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## **Firstmark Educator Grants Help Teachers to Inspire Student Learning**

*Educators Use Funds for Classroom Materials and Innovative Programs*

SAN ANTONIO, TX (**September 16, 2019**) – Firstmark Credit Union announced ten educator recipients who received 2018-2019 Educator Grants. Firstmark’s Educator Grant program started in 2005, and to date, more than \$70,000 in grants has been awarded to educators who inspire student learning through creative and innovative programs.

“For more than 85 years, Firstmark has served the education community,” said Nathanael Tarwasokono, president and chief executive officer. “We are honored to support these outstanding educators and their projects.”

The 2018-2019 Firstmark Credit Union Educator Grant recipients are:

**Amy Ramos**

Oak Hills Terrace Elementary (NISD)

**Roseanne Castro**

Indian Creek Elementary (SWISD)

**Nathaniel Boyd**

McNair Middle School (SWISD)

**Dr. Carlton V. Bell**

Judson High Elementary School

**Susanna Hernandez**

Carlos Coon Elementary (NISD)

**Denise Gaitan**

Jordan Middle School (NISD)

**George Leos**

New Frontier Public Schools

**Kristy Garza**

Holmes High School (NISD)

**Danni (Lisa) Vinyard**

Fredericksburg School (JISD)

**Marty L. Ortiz**

Elrod Elementary (NISD)

The Firstmark Educator Grants are for full-time teachers in grades K-12. The grants can be used to purchase classroom materials and to fund innovative project ideas. During the application process, educators outlined their project ideas and explained how the project will benefit their students.

This year’s funds will support a variety of projects, including the purchase of reading strips to improve reading fluency, STEM manipulatives to improve analytical skills, Orff barred instruments to develop harmonies, obstacle course stations to promote physical activity during bad weather days and flexible seating options to accommodate all learners.

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**Eligibility**

To be eligible for an Educator Grant, applicants must be a Firstmark Credit Union member and an educator for grades K through 12 within Bexar County or one of the 12 surrounding counties. Educator Grant applications are now open for the 2019-2020 academic year and can be found at [firstmarkcu.org/EducatorPerks](http://firstmarkcu.org/EducatorPerks).

**About Firstmark Credit Union**

Firstmark Credit Union has been helping people to better their lives for more than 85 years. Founded in 1932 by ten teachers, Firstmark has grown to nearly 100,000 members and manages assets over \$1 billion. Firstmark is a not-for-profit, member-owned financial institution focused on helping members reach their financial goals. For more information, visit <http://firstmarkcu.org> or call 210.342.8484.

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