



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberty Traditional Wins \$5,000 Grant from Diamondbacks

Grant will fund student project to build solar micro-grid

Phoenix, AZ (10/19/12) – Fourth- and sixth-grade students at Liberty Traditional School will use their engineering, math, and science skills to construct a solar-powered emergency survival station, thanks to a \$5,000 grant as part of the “D-Backs \$150,000 Back-To-School Challenge,” presented by the University of Phoenix. Both classes will be recognized in an honor ceremony next spring at Chase Field and will use the money to build a solar “micro-grid society” to sustain people with heating, cooling fans, lights and food preparation in emergencies. The Diamondbacks are donating 1,000 tickets to the school for supporters who want to attend the ceremony and spring training game.

“I can’t wait to see the classes put together the emergency response model based on green energy and see how it functions at our school,” said Principal Jeremy Parker. “This will provide a wonderful opportunity to explore green energy and how it impacts our communities. It will also help motivate our students in math and science advancement.”

Teachers Nancy Halpern and Terri Clifton wrote the proposal, “Watt Do You Do When the Grid Goes Down?,” that won the grant. In collaboration with Real Goods Solar in Hopland, Calif., students will learn how to use solar power in real-world applications, including an emergency scenario, according to the proposal. After learning how to perform energy audits, calculate the amount of power consumed by everyday appliances and determine which items are best to put on solar power, students will build a micro-grid society to function in case traditional power sources fail.

The project not only incorporates Arizona state standards and correlates with Common Core standards, but it addresses Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) education, which encourages students to seek careers in engineering, science, technology and math – fields that experts predict will continue to be in high demand over the next decade.

Media: To interview Principal Jeremy Parker or learn more about this project, please call the contacts listed at the bottom of this press release.

About Liberty Traditional Charter School

Liberty Traditional Charter School is one of Arizona’s fastest-growing charter school systems. Liberty is a tuition-free, not-for-profit charter school providing an exceptional educational environment that focuses on academics, community involvement and family values. Liberty Traditional has two schools, one in Phoenix and one in Douglas. Raena Janes, an active advocate for Arizona education and charter schools, is the superintendent of Liberty Traditional Charter School. Visit the school’s website at www.ltsphoenix.org.

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