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Media Release for the Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers
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For Immediate Release

Two Athens Teacher Awarded EITC Grants

The Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers (CFTT) Board of Directors announced the awarding of grants from the State of Pennsylvania's Department of Community & Economic Development Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program.

As an approved Educational Improvement Organization the CFTT is able to award grants to teachers in Bradford, Potter, Sullivan, and Tioga counties for innovative curriculum enhancement ideas. With 2009 funds the CFTT recently awarded two grants to Athens Area School District teachers whose proposed ideas were accepted by the State. This announcement was delayed due to the budget crisis.

Their checks were presented last week at the Athens Area School District Board of Directors meeting. The awardees are Michael Panek who is a Harlan Rowe Junior High School Music instructor to purchase music for his proposed "Two-Day Choral Program" and Rita O'Hara who is an Audrielle Lynch-Ellen Bustin Elementary School learning support teacher for her "Using Technology to Improve Reading Skills of Struggling Students" Program. She will purchase software and computers with her funds that will enable her students to obtain more help to improve their reading skills.

The Chair of the CFTT Board of Directors, Bill Ransom stated, "The State of Pennsylvania's EITC Program has allowed the CFTT to assist teachers in the Northern Tier thanks to the generosity of First Citizens National Bank. I would like to encourage more school districts and teachers to participate in the next round of funding presently underway. There are still funds available for innovative ideas from teachers and the CFTT is soliciting additional proposals at this time."

The Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers (CFTT) is a non-profit public foundation established in 2002 by a diverse group of local leaders and residents. The Foundation encourages community philanthropy to enhance the quality of life for those who reside in Bradford, Potter, Sullivan and Tioga Counties in Pennsylvania and Tioga County in New York State. It establishes endowment funds for charitable purposes from contributions of citizens, corporations, other foundations, charitable organizations and government agencies. As the endowment funds grow, it uses the interest earned on these funds to make grants to organizations or projects that serve identified community needs.

If you have an interest in learning more about the CFTT or in establishing a fund, you can contact the organization by any of these methods: telephone - 570-888-4759; fax - 570-888-2179; email - cftt@stny.rr.com ; or visit the website - www.twintierscf.org .