

**Email \***

julie.toscano@dmschools.org

**Date \*** 10/6/2021**Applicant First and Last Name \***

Julie Toscano

**Department or Organization \***

Family & Consumer Science Department

**Primary Phone Number \***

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**Project Title \***

Classroom Economy

**Project Description (1-2 paragraph summary) \***

It is a “classroom economy” aimed at showing students how to manage their finances while helping them see the value of working responsibly, delaying gratification, and saving for the future. This is how it works: Students are required to pay monthly rent for their desks, plus electricity bills. To make the payments, they must earn classroom “dollars” by holding down class jobs. They also need to earn bonus cash for good schoolwork and other activities, but they can face fines for unwelcome behavior. Those who bank more than the amount of their monthly payments can bid in classroom auctions—that’s where I hope you’ll come in! If they save even more, they can buy their desks and stop paying rent. You can see how powerful this program is in teaching essential life skills. The auctions are key, because they give the students a goal and make the learning fun. I would be very grateful if you could support us by donating items to be bid on.

**Total Amount Requested \***

150.00

**Project Goal (What learning objective will be met? How will the project meet current needs of students, staff or community? What will the project accomplish?) \***

Two topics (or units) in my course are Financial Skills and Employability Skills. The classroom economy would help me meet both of those learning objectives. Just a few examples would include:  
-learning how to fill out a job application and a W-4 form -demonstrating self-management and communication skills in the workplace -evaluating personal strengths and weaknesses in terms of employability skills -demonstrating conflict-management skills -maintaining a budget -learning about

opportunity cost and wants vs. needs -participating in an investment simulator -learning how to fill out tax forms -evaluating the importance of insurance

**Project Management (Who will manage project? Is there any additional oversight needed? Are you interested in having a member of the TRHS Foundation board assist?) \***

Julie Toscano (me), no additional oversight needed

**Project Target Population (How many students will benefit? Is this within a specific department, staff related, etc.? What demographic of students will this serve?) \***

~200 students, this is an intro Freshman class

**Project Duration (How long will the project last? Do you believe there is long-term impact instead of one-time benefit?) \***

The project will run the rest of the semester and if I can find enough donations we will do it again next semester for the whole term. This project will have long-term benefits by increasing students' financial literacy and employability skills. The money from this grant will help me purchase rewards which will increase student motivation to engage in this project and help them learn the reward of financial saving/return on investment.

**Project Funding Sources (Have you applied for any additional funding, if so, from who and have you been awarded funds? Are there matching funds available? Are you pursuing any additional funding at this time? Please specify dollar amount where able.) \***

I have not applied for additional funding, but I have visited local businesses to ask for donations of gift cards or anything they are able to donate. One of the classroom jobs is also to go out in the community and ask for donations, so students are also helping me. So far, I have gotten some businesses to donate but most donate small amounts and I am in need of enough prizes for 6 sections of my class (40 students in each class). I'm newer to Des Moines, so if you have any suggestions of product-based businesses that may be willing to donate anything, I would gladly take suggestions! (For example, Subject is going to donate a pair of shoes and a photographer is donating a free family session.)

**Additional Information (Please provide us any additional information you feel might be important to making our funding decision.) \***

This is a project chosen by students as a way to make my class more hands on. They are pretty excited about it and so am I! It should be a good way to focus on practicing skills, not just learning about them. I have surveyed my classes to see what kind of prizes they would want and these items are what they have asked for. I am flexible with changing the prizes if you are not excited about the nutrition aspect of the snacks! :)

**Project Budget (Please provide a DETAILED budget below for the entire project costs. Simply upload your budget here.) \***

See attached.

**If you receive funding from the TRHS Foundation, you agree to submit timely follow-up photos and a 2-3-paragraph write-up to be shared via social media and our Roughrider Recall E-newsletter. \***

YES

**Have you been funded by the TRHS Foundation for a previous project? If yes, please list project, amount awarded and date. \***

No