



Council on Instruction and Professional Development
Innovative Teaching Grants
2021 Awards

Name	Local EA	Title & Description
Christie Orlosky, Jolena McFarland Central-Western Region	Armstrong	<p><i>The G.I.F.T. of Learning (Grant Inspires Future Teachers)</i></p> <p>“The G.I.F.T. of Learning (Grant Inspires Future Teachers)” engages regular education students in activities that will inspire them to become future teachers. Under the guidance of their classroom teachers, students in grades 9-12 will have the opportunity to design and implement lessons in order to teach life skills students.</p>
Rachael Palko Northeastern Region	Western Wayne	<p><i>Fidget Tool Kits</i></p> <p>Western Wayne School District is increasing trauma-informed education and social-emotional learning. Providing classroom resources to promote self-awareness and increase coping skills will increase student engagement and productivity. Fidget Tool Kits will contain resources to facilitate sensory input; therefore, reducing distraction.</p>
Maria Masankay, Tara Donleavy Northeastern Region	Western Wayne	<p><i>Let Me Choose My Seat!</i></p> <p>The alternative seating initiative is designed to provide students with an alternative to the standard desk and chair scenario of the common classroom. Allowing students to choose an alternative seating style will increase attention, engagement, and focus in the classroom resulting in better retention of information.</p>
Dana McCaskey Western Region	West Allegheny	<p><i>Connecting Through Dance in a Digital World</i></p> <p>After experiencing the isolation of a global quarantine, the need for social and emotional connections with others is stronger than ever. In our proposal, we want to use technology to connect our dance students to other schools, dance professionals, and cultural experiences that expand our world view.</p>