

May 9, 2017  
Stafford News: Website Announcement

Recently, Mr. Ronald Kahn, Project Director for the EASTBAY Education Collaborative in Warren, Rhode Island, contacted me about a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) grant opportunity.

The district has a long-standing professional relationship with EASTBAY, as they supply numerous science inquiry kits to the elementary schools each year. With input from Ms. Nichole Martorelli, Science Department Chair, and Mr. David Gorski, Career and Technology Education Curriculum Team Leader, I submitted an application on behalf of Stafford High School in early April.

I am very excited to share that our proposal was awarded the STEM grant. Stafford will be part of a new cohort that includes 12 high schools from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

This STEM grant is funded through the United States Office of Naval Research and targets high school physics and STEM courses. The grant award, valued at approximately \$18,000, will include the following:

- NGSS aligned physics laboratory program called Essential Physics to supplement current resources. The lab stations include Optics, Electrical Circuits, Forces and Machines Engineering, Oscillations and Waves). Twelve lab sets of each resource
- Two days of professional development for two teachers- Ms. Nichole Martorelli and Mr. David Gorski represented the district. Each participating teacher receives a \$500 stipend.
- 43 textbooks (*Essential Physics*) and 100 e-book licenses for 6 years that include virtual labs and interactive simulations

Ms. Martorelli and Mr. Gorski attended the training sessions in Warren, Rhode Island on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>. The training included review of the digital textbook and the 100's of web-based activities and virtual labs. Apparatus specific training and "hands-on" practice was the focus of day two of the training. Each participating teacher has shared specific applications for a variety of subjects- including Physics, Algebra, Research and Development, and Robotics. All materials are standards based and include test-design resources. According to Mr. Gorski, "this program and the resources we will receive will greatly enhance the high school's STEM focus. Students will be utilizing world class and real world technologies. I foresee that the hands-on and virtual labs will generate tremendous excitement among staff and students".

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