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St. Cloud Area School District Receives W. K. Kellogg Foundation Grant

St. Cloud Area School District 742 has received an \$888,205 grant from the W. K. Kellogg (WKKF) Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan to fund a three-year project at Discovery and Talahi Community Schools. District 742 has introduced co-teaching and culturally responsive instruction as strategies for inclusive education in response to comprehensive demographic change at each school. WKKF funding will help the District build on its successful efforts with a goal of expansion throughout the District in the future.

This project was specifically designed for Talahi (a priority school) and Discovery (a focus school) to expand co-teaching to Pre-K, to provide ongoing mentoring and coaching for co-teachers, to create welcoming, community-based family engagement centers, and to train all school staff in trauma-informed education.

Director of Title Programs Patricia King, says, "This is such exciting news. With the support of the Kellogg Foundation, we will be able to reach for our most visionary goals and build upon the work that has already begun at Discovery and Talahi."

The purpose of the project is to create a welcoming and differentiated learning environment for all students and ultimately to increase achievement, especially for vulnerable populations. This project directly aligns with objectives defined in the District's Strategic Plan, 1) All students will demonstrate skills to be successful in today's and tomorrow's society, 2) All students will be supported in and out of school through partnerships between school, home and community, and 3) All students, families and staff will have a sense of belonging within the school community.

Superintendent Willie Jett acknowledges the importance and impact of the grant. "We are so grateful that the Kellogg Foundation is providing our district this unique opportunity to increase family engagement and community

partnerships in order to support student achievement and success at Discovery and Talahi Schools. The grant creates an avenue to live out our mission statement to prepare, engage, educate, empower and inspire all learners.”

The Board of Education will vote on acceptance of the grant at the October 26 board meeting.

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About St. Cloud Area School District 742

The mission of the St. Cloud Area School District is to create a safe and caring climate and culture in which we prepare, engage, educate, empower and inspire all learners in partnership with their community to be successful in today's and tomorrow's society. Our caring and committed staff members deliver learning for a lifetime to a diverse population of students in nine St. Cloud area communities. District 742 is the largest school district in Central Minnesota, proudly sharing the gift of education with over 10,000 students each school day.

Located 70 miles northwest of Minneapolis-St. Paul, we bring the world's ideas into every schoolroom. Our licensed staff, nearly 70 percent of whom have advanced degrees, teach challenging classes that use the latest technology as well as tried-and-true instructional methods. District 742 has eight elementary schools, three middle level schools (6-8), two high schools (9-12), three alternative learning schools, an early childhood center and a community education center. The high schools offer an array of AP courses and other opportunities to prepare students for post-secondary education. Students are encouraged to participate in their choice of athletic, scholarly and fine arts activities.

About the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (GENERAL FOUNDATION INFORMATION)

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer, Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life.

The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Michigan, and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is

paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti. For more information, visit www.wkkf.org.