SCEF First Grants
Spring 2000

In May, the South Country Education Foundation announced the winners of its first ever grant program. Representing the Foundation in awarding nearly $6,000, Art Cooley, the Board Chair said, "I am proud to assist in enhancing the educational program of the South Country District." The Foundation received the funds from individuals, alumni, a cocktail party, local non-profit foundations including a generous matching fund grant from the Long Island Community Foundation .

The Foundation was pleased to announce that twenty-one applications were received from both individuals and institutions reflecting a serious interest in finding exciting ways to improve education. Grants may be awarded for initiatives including curriculum development, creative teaching techniques, equipment, specific projects, independent study, special assemblies, guest speakers, exchange programs, or artists in residence programs.

The winners were:
1. "Project Earth", run by Peter Cisek at the Frank P. Long School, a program which required building materials.
2. "Earth Day" supervised by Claire Goad at the Frank P. Long School, an educational program based upon the natural resources of the Wertheim Wildlife Refuge.
3. "Courtyard Critters" managed by Henry Finnegan and Michelle Procida at the Brookhaven Elementary School, an effort to utilize the wildlife found in the courtyard of the school.
4. "A Parent-Student Brochure" designed and created by JoAnn Powell at the Bellport Middle School to distribute to parents of students new to the Middle School.
5. "Pond Study" overseen by Susan Bugden and Daveen Herley of the Brookhaven SDM Team, which will develop a multi-disciplinary program based upon the life in a pond.
6. A "Kids to Kids Music Mentoring Program" conceived by senior, Erin Fehn, at Bellport High School to bring music tutoring by high school students to fifth graders at Frank P. Long School.

"The Foundation is excited about our first round of awards," said Bill Goelz, Chair of the Awards Committee.