

TRF Newsletter

Spring Break!

While students and educators take a much-deserved respite, The Riordan Foundation uses this opportunity to begin preparing for spring and summer opportunities and the final phase of our Instructional Innovation Grant.

Instructional Innovation Application Consideration Underway

The application process for The Riordan Foundation's Instructional Innovation Grant is broken into three steps: the letter of inquiry (LOI), the application, and the site visit. This process allows Foundation staff to get a considerable amount of information while respecting the time and effort put in by schools to secure funding for their students. At this point in the 2013-14 grant cycle, schools with successful LOIs have submitted their applications.

While we read through these proposals we also wish to reflect on last year's program:

In the Instructional Innovation Grant's inaugural year, five schools received awards: Environmental Charter Middle School, KIPP LA Prep, Verbum Dei High School, and Washington Accelerated Elementary. The grant funds supported a range of projects, from engineering labs to leadership training. As the year goes on we will continue to check in with these schools to better understand the impact of the projects.

If you would like to learn more about the Instructional Innovation Grant, please visit our website www.riordanfoundation.org. To apply, a representative from your school must attend an awareness session; these sessions will be held in the fall. If you would like to receive notification when these events are scheduled, please subscribe to our mailing list by emailing contact@riordanfoundation.org.



Students at Washington Accelerated Elementary in Pasadena build soap box derby cars with help from the Instructional Innovation Grant

Spring 2014 Calendar

March 21st: Instructional Innovation Application due

May 3rd: Instructional Innovation winners announced



Grantees Gather for Follow-Up Dinner with Mayor Riordan

One of The Riordan Foundation's goals for 2014 is to maintain close relationships with schools and educators who we have worked with in the past. To that end, we hosted a dinner at Mayor Riordan's home on February 6th to bring grantees from the last three years together to celebrate their successes and learn from their challenges. Recipients of the Instructional Innovation Grant, SMART Classroom Technology Grant, and the Computers in the Classroom Grant attended, representing both public and parochial schools.

Guests who braved the rainy Los Angeles roads were treated to a tour of the house and a feast of fajitas and enchiladas. Discussion ranged from updates on the original grants to preparations for the new Common Core State Standards and their assessments. At the conclusion of the dinner, each guest was also asked to share what he or she is most excited and hopeful about regarding education in Los Angeles.

The dinner was also a chance for foundation staff to get feedback on our grants and application processes. Participants reported an appreciation for the flexibility of the Instructional Innovation Grant as well as the foundation's responsiveness to questions, but noted the challenges of finding time for fundraising when their primary concern is educating students.

We want to thank all of those who came out for the event and Mayor Riordan for hosting. Let's get together again soon!



Past grantees joined Mayor Riordan at his home to discuss their experiences working with The Riordan Foundation

Meet Our New Administrative Assistant: Elaine



Currently a junior at Loyola Marymount University studying psychology, Elaine began her position at The Riordan Foundation in January of 2014. Elaine helps with day-to-day operations, answering the phones, and scheduling site visits for both Jessica and Jaime. With an interest in education and non-profits, Elaine continues to learn a great deal about the organization and education throughout Los Angeles County.

Graduating in May of 2015 with a Bachelor's in psychology, Elaine hopes to attend graduate school to earn her masters in social work. While also working at Loyola Marymount University for University Relations and tutoring kindergarteners how to read for the Bookworm Project, she often spends her free time at the beach running or in the kitchen cooking.



