

THE VISIONARY FUND

At the end of her biennium in 1995, then Alpha Alpha State President Nancy Grove recommended the creation of a new fund to be known as the ***Visionary Fund***. Nearing the dawn of a new Millennium and realizing the technological challenges that awaited our State Organization, President Nancy proposed that the fund be used for the future development and needs of the State at the discretion of the State President.

Since its creation the ***Visionary Fund*** has been used to start the development of the Creative Arts Retreat and to help finance meeting expenses and materials for the 2011 Northeast Regional Steering Committee in Hershey.

Fast forward to today and keeping Nancy's vision in mind, it was proposed that the Past State Presidents permanently manage the fund and that it help fund through the awarding of grants to in-service educators innovative teaching ideas in their classrooms or community.

Beginning in the fall of 2015 the ***Visionary Fund*** has annually awarded \$500 grants to teachers with innovative ideas. Its first recipient, Marcia Erickson of the



Hollidaysburg Area School District, was able to create an Ancient Rome Travel Trunk for use in her seventh grade world history classes. The Ancient Rome Travel Trunk brought museum-like resources and activities into the classroom and provided an authentic, hands-on student experience that increased student interest and

engagement.

Annually awarded other recipients of the grant include Amy Dobbins, Gail Franko, and Deborah Yargar Reed. Whether working within one classroom or as a team, each project and idea



was different, visionary and planned to enhance the education and learning environment of children. In the latter example the fine arts team through coordination with Gettysburg College and artist in residence program immersed their children in the Balinese Culture. All fourth grade classes were able to study the Balinese culture and learn and play songs on a Balinese gamelan while studying the historical roots of the gamelan on the culture.

A *visionary* plants seeds for the future and nourishes them by imagination, innovation, wisdom, and action. The ***Nancy B. Grove Visionary Fund*** has the means to turn innovation into action and bring ideas to fruition. What are your dreams? What is something new and innovative you'd like to try in your classroom? Let your imagination soar! Application forms for this award are on the state website with an annual deadline of February 1. Plan now to apply for the ***Nancy Grove Visionary Fund*** award.