



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2021

THE ST. JOE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION APPROVES GRANTS TOTALING MORE THAN \$1 MILLION FOR LOCAL EDUCATION FUNDING

PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL— The St. Joe Community Foundation (“Foundation”) has approved grants totaling more than \$1 million for local education funding so far in 2021. These grants will support a variety of projects at Walton and Bay County schools.

The largest of these grants was awarded to the Walton Education Foundation in the amount of \$332,955. The grant will be used to fund the Magnet Innovation Center’s new biomedical program including equipment and supplies for chemistry, physics, biology and biomedical coursework. The Magnet Innovation Center is a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) high school that opened in 2019 at the former headquarters of The St. Joe Company. “With this grant, we will be able to provide cutting-edge equipment and technology that will make our biomedical program among the most advanced in the state,” said Dr. Alexis Tibbetts, Principal of South Walton High School and the Magnet Innovation Center. “Our students will be introduced to new and innovative ways of learning in a very important field that will better prepare them for life after school.”

The Bay Education Foundation was awarded a \$309,208 grant to purchase equipment for Bay High School’s Allied Healthcare program. The program is designed to provide students the opportunity to explore careers in the healthcare industry while earning field certifications. “The students in this program are able to start a path to a post-secondary education and a career in a variety of healthcare fields,” said Bill Husfelt, Bay County Superintendent of Schools. “The equipment and supplies that we will purchase with these funds will help give our students the tools that they need to continue their education in healthcare after high school or to go directly into a career in this in-demand industry.”

Additional grants were awarded to fund instruments for music programs, sensory room equipment, technology needs and child abuse prevention education programs, among others.

“Strengthening educational opportunities is a primary focus of the Foundation,” said April Wilkes, Executive Director of The St. Joe Community Foundation. “The impact of these grants will benefit schools and students throughout all parts of Walton and Bay Counties, providing new and enhanced learning opportunities for the future leaders of our region.”

Since its inception in 1999, the Foundation has granted over \$29 million in Northwest Florida. To apply for a grant, or to learn more about the Foundation visit www.joefoundation.com.

About The St. Joe Community Foundation

Since its inception, The St. Joe Community Foundation (“Foundation”) has provided more than \$29 million in grants to improve the quality of life in the communities it serves. The Foundation provides charitable grants toward the civic infrastructure of communities in Northwest Florida. The Foundation’s primary focus is strengthening education, improving healthcare, protecting the environment and supporting local cultural interests. These efforts help build healthy, caring, long-lived communities. More information about the St. Joe Community Foundation can be found on its website at www.joefoundation.com.

©The St Joe Company 2021. The “*Taking Flight*” Design[®], and “*St. Joe (and TakingFlight Design)*”[®] are registered service marks of The St. Joe Company or its affiliates.

The St. Joe Community Foundation Contact:

April Wilkes

Executive Director

850-231-6435

april.wilkes@joe.com