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PRESS RELEASE
December 8, 2014

Turner Ashby High School Teacher Cindy Ferek A Farmers Insurance Thank A Million Teachers Winner

Rockingham County Public Schools is excited to announce that Ms. Cindy Ferek, health and physical education teacher at Turner Ashby High School, has been awarded a \$100,000 grant by Farmers Insurance Company. Ms. Ferek was one of 15 finalists in the Farmers Insurance Thank A Million Teachers Dream Big Teacher Challenge. Today, executives from Farmers Insurance, Virginia Department of Education, and Rockingham County Public Schools surprised Ms. Ferek by visiting her classroom and presenting her with the \$100,000 grant check. The announcement was met by the wild applause of students in Ms. Ferek's class.

On September 17, 2014, Ms. Ferek was notified that her proposal was one of the 15 finalists for the \$100,000 grant. Farmers Insurance promoted a voting contest to determine the winners of the grants. Voting for the grants took place through the Farmers Insurance website, October 1 through November 30, 2014. Today's visit was the announcement that Ms. Ferek's proposal was the Zone 5 winner.

The grant title is "Two Wheels Squared Driving Course Challenge". The money will be used to create and implement a paved walking/riding path on the grounds of Turner Ashby High School. The course will help students train for future driving challenges by offering a multi-faceted bicycling course to challenge teenagers physically, emotionally, and cognitively. Overall, the course will help teens develop critical on-the-road problem-solving skills they will inevitably use when they earn a driver's license. The course will also be used as a walking/riding trail for students with disabilities and the community at-large.

Dr. Carol S. Fenn, division superintendent of Rockingham County Public Schools, states that the extra effort for our students as exemplified by Turner Ashby teacher Cindy Ferek speaks highly to our care and enthusiasm for the students in Rockingham County schools.

Representatives in attendance at the presentation were:

Dr. Billy Haun, Chief Academic Officer, Virginia Department of Education
Mr. Sal Romero – State Board of Education
Mr. Steve Walk, Principal, Turner Ashby High School
Dr. Doug Alderfer, Assistant Superintendent, Rockingham County Public Schools
Mr. Bill Tibbens, Manager of Government and Industry Affairs, Farmers Insurance

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