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### PSU/ KNEA Event 08.11

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## Pitt State/KNEA adopts Joplin classroom



Tina Springer (middle) shared at a meeting what manipulatives she bought for her East Middle School classroom in Joplin, Missouri. (l-r) Tony White, KNEA UniServ Southeast director; Susan Johns-Smith, PSU-KNEA treasurer; Springer; Blake West, KNEA president; Kenny McDougale, PSU-KNEA president.

Pittsburg State University/KNEA used \$1,200 of local funds for the Joplin Public Schools' Bright Futures Foundation Adopt-A-Classroom program that pairs up organizations and contributors with individual classrooms which were destroyed by the May tornado. PSU/KNEA was paired with a math classroom taught by Tina Springer from East Middle School, to assist with supplies and other classroom needs.

"Members voted to do this based on the severity of the impact on Joplin schools, the number of student teachers that are placed in Joplin, and the number of PSU graduates who are employed by the school district," said PSU/KNEA President Kenny McDougale. "It was the right thing to do."

When the tornado hit Joplin, "we (PSU/KNEA members, Pitt State faculty and staff) went there the first few weeks to clean up." Susan credits the PSU administration for being helpful in providing time and resources.

The Joplin School District already had the Bright Futures Foundation (<http://brightfuturesjoplin.org>) in place so those who offered help could almost immediately be put to work. Johns-Smith happened to see the Web site.

"Teachers had 90 days until classes were to start," she noted. Teachers had to get teaching materials and physical classroom items. Many purchased chairs, blackboards and other supplies out-of-pocket. Donating for the classroom was one of the first "external PR" expenses PSU/KNEA has incurred.

"Over the years we have been frugal with local dues," Johns-Smith said. "In the past we dealt with intellectual property rights issues and court costs. We just have a savings account and we know when situations arise, we have to have resources readily available," Johns-Smith said. "Our take-away is that we were able to do this quickly."

"It's a no-brainer," she added. "We support teachers and education. This is a way to let K-12 teachers know that we're here. It's overwhelmingly appropriate that this is what our local funds could be used for."

## The bulletin board

### Feb. 1 is new deadline for KNEA awards, scholarships

The deadline for KNEA awards and scholarship programs has been changed to February 1.

Find details at [www.knea.org/grants](http://www.knea.org/grants).

There are scholarships for KNEA Student Program members and teachers returning to college.

The awards programs honor those who work for education support professionals, higher education, human and civil rights and political action. Honor a Friend of Education.

Grants with varying deadlines will fund classroom and leadership projects. Promote the good work of your local association and Kansas public schools. There are many grants to help you strengthen the teaching profession and make public schools great for every child.

Find all this and more at [knea.org](http://knea.org)



Stressed that 25 percent of the country's World War I draftees were illiterate and 9 percent were physically unfit, representatives of the NEA and the American Legion met in 1919 to seek ways to generate public support for education. In 1921, the NEA Representative Assembly called for designating of one week each year to spotlight education.

American Education Week is always celebrated the week prior to the week of Thanksgiving.

Find ideas, resources and activities to celebrate the great work of teachers and students in Kansas public schools at [www.nea.org/aww](http://www.nea.org/aww).



























