



NEWS RELEASE

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News Media Contact: Communication and Media Relations, 678-301-6020

Lanier HS awarded \$40K Motorola Solutions Foundation grant

Lanier High students soon will have additional resources to support additional Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) learning opportunities thanks to a \$40,000 grant received from The Motorola Solutions Foundation, the charitable arm of Motorola Solutions, Inc. The grant was awarded to the **Lanier Cluster Education Foundation** and the **Gwinnett County Public Schools Foundation Fund, Inc.**

The Motorola Solutions Foundation Innovation Generation program supports schools nationwide with funding for hands-on, innovative afterschool programs, science and mathematics clubs, teacher training, and mentoring programs. In Gwinnett, Motorola Solutions Foundation's generous donation will allow Lanier High to build on current programs, primarily its Center for Design and Technology (CDAT).

In Lanier High's Center for Design and Technology, students are learning 21st Century skills by integrating their reading, writing, and mathematics skills in a technology format learning to use software for video journalism, 3DSMax - digital movie making, digital photography, web development, programming, and music technology. CDAT has formed an advisory board with area industry representatives and college representatives. This initiative will allow Lanier High students to enter their junior and senior years with opportunities for matriculation, internships, and entrepreneurial activities.

Lanier High Principal **Kerensa Wing** explains that the Motorola Solutions Foundation grant will support CDAT through teacher training and collaboration to integrate Gwinnett County Public School's curriculum with a project-based approach. She says, "The Project-Based Learning (PBL) format motivates students since they actually get to apply the academic knowledge and skills they are acquiring in class to a project with real-world meaning."

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Lanier High instructor **Mike Reilly** adds, “A key component to PBL is relevance. We are lucky to have the creative worlds of engineering, science, and entertainment in Georgia. The Lanier High CDAT program connects students to these areas, while emphasizing our core subject areas.”

Gwinnett students from two other high schools also will benefit from the grant as their teachers will participate in the staff development sessions. Lanier High plans to invite Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology teachers as well as instructors from North Gwinnett High to learn more about the PBL approach and its effect on high student achievement. In addition, the grant will help fund the purchase of new technology tools to enhance student communication and to develop student digital creativity.

The recently formed Lanier Cluster Education Foundation has scheduled an official foundation launch event for this fall in October. At that time, the school plans to celebrate the grant and the opportunities it will provide to Lanier High teachers and students.

Innovation Generation is a part of Motorola Solutions Foundations’ larger commitment to engaging youth in STEM education. Beyond funding, Lanier High and Gwinnett County Public Schools will receive ongoing support from Motorola Solutions employee volunteers, who will act as mentors, tutors, and experts in STEM careers, which utilizes the expertise of Motorola Solutions’ workforce to inspire the next generation of inventors. Lanier High’s CDAT also now is part of the *Innovation Generation* network, where it can create vital connections with hundreds of other organizations with the common vision to make a greater impact on STEM education.

Founded in 2007, the Innovation Generation Grants have awarded more than \$25.5 million to STEM programs nationwide. This year, the program will provide \$5.5 million to K-12 programs across the U.S., including the \$40,000 awarded to Lanier High.

News media representatives interested in learning more about how the grant will benefit students are invited to visit Lanier High’s Center for Design and Technology. Requests to visit the school should be coordinated by contacting the school district’s Department of Communication and Media Relations at 678-301-6020.