



## **THE WREA FOUNDATION**

The Charitable Arm of the  
Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association

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### **KICKAPOO AREA SCHOOLS SCHOOL "COOKING FOR INDEPENDENCE: A KITCHEN LEARNING SPACE" PROJECT**

#### **WINS WISCONSIN RETIRED EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION AWARD**

- Kickapoo Area Schools (Viola) and Special Education Teacher, Laurie Cauffman, for the "Cooking for Independence: A Kitchen Learning Space" project. This project is to establish a functional kitchen space within the classroom, which will serve as a vital resource for the students. By creating a dedicated kitchen space in the classroom, this will provide the necessary tools and adaptable gadgets that will enable the students to engage in cooking activities safely and successfully. This kitchen space will be equipped with specialized cooking tools designed specifically for individuals with disabilities. Students will learn how to make healthy food choices, understand portion sizes, and develop the ability to prepare simple meals. The Foundation Award Program presents a unique opportunity to bring this vision to life. With this dedicated kitchen space, it will be easier to equip them with essential life skills while fostering a sense of community and collaboration.

The financial award is part of an annual "Challenge Award" program sponsored by the WREA Foundation. It recognizes ten schools each year, in each of the five statewide regional districts that comprise WREA. From year to year, the awards are rotated from elementary schools to middle schools, to high schools, every third year.

Kickapoo Area School is one of five innovative elementary school projects to be awarded \$2,000 this year, for a total of \$10,000 donated by the WREA Foundation. The other projects awarded were Tomahawk Middle School (Tomahawk), Bessie Allen Middle School (North Fond du Lac), Meadowview Middle School (Sparta), and Waupun Area Junior/Senior High School (Waupun).

In addition to the first-place winners, three second place winners were awarded \$250.00 each for their innovative projects. The schools include Tomahawk Middle School (Tomahawk), Laconia Middle School (Rosendale), and Stone Bank School (Oconomowoc).

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