

**Website Copy**  
**2011 Educator for a Day**

**2011 Educator for a Day Grant Recipients Named**

**Walden University Announces Grants in Support of 'Educator for a Day' Program**

The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership at Walden University announced the recipients of its 2011 Educator for a Day Grants. Walden awarded the \$5,000 grants to five selected P-12 schools that host Educator for a Day events as part of the nationwide celebration of the National Education Association's American Education Week, observed Nov. 13-19, 2011. Each school hosted at least one aspiring educator, who shadowed a teacher during the school day on Thursday, Nov. 17.

The 2011 Educator for a Day grant recipients include:

**Crocker Arts and Technology School, New Orleans, LA** – For its Educator for a Day event, Crocker Arts and Technology School invited local artists to help celebrate New Orleans' rich and vibrant arts community. Filmmaker Christian Hardy helped fifth grade students create their own school news show, bassist Ted Long talked about how he turned his childhood love of playing bass into a career, and first grade students taught singer-songwriters William Clancy and Krissy Duhamel how to talk about clothing in Spanish.

**Film and Theater Arts Charter High School, Los Angeles, CA**— Located in a converted clothing factory, Film and Theater Arts Charter High School is a place where creativity and expression are encouraged and teachers and staff are truly invested in helping students succeed in school and in life. During their Educator for a Day event, Jessica Davis, the Advisor and Science Teacher who nominated the school, told students that the grant funds will be used to buy upgraded calculators for their math and science classes, as well as additional supplies for the school.

**Klein Forest High School, Houston, TX** — A National School of Excellence, this large, predominately minority school has instituted positive structures to help nurture its students. Desmond Pittman, a Certified Special Education Teacher and the Walden M.S. in Education student who nominated the school, is the sponsor of the school's "Ambassador" leadership club. This group of 20 extraordinary students will help determine the best way to use the grant to help the lives of others. They hope to enlist Half-Price Books to provide a matching grant to purchase books for children in low income families.

**Nocholson Elementary School, Marietta, GA**— Katie Shultz Ditchen, a Special Education Teacher and the Walden M.A.T. alumna who nominated the school, hosted a tour of her classroom, where she has incorporated curriculum from her academic experiences with Walden University. The school will use the Educator for a Day grant to add hands-on math and science centers to the playground and gym areas as a way to strengthen academics in a safe, fun setting.

**Oakcrest Elementary School, Landover, MD** — Oakcrest Elementary, a gifted and talented magnet school in Landover, MD, welcomed four local members of the military as Educators for a Day. The students joined the officers in activities to develop communication and team-building skills. Janet Clarke-Green, the Talented and Gifted Teacher and Walden M.S. in Education alumna who nominated

her school, explained how Oakcrest would use the grant to purchase study islands and fund a writer-in-residency program.

The winning schools were selected from nominations submitted by teachers and administrators nationwide. Walden created the Educator for a Day grant initiative in 2007, and because of its impact on the honored schools and teachers, this initiative is a fitting tribute to the valuable work of educators across the country. Previous grant recipients include schools from Maine, Mississippi, Louisiana, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, and Puerto Rico.

Walden's 40-year history of educating educators has created a community of more than 45,000 students and alumni who are leaders in their classrooms and schools. As a leading provider of online education degrees, the Riley College of Education and Leadership is dedicated to increasing teacher effectiveness and student achievement by connecting its students with nationally recognized education experts, researchers and scholars. Walden's programs, while strongly grounded in theory, emphasize practical skills and analytical tools educators can immediately use to enhance student learning and outcomes.

For more information about The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership at Walden University, visit [www.WaldenU.edu/education](http://www.WaldenU.edu/education).