

CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS
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Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness Awards 2021 Educator Grants

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) recently awarded three grants to local teachers to help fund science-related curriculum in their classrooms.

The grants, each about \$500, will be used to fund projects that promote an increased understanding of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); atomic and nuclear fundamentals; radiation and nuclear materials safety; and applications of nuclear technology.

The 2021 grant winners are:

- Angela Virella, 6th grade ELA and social studies, Jackson STEM Middle School;
- Kristina Istre, 8th grade physical science and STEM, A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School; and,
- Donita Legoas, 6th grade earth science and STEM, A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School.

With the project “*We Will Cross That Bridge...When We Build It,*” Virella will help give students the opportunity to design, build, and construct various bridges using a variety of materials. In the process, students will also be able to apply Math, Science, ELA, and Social Studies standards to the learning process.

“This grant will allow students to have a real-world application to 21st century skills in all core subject areas,” Virella said. “Students will be able to design and create structures to scale and create working budgets and application of real business skills.”

Istre’s project, “*Energy of the Future!*”, will allow students to work in cooperative peer groups to build a hydrogen fuel cell car while experimenting with the process of using solar energy to split water into hydrogen and oxygen.

Legoas’ project, “*Solar, Wind, Water, and Nuclear, Oh My!*”, will introduce students to the world of nonrenewable and renewable energy. Students will investigate to see how turbines work, how solar energy converts sun energy to mechanical movement, and how homes can use various means of energy conservation and clean energy resources.

“Students will learn the path of energy from its source to its final destination where it powers their cell phones and game systems they love so dearly,” Legoas said.

In addition to CNTA, sponsors of the CNTA Educator Grants Program are American Nuclear Society-Savannah River, Huntington Ingalls Industries, and Savannah River National Laboratory.

CNTA is excited to establish this educator grants program to facilitate more educational outreach by the organization, said Dr. Jim Marra, CNTA Executive Director.

“These grant awards are part of our continued partnership with area educators to provide instruction in the areas of science and math. We hope students find these activities informative, interesting and most importantly fun,” Marra said.

CNTA is an Aiken-based charitable educational organization dedicated to providing factual information about nuclear topics and educating the public on nuclear issues. For more information, contact CNTA at CNTA@bellsouth.net or visit www.cntaware.org.

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