

## Grant Funding Leads

# Hope Springs Eternal

President Obama has declared that “Our children will compete for jobs in a global economy that too many of our schools do not prepare them for.” So in order to rectify that condition and with a great deal of hope, we have seen the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The President further stated, “We’ll invest in innovative programs that are already helping schools meet high standards and close achievement gaps.” Secretary of Education Arne Duncan expressed his objectives by saying, “In education we must concentrate on the 4 Cs such as critical thinking, creative problem solving, communications, collaboration, and cross-cultural relationship building.” Our leaders are in total agreement that investment must be made in innovative curricula and environments to assist schools in reaching higher standards.

Pitsco Education and LEGO® Education stand at the forefront of these objectives enunciated by our leaders. The learning environment created by the Mission and Module curricula is the essence of the most recent research. According to Georgetown University researchers, design has a bearing on achievement, as test scores can increase 11 percent by improving a school’s physical environment. With that in mind educators should design learning environments that incorporate movable furniture and connect with the wider community, thus enabling collaboration, interaction, and the gathering and sharing of information. Pitsco is a model to be followed in terms of creating such a learning world.

The gates opened on March 19 as Title 1 funds began to be dispersed. Distribution of Title 11 funds will begin by April 16. All of these funds must be spent by September 30, 2010. Via the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program, ed-tech will receive nearly \$270 million more for fiscal year 2009, thanks to a \$410 billion omnibus spending measure signed by President Obama (<http://www.ed.gov/programs/edtech/index.html>). This latest appropriation is on top of the \$650 million designated in February under EETT for fiscal year 2009 and fiscal year 2010 as part of the economic stimulus package. On top of that Secretary Duncan will have an unprecedented \$5 billion to award for lasting reforms. Applications for the special grants will be available later this spring, and money will be awarded beginning in October. The other stimulus dollars for education will be distributed beginning later this spring.

A variety of funding avenues are delivering tens of billions more dollars through regular channels, such as Title 1 (<http://www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/index.html>) and IDEA

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(<http://idea.ed.gov>). Some of this is one-time usage so it follows the dollars must be utilized for a successful, long-lasting learning environment. Missions, Modules, Algebra, WeDo™, NXT, and TETRIX™ are on the cutting edge of the education world that is being proposed, so in addition to the government dollars being made available, the following private sources could also be approached:

### Alliant Energy Foundation

This foundation was formed in order to help improve the quality of life – now and in the future – in the communities where Alliant Energy has a presence.

More information: <http://www.alliantenergy.com>

### Clorox Company Foundation

The Clorox Company Foundation concentrates on two areas: education/youth development and culture/civic programs. Clorox has company facilities in cities located in Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, and West Virginia.

More information: <http://www.thecloroxcompany.com/community/>

### The Dekko Foundation

Dekko focuses on programs that prepare students for life and work through the purchase of technology hardware (up to 40% of total cost) for schools with long-range plans.

More information: <http://www.dekkofoundation.org/>

### Halliburton Foundation

This foundation endorses kindergarten thru college education in all major areas.

More information: <http://www.halliburton.com/AboutUs/default.aspx?navid=992&pageid=2310>

## Teacher's Pet

*(grant tip geared specifically toward teachers' smaller projects)*

### Corporate & School Partnerships

These awards are available for a limited number of grants.

More information: <http://www.corpschoolpartners.org/>