

South Country Education Foundation, Inc.
announces
Grants for Teacher Professional Development
\$5000 available this year

Founded in 1998, the South Country Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to improving educational opportunities for all students in the South Country Central School District. The mission of the Foundation is to promote and enhance educational initiatives by providing supplemental financial support for projects and programs that are outside the South Country school budget.

Since our founding, we have granted over \$575,000 to teachers, administrators, students and community groups in our district who have come to us with their innovative and creative ideas. In 2012, we established professional development grants exclusively for teachers in the South Country schools. To date, these grants have funded literacy workshops at Columbia University, attendance at state and national conferences on early childhood education and the sciences.

We are offering \$5000 to one or more teachers to pursue professional development. This grant will be given only to individual teachers in grades Pre-K to 12 employed by the South Country Central School District. This grant is for participation in innovative professional development experiences such as summer institutes, foreign study, or regional, national or international conferences to name a few possibilities. **In an effort to reach as many teachers in our district as possible, we ask that only teachers who have NOT received a professional development grant to date apply for this year's grant.**

We recognize that professional development is one way teachers keep current with trends and best practices in the classroom. We want to help teachers in this district respond to the needs of their students and take part in professional development opportunities that will strengthen their skills and translate into stronger student achievement. We also want to offer our teachers an opportunity to dream big--to have an experience that will make a difference in the teacher's professional life and one that will be passed on to South Country students.

Grant funds may be used for fees, travel expenses, books, or other materials that enable applicants to learn subject matter, instructional approaches and to develop skills. Grant recipients are required to share their experiences with their fellow educators and administrators in their schools, as well as with members of SCEF and the community. **A written report must be sent to SCEF within 60 days of the completion of the grant.**

Our SCEF professional development grants may NOT be used to:

- pursue a degree
- pay salaries, stipends or grant administration fees
- pay registration fees or travel expenses for more than one person.

Application availability and deadlines may be found on our website at www.scefonline.org.