



November 28, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLAN Innovation Grants Awarded for the Northwest Regional Library System.

(Panama City, Fla.) The Northwest Regional Library System was awarded five Innovation Project grants from the Panhandle Library Access Network (PLAN). The grants will foster innovation through new services, new programs, and the use of new technologies. The projects will take place in 2018 in Bay County Public Library, Panama City Beach Public Library, Charles Whitehead Public Library in Wewahitchka and the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library in Port St. Joe. A majority of the projects are Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) focused. For more information, call 850-522-2120 or visit www.nwrls.com.

PLAN Innovation Projects for 2018

Full STEAM Ahead with LEGOS project will take place at the Panama City Beach Public Library. Laura Laspee was awarded \$2,479.25 to purchase LEGO Education Kits. The kits will be incorporated into Beach Kids, a regularly scheduled program that features a fun STEAM project for children ages 5 and up. LEGO Education Kits will help introduce basic science concepts, critical thinking skills, and robotics.

Makers of all Ages project will take place at both the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library in Port St. Joe and the Charles Whitehead Public Library in Wewahitchka. Nancy Brockman was awarded \$3,500.00 to purchase a variety of hands-on learning tools including LEGOS, microscopes, and robots to name a few. Items purchased will be used in programming and available for in-house use at the children's Creativity Corner. A Cricut die-cut machine will be purchased for adult and student use. All materials are geared for STEAM based discovery to encourage everyone to become a "maker".

Virtual Reality in the Library project will take place at the Bay County Public Library. Robin Shader was awarded \$4,960 to purchase Oculus Rift and PlayStation virtual reality (VR) systems. The public will have the opportunity to experience VR through group demonstrations and access by appointment.

Tablets to Go II project will take place at the Bay County Public Library. Gerald Giordano was awarded \$4,999 to purchase approximately 15 eReader tablet devices pre-loaded with popular titles that will be available for check out by the public.

Sweet Songs of the Mountain Dulcimer project will take place at the Bay County Public Library. Sarah Burris was awarded \$600 to purchase two mountain dulcimers for check out, a spare instrument for classes, and to fund two Saturday workshops led by a professional dulcimer performer. The project will provide opportunities to learn about the mountain dulcimer and help build basic music literacy skills. Curious to learn more about the mountain dulcimer? The next Beginning Dulcimer Class meets Friday, December 8th at 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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Contact:

Sarah Burris, MLIS

Community Relations and Marketing Coordinator

Northwest Regional Library System

Bay County Public Library • 898 W 11th St • Panama City, FL 32401

(850) 522-2120 Office • (850) 522-2138 Fax

Email: sburris@nwrls.com • Website: www.nwrls.com

