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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Vantage Credit Union Makes Teachers' Dreams a Reality**

ST. LOUIS — Vantage Credit Union's annual *Impact Education* contest brings five educators' plans to impact their students' education to fruition.

The *Impact Education* contest provides funds to local community educators in order to empower their students and make a difference in their community. With a brief video from the educator explaining their need for funds, they were eligible to win up to \$2,000 to impact their students, school, or own professional development.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for aid was even more of a necessity to educators. As such, this year's winners throughout the St. Louis region were diverse in their requests to meet the needs of their students, and Vantage is proud to support them for their own unique ways they will use the funds to impact education. Amanda Rudge of The Moog Center for Deaf Education was awarded funds for new developmental toys that could be sanitized frequently. Zachary Gotsch of Oakville Middle School, who like so many went virtual during the pandemic, requested funds for a customizable online video platform to better interact with his and his peers' students online.

Additional literacy resources were requested by Catie Whitt at Fairmount Elementary and also by Fort Zumwalt East High School's Samantha Vogler. Whitt was awarded funds to purchase new books for grades K-5 while Vogler will use the funds to start a multilingual classroom library for the language department. It was not only their desire to support their students, but as Whitt wrote in her submission, these resources would help her school "begin the first steps to nurturing lifelong learning."



The grand prize winner, Robin Olive of Warren County Early Childhood Center, will now be able to fund her dream of an outdoor classroom for her students so they have the chance to “explore nature in their surrounding area, create a space for and plant a garden, and experience the effects of the changing climate during the school year.”

For over 60 years, Vantage Credit Union’s roots have run deep within the educational community. Now they serve over 75,000 members with a full range of financial services. The credit union’s 12 locations serve the City of St. Louis and 19 counties in eastern Missouri and Madison and St. Clair counties in Illinois.

**Vantage Credit Union congratulates the 2020 *Impact Education* winners!**

- Robin Olive at Warren County Early Childhood Center: \$2,000 for an outdoor classroom
- Amanda Rudge at The Moog Center for Deaf Education: \$1,000 to purchase new toys for their speech and language lessons
- Zachary Gotsch at Oakville Middle School: \$1,000 for an Edpuzzle Pro subscription
- Catie Whitt at Fairmount Elementary School: \$500 to purchase books for grades K-5
- Samantha Vogler at Fort Zumwalt East High School: \$500 to purchase books for a multilingual classroom library

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