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### **Media Release**

## **Quatama Elementary School Earns White House Recognition for STEAM Programming**

*School is one of eight to earn a \$10,000 innOvation STEAM Grant Award for excellence in the integration of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math*

**November 4, 2015, Hillsboro, OR** – Quatama Elementary School was one of just eight in the country recognized by the Congressional STEAM and STEM Caucuses at a White House ceremony last night for excellence in STEAM programming.

The school submitted a proposal to the innOvation STEAM Grant Awards program in the 2013-14 school year and was one of eight selected for recognition out of fifty-five submissions.

While Quatama received the monetary award in 2014, which it invested it in technology, until now a formal recognition by the White House had not been possible. Yesterday, however, teams from each of the recipient schools met with their Congressional representatives to discuss firsthand the importance of STEAM, and then participated in both a recognition ceremony and reception with key elected officials and other stakeholders.

Quatama's team, comprised of current principal Christy Walters, past principal Janis Hill, teacher and STEAM Coach Sharon Angal, and sixth-grader Leslye Gonzalez and her mother Soledad, met with Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR, co-chair of the Congressional STEAM Caucus) and shared stories from current and former Quatama students about how the focus on STEAM positively affects students' learning and extends throughout their educational career. They also talked about how they worked to vertically align Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) last year and this year; how they incorporated essential questions, phenomena, arts, and language development into lesson plans; and how they have connected their Right Brain residency to their units and content.

This from the event's program: "The most striking aspect of Quatama's work...is that their approach can be replicated in nearly any school in the country, because it boils down to community partnerships and harnessing the assets of the larger community. Quatama teachers are the agents of change, and are empowered with the resources, expertise, and support needed to change students' lives."

Hillsboro School District is extremely proud of Quatama's recognition and is committed to replicating throughout our system the successes realized in our [four STEM Focus Schools](#) and our [fifteen Right Brain Initiative partner schools](#).

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The innOvation STEAM Grant Awards are sponsored by a three agency partnership of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, Americans for the Arts, and The Ovation Foundation.

Click [here](#) to see the official press release.

Click [here](#) to see a video of the recipient schools.

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