

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Bessemer Area Schools

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A.D. Johnston High School- 906-667-0413

Bessemer Area Schools receive statewide 2018 Education Excellence Award

Bessemer Area Schools will receive a \$2,500 grant from the SET SEG Foundation in partnership with the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) at a school assembly at A.D. Johnston High School on March 21 at 10 a.m. The district has been awarded a 2018 Education Excellence award to A.D. Johnston High School's program, Bluff View Pond Project.

This program at A.D. Johnston High School creates a relevant opportunity for students to learn math and science through an ongoing experiment linking to STEM fields, improving water quality and benefiting the community. The 'real life' biology experiment estimates fish populations at a nearby park and has now developed into a collaborative effort between Bessemer Area School District, the Michigan DNR, the City of Bessemer, Lake Superior State University, and the Gogebic Conservation District. The goal of the project is to see if the pond can be excavated, the habitat improved, and the pond made into a community fishing pond and outdoor laboratory. With their award, the high school shop class will build permanent signage for the pond site and the graphics arts class will produce posters, graphs and informational materials for display. The money will also go for habitat restoration in the tributary stream.

"It's an honor for us to recognize Bessemer Area Schools and their educators, and to help support and advance their efforts," said Lisa Truscott, SET SEG Foundation Executive Director. "Dedicated, passionate teachers and staff in public schools are what help provide opportunities to learn, grow and build brighter, stronger futures for students and our communities and state."

The Education Excellence Awards are in their 25th year and are produced through a partnership between the SET SEG Foundation and MASB. This year, in celebration of the anniversary, the SET SEG Foundation awarded \$2,500 grants to 25 extraordinary Michigan public school programs. Education Excellence Award recipients receive a \$2,500 check to grow their program, an "Education Excellence Winner" road sign, and trophy. This year, the SET SEG Foundation received hundreds of applications from schools throughout Michigan working to have a positive impact on their students and community.

The SET SEG Foundation is a branch of SET SEG and is fueled by its mission to enable students to pursue enrichment opportunities that advance learning, leadership and civic responsibility by providing services, scholarships, grants and financial support directly to Michigan public schools and Michigan public school students. For more information about the SET SEG Foundation, visit www.setseg.org/foundation.

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