

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BEACON LIGHT TEACHER AWARDED NASA MINI-GRANT

James Johnson, secondary science teacher at Beacon Light's Custer City Private School has been notified by the National Space Grant Foundation NASA Summer of Innovation Mini-Grant Program that he has been awarded a grant for the program's Summer of Innovation program.

The NASA Summer of Innovation (SoI) program is designed to support student interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by strengthening the capacity of organizations or schools that inspire and engage female, minority or high poverty middle school students in STEM content. The SoI focuses on organizations that provide student experiences during the summer and through extended learning efforts designed to keep students involved in NASA-themed STEM activities during the academic year.

The Summer of Innovation (SoI) supports student interest in STEM by strengthening the capacity of community and school-based organizations that inspire and engage middle school students in STEM content during the summer. SoI then continues to support follow-on and extended learning efforts designed to keep students involved in NASA-themed STEM activities during the academic year.

The NASA Summer of Innovation (SoI) Mini-Grant Program selects exemplary community based middle-school student and teacher programs which desire to integrate Summer of Innovation themes and content into their existing summer or afterschool programs.

NASA initiated the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, also known as Space Grant, in 1989. Space Grant is a national network of colleges, universities, industry, state and local governments, and other organizations. These institutions are working to expand opportunities for Americans to understand and participate in NASA's aeronautics and space projects by supporting and enhancing science and engineering education, research and public outreach efforts.

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The Space Grant national network includes over 1000 affiliates from universities, colleges, industry, museums, science centers, and state and local agencies. These affiliates belong to one of 52 consortia in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The 52 consortia fund fellowships and scholarships for students pursuing careers in science, mathematics, engineering and technology, or STEM, as well as curriculum enhancement and faculty development. Member colleges and universities also administer pre-college and public service education projects in their states.

Beacon Light's Private School serves approximately 102 students each day and operates educational programs throughout the summer.