



Grant Review Report – 2019

1. **Telepresence Robots, K-12**

Amount Requested: \$10,775 Amount Recommended: \$10,775

This request is to fund telepresence robots for use at all K-12 schools. Funds would be used to purchase an Ohmni Supercam robot and 4 Ohmi basic robots and supporting software. The robots provide a unique communication experience through a combination of video cameras, video screens, and remote physical operation. Students who could not otherwise attend class are able to participate in real-time classroom instruction with their peers with this cutting edge technology.

2. **STEM Kits and Buddies, Jefferson Elementary**

Amount Requested: \$11,599 Amount Recommended: \$11,599

Jefferson Elementary would like to supply STEM “buddy” kits throughout its building. The STEM kits provide hands-on examples, puzzles, and challenges related to core STEM subjects. These kits would be used to create STEM groups with partnering grade levels within which students would be paired up as collaborative STEM “buddies.” Students using this kits will experience new approaches to learning STEM subject matter, planning, designing, and problem-solving.

3. **Mariachi Ensemble, East High School**

Amount Requested: \$6,606 Amount Recommended: \$6,606

East High School would like to add depth to its musical ensembles by developing a mariachi ensemble. Funds would be used to purchase the necessary instruments and music. With the addition of this ensemble, students will be exposed to both new instruments and music adding richness and opportunities that did not exist before. This ensemble would be accessible to students at both East High School and Prairie Winds Middle School.

4. **Multi-process Welders, East and West High Schools**

Amount Requested: \$11,528 Amount Recommended: \$11,528

Funds are being requested to purchase 4 Miller Multimatic 220 multi-process welders for use at East and West high schools; 2 welders at each school. The multi-process welders have several capabilities, including MIG (metal inert gas), flux core, and TIG (tungsten inert gas) welding. Mankato Area Public Schools see more than 300 students taking welding courses, including students involved in Welding Internship and Manufacturing Apprenticeship Programs. The welders should last for more than 25 years and expand students’ access and exposure to welding skills and techniques on industry standard equipment.

5. Construction Pathway Expansion, Central, East, and West High Schools

Amount Requested: \$16,614 Amount Recommended: \$16,641

Central, East and West high schools are requesting funds to expand its construction trades program. Funds would be used to purchase equipment that is outdated or non-existent in the program, including a Powermatic 8” Parallelogram Jointer, Grizzly 20” Planer, Powermatic Lathe, Powermatic benchtop Mortiser, and a self-leveling rotary laser level. The Mankato area high schools see on average 340 students participate in construction courses. These students would have the opportunity to build and develop skills on current equipment and technology in a high-demand trade.

Initiative Grants Funded in 2009 – \$54,259
Initiative Grants Funded in 2010 – \$56,000
Initiative Grants Funded in 2011 – \$50,723
Initiative Grants Funded in 2012 – \$56,999
Initiative Grants Funded in 2013 – \$63,146

Initiative Grants Funded in 2014 - \$55,000
Initiative Grants Funded in 2015 - \$64,209
Initiative Grants Funded in 2016 - \$43,626
Initiative Grants Funded in 2017 - \$88,819
Initiative Grants Funded in 2018 - \$92,395
Initiative Grants Recommended in 2019 - \$57,124

Total Initiative Grants Funded since 1995 - \$1,042,780