

Dear TCEF Board:

When I reached into my mailbox the other day to see an envelope with your return address, my heart nearly stopped. I was sure that this would be a letter apologetically informing me that another, more talented teacher had been awarded the grant for which I had applied.

Because you were not in the front office of LHS to see my outburst, I must tell you that upon reading the kind letter you sent me I shrieked, laughed, and hugged the secretaries, principal, and New Tech director with tears in my eyes. I am not normally this emotional of a person, but knowing what an impact this grant would have on my students caused me to lose my composure in an amazing way.

I teach speech as a New Tech project based learning class and have dealt with pushback from students due to their belief that as students they cannot actually make a difference--our work was merely schoolwork in their minds. Their reaction when I told them that we would be able to create one of their designs for a collaborative student lounge space at LHS was priceless. Your gift to us made more of my students into believers.

Kendra McPheeters-Neal