

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2013

Southington Education Foundation

P.O. Box 42

Southington, CT 06489

Contact: Dawn A. Miceli

860.681.8006



**SOUTHINGTON EDUCATION
FOUNDATION, INC.**

Instilling a love of learning.

The Southington Education Foundation will award Kelley and Plantsville Elementary School music teacher Katherine Diaz a grant at its upcoming Grant Reception to purchase West African percussion instruments for a program that offers a multitude of learning experiences for young musicians.

Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 in both schools will learn a particular style of traditional West African music, song and dance called "Gahu." Diaz will form ensembles who will learn to play various instruments such as the Balafon and the Boba.

Besides integration of the West African music style in the general music curriculum, Diaz said she would also be forming an after-school or recess group. A culminating performance will take place at each school to showcase the project.

"The West African Percussion Ensemble will fulfill a variety of academic, social and cultural needs of our students in Southington Public Schools," said Diaz.

"Academically, the students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will be participating in a rigorous but accessible ensemble heightening their listening/responding, rhythmic, creative, performance and technical needs in both instrumental and vocal music."

The Southington Education Foundation will award nearly \$6,000 in grant funding to five different teachers at its June 12 Grant Reception at Kennedy Middle School at 4 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend to learn more about the six programs being funded during this round of grants. Other schools receiving

grants are South End and Derynoski Elementary Schools and Kennedy and DePaolo Middle Schools.

Diaz further noted that she had a positive experience learning Gahu drumming during her graduate classes and felt “enriched as a person, building my musicianship through the higher level improvisations you can create in this style of music.”

To date, the Southington Education Foundation has awarded nearly \$100,000 to Southington Public Schools, which have all benefited from the SEF’s mission to instill a love of learning in students. To support the SEF, please like our Facebook page, visit www.southingtoneducationfoundation.org or consider joining the organization’s Board At Large.