

Teacher Grant Winners, Shop Whole Foods 2/3 to Fund LEF, Claude Moore Charitable Foundation's Big Donation, Excellence in Education Awards, STEM Grants Pays Off



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## Foundation News and Updates - January 2016

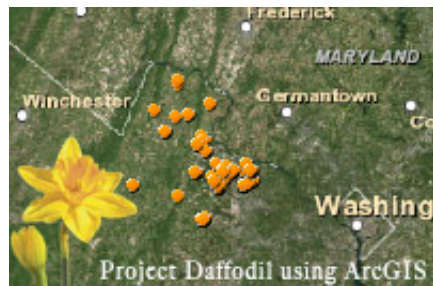
### Project Daffodil Takes Root in Loudoun

Thanks to a [LEF Teacher Classroom Grant](#), first-grade students at **Cool Spring ES** are using mapping technology to learn about plant life-cycles and climate. Project Daffodil began this fall when students planted daffodil bulbs, and continues with monthly data collections at the planting sites.

The data is shared on ArcGIS Online, a cloud-based mapping platform, and compared with other participating schools across the area. The \$500 grant also allows for the purchase of supplemental books and materials to support the lesson, which concludes in the spring once the daffodils have bloomed.

LEF awarded over \$20,000 in grants to fund 46 projects that will be completed by the end of this school year. The grants are possible thanks to \$10,000 from LEF and a matching grant for \$10,000 from the **Claude Moore Charitable Foundation**.

[Check out the other cool projects LEF is funding in 2016](#)



### Civics Lesson of a Lifetime

Advanced Placement U.S. Government students at **Loudoun Valley HS** are preparing to speak at a Congressional hearing--a mock hearing, that is. The team is preparing to attend state finals January 28th in a competition called "We the People," thanks to a Fall 2015 [LEF Teacher Classroom Grant](#).



The "We the People: Citizen and the Constitution Program" holds simulated congressional hearings for elementary and secondary students to promote teaching and learning about the Constitution and Bill of Rights. If the LVHS team wins the state championship, they will advance to the 29th Annual "We the People" National Finals April 22-25, 2016 at the University of Maryland and in hearing rooms on Capitol Hill. We wish them the best of luck!

[Watch a video about the National competition](#)

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## \$132K Donation Funds LEF Programs for 2016

The new year is off to a great start for LEF, thanks to the generous support of the **Claude Moore Charitable Foundation (CMCF)**. CMCF awarded six grants to fund the following programs: Project Graduation Celebration (\$40,000); Teacher Scholarships (\$27,000) Making a Difference: Teacher Classroom Grants (\$20,000); Future Leaders Scholarships (\$10,000); Odyssey of the Mind World Finals (\$10,000); and the Claude Moore Scholars Program (\$25,000). Thank you, CMCF!



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## Class of 2016 Scholars Honored

LEF has a long history of celebrating academic and teaching excellence. The 35th Annual LEF Excellence in Education Banquets sponsored by INOVA Loudoun Hospital on December 13, 2015 recognized 287 students at the top of their class. Also in the spotlight, were 238 teachers that the student honorees chose for being most influential in their academic pursuits. But the honors didn't stop there--LEF also celebrated the recipients of the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award and the Washington Post Principal of the Year.



[Learn more about the event and see photos of the honorees](#)

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## Shop Whole Foods, Support LEF

On Wednesday, February 3rd, Loudoun County's first **Whole Foods Market** in Ashburn will support LEF on "5% Day." Whole Foods says team members are part of the local community and they are passionate about supporting the local causes that are important to their shoppers and neighbors---like the Loudoun Education Foundation. Shop the store all day long February 3rd and 5% of your total purchase price will be donated to LEF.



[Get store hours and location](#)

## LEF Teacher Grant Pays Off Big for STEM Students

When LCPS math teacher **José Rodriguez** won a \$500 LEF Teacher Classroom Grant in the Fall of 2014, he had no idea how far his "Code Into Action!" project using Arduino microprocessors would go. What started as a supplement to the Computer Math curriculum has launched the **Loudoun Valley HS STEM Club** into the national spotlight as they compete against 50 other state finalists in the [Samsung Solve for Tomorrow](#) contest.



From the over 4,100 entries in the first round, the LVHS STEM Club was selected as the Virginia winner for their idea to create an **Emergency Alert System of the W&OD Trail**. The system consists of a network of nodes that can be placed along the trail. Each node is similar to the emergency call boxes found on college campuses, except that they are completely self-contained being both wireless and solar powered. This inexpensive design would allow them to be used not only along the W&OD Trail but on any remote trail where power is not available. The students are using the LEF-funded Arduinos to create and program the communication system required to send the emergency alert signal from node to node along the trail and finally relayed to the police.

**So far, the club has won \$20,000 in Samsung Technology for STEM education at LVHS!** The Trustees of the Loudoun Education Foundation are excited to hear that the grant continues to bear fruit, educationally and financially. We wish the LVHS Stem Club, José Rodriguez and LVHS physics teacher Erin Wissler the best of luck as they create a video showcasing their solution to the challenge. If selected, the club will compete against 15 other national finalists online for public voting. [Follow LEF on Twitter](#) and [like us on Facebook](#) for updates!

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