



PRESS RELEASE

From: Vincent Pezzimenti, Public Information Specialist

Re: Press Release

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Salamanca City Central School District Awarded \$100K STEAM Grant From Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation

SALAMANCA, NY – Salamanca City Central School District won a \$100,000 grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation for its Salamanca Engineering-Maker Initiative (SEMI).

The grant will provide high-quality Maker Equipment for Intermediate and High School students to explore, make and tinker with original project ideas in the STEAM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics). The SEMI purpose is to boost enrollment of high-need and minority students in the STEAM areas and in college and trades pipeline programs.

“We are extremely proud of this program,” said STEAM Instructional Coach and Administrative Intern, Aaron Straus. “It extends the work we are doing at the High School to meet the high and growing demand in our students for quality STEAM programs.”

The one-year grant is part of the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation’s focus on afterschool STEM programs.

“We were thrilled to receive word that the Wilson Foundation has chosen to underwrite our grant proposition. This funding will advance the significant progress the Salamanca Schools have made to ensure our students are meeting the demand for STEAM related skills in college and the workforce” noted Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services, Dr. Mark Beehler.

Salamanca High School faculty members Aaron Straus, Cheryl Johnson and Kim Dry will collaborate with students on the purchase of Maker Space equipment and the selection of professional development opportunities for teachers.

“The types of projects that kids encounter in afterschool STEAM programs help build teamwork, problem-solving, technological abilities, and communication skills, which are all 21st Century Workforce skills that our rapidly-changing, modern world needs,” said Kim Dry, Director of Community Education.

“This grant allows our growing programs to really take flight. We can now extend our Maker opportunities to multiple students at multiple levels,” commented Earth Science Teacher and Maker Space Facilitator, Cheryl Johnson.



SALAMANCA

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/SalamancaWarriors

The project will serve as many as 600 students in grades 4-12. Salamanca teachers hope that this will ignite participating students desire to take advantage of the complementary JCC college-connections courses as part of a pathway leading to postsecondary credentials.

“We do not currently have large selection of 3-D printing or electronic equipment at the elementary and secondary levels,” commented Straus, “The SEMI Initiative will directly support and advance STEAM programing as identified in NYS Department of Labor’s CALL TO ACTION by infusing grade-appropriate coding, robotics and CAD prototype opportunities in early pipeline initiatives”

The one-year STEAM grant is scheduled to begin in late November.

To learn more about the Salamanca City Central School District visit www.SalamancaNY.org. You can also find us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SalamancaWarriors.