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BHE Foundation Donates \$30,000 to Support the Foundation for Education's New Art Education Initiative

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El Centro, CA – The Foundation for Education, an auxiliary organization of Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE), is pleased to announce that it has received a \$30,000 donation from the Berkshire Hathaway Energy Foundation, which supports Berkshire Hathaway Energy's commitment to education. Bari Bean, Marketing and Community Relations Manager of BHE Renewables, a Berkshire Hathaway Energy Business, presented a check to the Foundation for Education Board during the Foundation's 2nd annual Autumn & the Arts event on October 6, 2022 ([view event photos here](#)).

"We are thrilled to donate \$30,000 to support education, community enhancement, and art and culture opportunities in the Imperial Valley" said Bari Bean. "Through this donation the BHE Foundation will provide funding to ICOE's Foundation for Education to create a brand-new art initiative! The Art Education Initiative will work with students, teachers, and members of the community to expand access to the arts and build capacity in our schools to ensure all children have early and impactful art education experiences," she added.

The Foundation for Education is committed to supporting arts education and making it a priority in Imperial County. Today more than ever, creativity and appreciation for the arts is important for all students to enjoy a well-rounded education. Through this art education initiative, the Foundation for Education will be creating a new academic event focused on the arts, to ensure students throughout Imperial County, including the most vulnerable ones, have the ability to express themselves through the arts. This new annual countywide academic event will be a unique opportunity to promote and celebrate the arts in Imperial County. Expected to be hosted in the spring of 2023, this event will be added to a series of countywide academic events supported by the Foundation for Education, such as the Spelling Bee, Science Fair, Mock Trial, and more. For a complete list and schedule of ICOE's 2022-2023 academic events, please [click here](#).

"This very generous donation from the BHE Foundation will support the Foundation for Education's new art education initiative. We appreciate the partnership with the BHE Foundation and its commitment to education, arts and culture in Imperial County," stated Dr. Todd Finnell, County Superintendent of Schools and President of the Foundation for Education. "Hearing students speak about the meaning of their artwork as they prepared for our Autumn & the Arts Fundraiser and Art Exhibit was inspiring, and having an opportunity to share their talents is important to us all, which is why we decided to launch this new countywide academic event focused on the arts," added Dr. Finnell.

Arts teachers from around the county are already looking forward to having their students participate in this event. Asked about what the event will bring to her students, Southwest High School art teacher Jacqueline Pleitez answered “The experience! This countywide academic event will provide my students with the experience of displaying their artwork, an avenue to express their thoughts and ideas through visual arts, and network opportunities with community leaders. It will help build a culture of learning beyond the classroom environment and experience a real-life setting. I have students who are pursuing a career in art and it makes me very proud to see them in different community events, sharing their work.” She added “we have so much talent here in the Imperial Valley, and it’s important that we let our community know so that everyone can show support because our students are the future. Maybe one day, some of these students can become famous artists and put together shows around the world.”

Please visit foundation.icoe.org for more information about the Foundation for Education.

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About Foundation for Education:

The Foundation for Education is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization that supports students and educational programs throughout Imperial County. The Foundation is an auxiliary organization of the Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE). It provides funding for countywide student events, innovative projects, student scholarships, and other major initiatives. The Foundation focuses on the development and support of the “whole child,” with an emphasis on at-risk youth and students with special needs.

Website: foundation.icoe.org

About the BHE Foundation:

The BHE Foundation is proud to invest in CARES initiatives -- community enhancement, arts/culture, environmental respect, education/stem and safety/wellness -- in order to serve the needs of those communities where employees and customers live and work. In Imperial Valley, CA, the BHE Renewables team cultivates relationships that lead to investment opportunities to build stronger communities and improve quality of life.

About BHE Renewables

BHE Renewables is a wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Energy and is headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa. BHE Renewables owns solar, wind, geothermal and hydroelectric projects that produce energy for both the wholesale market and for customers under long-term power agreements. BHE Renewables’ 10 geothermal facilities operate as CalEnergy Operations and are based in Calipatria, California.