MediaRoom

Doris Merzweiler Among 15 Finalists Vying for Six $100,000 Educational Grants from Farmers Insurance

Albuquerque, New Mexico (September 18, 2015) – Farmers Insurance℠ announced today that Doris Merzweiler of Hayes Middle School in Albuquerque 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 Aprilyn Chavez Geissler surprised Merzweiler 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 Doris Merzweiler with the news that she is one step closer to winning a $100,000 grant through Thank America's Teachers," said Chavez Geissler. "I invite the Albuquerque community, the state of New Mexico, and the entire nation to vote to help make Doris' proposal a reality."

Each teacher's proposal went through a competitive review process, and Merzweiler's proposal about developing an adapted physical education program for special needs students utilizing the Xbox 360 Kinect was selected to move on to the voting phase of the Dream Big Teacher Challenge.

Almost 70 percent the student population in the Albuquerque, NM, school district lives in poverty, with a significant portion of those students classified as at-risk. If Merzweiler were to win the $100,000 Dream Big Teacher Challenge grant, she will use the money to develop an adapted physical education program for special needs students utilizing the technology of the Xbox 360 Kinect to help students enjoy daily exercise and age appropriate socialization in the classroom.

Beginning October 1, the finalists' proposals will be available for public voting atwww.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 visitwww.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. 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
Farmers Insurance Group of Companies is a leading U.S. insurer group of automobiles, homes and small businesses and also provides a wide range of other insurance and financial services products. Farmers Insurance is proud to serve more than 10 million households with over 19 million individual policies across all 50 states through the efforts of over 50,000 exclusive and independent agents and approximately 22,000 employees. Farmers Insurance Exchange, the largest of the three primary insurance entities that make up the Farmers Insurance Group of Companies®, is ranked No. 264 on the 2015 Fortune 500 list of largest companies.

For more information about Farmers, visit its Web site at www.farmers.com or at www.Facebook.com/FarmersInsurance.

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