

## Lori Lochran Among 15 Finalists Vying for Six \$100,000 Educational Grants from Farmers Insurance

Avella, Pennsylvania (September 4, 2015) – Farmers Insurance<sup>SM</sup> announced today that Lori Lochran of the Avella Area School District in Avella has been named a finalist as part of the company's Thank America's Teachers Dream Big Teacher Challenge, awarding teachers for their ideas to help create a lasting and positive impact on their classrooms, schools, and communities.

Local Farmers agent Monica Jones surprised Lochran with a visit to her school to share the news about being one of only 15 finalists in the running for one of six \$100,000 Dream Big Teacher Challenge grants from Farmers.

"I am so excited to have had the honor of surprising Lori Lochran with the news that she is one step closer to winning a \$100,000 grant through Thank America's Teachers," said Jones. "I invite the Avella community, the state of Pennsylvania, and the entire nation to vote to help make Lori's proposal a reality."

Each teacher's proposal went through a competitive review process, and Lochran's proposal about creating a community greenhouse and garden was selected to move on to the voting phase of the Dream Big Teacher Challenge.

As a small rural town, Avella receives minimal State and Federal funding due to its lower population which has made it hard to implement and develop programs for its student population. If Lochran were to win the \$100,000 Dream Big Teacher Challenge grant, she will use the money to create a community greenhouse and garden that would be run by the students and provide produce to local food banks.

Beginning October 1, the finalists' proposals will be available for public voting at [www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com](http://www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com). Everyone can vote for any of the 15 teacher proposals, but a person can only vote once for the same teacher proposal per day. Up to six \$100,000 educational grants will then be announced in December to the two proposals with the highest vote count per three geographical zones which include the Western Zone, Central Zone, and Eastern Zone.

In addition to voting, the public can visit [www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com](http://www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com) at any time to share their thanks for teachers who made a difference in their lives, and learn more about the program.

Launched at the 2015 Farmers Insurance Open in San Diego, California, Thank America's Teachers features an actual yellow school bus that is traveling coast-to-coast delivering opportunities to say thank you to teachers who give their time, talent and knowledge to ensure that our nation's children become smarter and better prepared for the future.

Through Thank America's Teachers, Farmers will give away more than \$1,000,000 to educators in 2015 and the public will help determine who receives the grants at [www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com](http://www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com). Farmers will award 180 grants valued at \$2,500 throughout the year, in addition to the six \$100,000 Dream Big Teacher Challenge grants.

### About Farmers Insurance

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