

Lely High School

1 Lely High School Boulevard

Naples, FL 34113

April 17, 2022

Champions for Learning

Collier County, Florida

RE: Champions for Learning Classroom Grant of $1,994.32

To the Members of Champions of Learning,

My name is Maureen DeLacy, and I am a Criminal Justice teacher in the Criminal Justice Academy at Lely High School. The Criminal Justice Academy is a four-year program that prepares students for college and careers in law enforcement, the court system, corrections, law school, the military, and many other relevant occupations. Our coursework covers Constitutional law, Statutory law, our Federal and State Court Systems, prisons and jails, the rules and procedures of policing, juvenile law, crime scene investigation, criminal law, civil law, and the responsibilities of the lawyer’s assistant among other legal studies.

I am writing on behalf of the students in the Criminal Justice Academy to express our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for your kind gesture in funding our request for a classroom grant in the amount of $1,994,32 for Fatal Vision Goggles. Your generous grant allowed us to purchase 13 pairs of Fatal Vision Goggles and 4 tubs of germicidal wipes to maintain them. We implemented several interactive activities using both fine motor and gross motor skills while simulating the effects alcohol impairment. The goggles purchased are designed to simulate alcohol impairment at two levels of blood alcohol concentration: .17 to .20 and .25 and above.

My goal for my students is to understand that alcohol impairs perceptions, affects balance and judgement, and makes ordinary activities difficult. Most of all I want my students to realize that drinking and driving is a potentially deadly decision. My students learned that the legal standard for alcohol impairment is .08% blood alcohol concentration (BAC). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, alcohol is the most commonly used and abused drug among young people in the United States. We studied the statistics of car crashes involving teen drivers and the percentage that were alcohol related. The Fatal Vision Goggles allowed students to experience the effect of being impaired by alcohol while trying to perform ordinary tasks.

In my classroom, students experienced alcohol impairment while wearing the Fatal Vision Goggles and trying to perform activities that use fine motor skills that included giving a fist bump, picking up a paper clip and placing it in a container, typing a message on a keyboard, writing their name on lined paper, turning a light switch on and off, filling a small cup with water, and drinking the cup of water without spilling it.

Using gross motor skills, students wore the Fatal Vision Goggles while trying to walk on a straight line for 20 feet, raise one leg while standing on the other for one minute, throwing a ball into a bucket ten feet away, catching and throwing a ball with another student six feet apart, dribbling a ball, doing squats, and walking to the water fountain and getting a drink.

Each student wearing the Fatal Vision Goggles was paired with a peer spotter to assist the impaired student navigate a course of ordinary tasks to perform. There were many laughs as we watched each student work their way through the course. All of my students were amazed by the challenges and difficulty in performing these basic tasks when wearing the goggles. Many students were not on the straight line as they took their steps to the end of the line. After removing their goggles, they were shocked to see that they were not on the line!

I believe the Fatal Vision Goggles made a profound impact on the awareness and attitudes of my students toward drinking and driving. Some students acknowledged that the experience left them not wanting to drink alcohol at all. All students were surprised they experienced difficulty performing simple tasks. Many students had difficulty keeping their balance and judging distance. Some students walked into walls and lockers!

I feel the Lely High School Criminal Justice Academy provides crime and drug prevention strategies to vulnerable youths as well as preparing them for careers in criminal justice. Our criminal justice classes provide an opportunity for students to learn about the legal process and talk about current issues that affect them. I feel honored to have the opportunity to support my students as they navigate the teen years and prepare to make decisions that impact their lives and their future.

Many of my criminal justice students have graduated and are now working for the United States Military and the Collier County Sheriff’s Office. Several of my current students want to become lawyers and crime scene investigators after graduation, and one former student wants to become a judge.

I shared all of this information with you so that you can see the impact of your financial support in our classroom. I witness transformation in students who may not have a clear direction for the future. They learn that they have opportunities available to them by experiencing real-world applications in our classroom and meeting professionals in the criminal justice field. Students who do not intend to pursue a career in criminal justice gain greater knowledge and insight into the development of our laws, individual civil rights and responsibilities, police procedures, our court system, and the current rehabilitative approach to punishment.

I sincerely thank you for your generous gift to our criminal justice program.

Sincerely yours,

Maureen DeLacy

Criminal Justice Teacher

Lely High School

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