printer to bring their designs to life (see "Professional Development" on page 2). Photo credit: facebook.com/DIYgirlsLA

### Summer/Fall 2014 Calendar

**August:** Instructional Innovation Awareness Session Schedule Announced

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Project-Based Learning Workshop K-12

**November 6<sup>th</sup>:** DIY Girls Teacher Workshop K-8



## Free Professional Development Opportunities Coming in the Fall!

In addition to serving schools and teachers through our grants, The Riordan Foundation strives to offer valuable programming for educators at no cost. Past events have included the Blended Learning Bus Tour and our English Language Development and Technology Conferences. We are excited to continue this work with two events this fall: the Project-Based Learning (PBL) Workshop and the DIY ("Do-It-Yourself") Girls Teacher Workshop.

The Project-Based Learning Workshop will take place on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the California Endowment in Downtown Los Angeles. This hands-on session is open to K-12 teachers looking to gain more insight into what makes a valuable project-based learning experience and how to design projects that facilitate such an environment. This workshop will be led by a national faculty member of the [Buck Institute for Education](#), a nonprofit organization that creates, gathers, and shares high-quality PBL instructional practices and products.

Our second professional development opportunity, open to K-8 teachers, will take place on November 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Anne's Conference Center. This workshop will be conducted by [DIY Girls](#), an organization that develops and implements educational programs and events designed to encourage exploration with technology, promote self-confidence and support aspirations to technical careers. Attendees will experiment with a number of materials and programs and discuss ways to integrate more projects into the curriculum. Each participating teacher will also receive a Classroom Materials Kit to jump-start their practice.

Registration for both of these events will open at the end of August. If you would like to receive more information about these events as it becomes available, please email [contact@riordanfoundation.org](mailto:contact@riordanfoundation.org) with your name, school, and email address. We anticipate high demand for these free courses, so mark your calendars now!



Verbum Dei High School students accept a delivery of donated Celestron Digital Microscopes at their campus in Watts.

## Partner Schools Receive Professional-Quality Microscopes

Thanks to the generosity of [The Broadcom Foundation](#), [The Samueli Foundation](#), and the [Society for Science & the Public \(SSP\)](#), Verbum Dei High School has received ten Celestron Digital Microscopes for use in their science classrooms. These professional-quality devices were used at the Intel Science & Engineering Fair held May 10-16<sup>th</sup> and subsequently donated. SSP approached The Riordan Foundation looking for Los Angeles-area schools that would get the most out of the state-of-the-art technology; Verbum Dei's Instructional Innovation Grant facilitated the implementation of a rigorous math and science curriculum that we believe will greatly benefit from the addition of these microscopes.

Two other partner schools we suggested, Hobart Blvd. Elementary School and Alliance Renee and Meyer Luskin Academy High School, will also receive a set of microscopes from this initiative.

We want to applaud SSP for its generosity and thank our friends at the Broadcom and Samueli Foundations for connecting us with this opportunity. We know these powerful tools will inspire and prepare the next generation of young scientists.