

**SIMSBURY EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT FOUNDATION (SEEF)  
P.O. Box 925  
Simsbury, CT 06070-0925**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**SEEF GRANTS TOTAL OVER \$100,000 TO SIMSBURY SCHOOLS**

(Simsbury, CT, October 10, 2007) Including the two most recent grants awarded in September, Simsbury Education Enhancement Foundation's total contributions (since its inception in 1995), now exceed \$100,000. SEEF continues to award cash grants directly to local Simsbury public school teachers on an annual basis.

One of the most recent grants, Teachers as Readers (and Writers), was awarded to Peg Bruno, a writing resource teacher for grades K through 6. This project allows for the purchase of several different titles of books featuring some of the latest research on the best practices in writing. Teachers will read and discuss these strategies as a "book group" with other teachers. They will then implement these new and innovative writing strategies with their students, while continuing to discuss results and techniques with their peers. The program will benefit teachers and students district-wide in grades K – 6.

A second grant was awarded to Amy Muska, Department Supervisor, PE/Health grades K – 12. This program sponsored visits by Dr. Victor DeNoble, on Oct. 1 and 2, to both Simsbury High School and Henry James Middle School. Dr. DeNoble, a former scientist previously employed by a leading cigarette manufacturer, who has also visited Simsbury schools in the past, presented a factual, informative presentation based on his story as a whistleblower within the tobacco industry. Additionally, smaller groups discussed abuse, and the implications of substance use with the brain, as well as making good decisions in peer pressure situations. Dr. DeNoble's engaging presentations on tobacco & other drugs reinforce and expand upon the current health curriculum. Follow up discussions will also occur through grade 8 health classes during their drug education unit. This program encompasses six interactive presentations involving every 8th and 9th grade student in Simsbury public schools, impacting approximately 750 – 800 students.

The Simsbury Education Enhancement Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance through grants to teachers for new educational technologies, enrichment programs and special projects not ordinarily included in the board of education budget. Since 1995, SEEF's grants have funded programs ranging from a 4th grade dance/language arts collaboration, to partners in science between junior high and elementary students, to taking high school students through and in-depth exploration of our legal system, and many more. To make a tax-deductible contribution (ID #06-1409295), please send check payable to S.E.E.F., to Simsbury Education Enhancement Foundation, P.O. Box 925, Simsbury, CT 06070. Additionally, the Foundation is eligible for corporate matching gift programs.

**For more information contact:**

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