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Northland Foundation approves grant for S.M.A.R.T. program

The Northland Foundation has approved a third year of funding for the Minneapolis-based nonprofit A Chance To Grow to partner with area schools in implementing S.M.A.R.T., a brain-stimulating program shown to improve reading skills. The Northland grant will provide \$8,000 toward mentoring services for educators in nine elementary schools in Duluth and across the northeast region. Teachers who have already been trained in S.M.A.R.T. qualify for receiving these services. Funds will also be designated for a S.M.A.R.T. workshop, which will be held in Duluth this summer and open to all area schools.

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The Minnesota Learning Resource Center (MLRC), the teacher-training institute of A Chance To Grow, provides the mentoring services to help educators implement the proper technique of S.M.A.R.T. activities and organize their schedules to increase time efficiency and productivity. In addition, the MLRC mentors are experienced educators who are eager to help teachers understand the science behind S.M.A.R.T., how its daily activities stimulate the brain, and leads to improved reading and learning skills.

The S.M.A.R.T. workshop is a highly energetic event. It encourages educators to view children developmentally, and shows how a set of movement activities can train the brain to perform automatic tasks vital to learning. A Chance To Grow, a nonprofit agency founded in 1982, works to help all children – from those with brain injuries to those who struggle to learn for any reason. Today, the organization has expanded its educational, therapeutic and rehabilitative services to help low-income children across Minnesota and the country. It works with over 3,000 teachers in 250 schools across 12 states, which affects more than 60,000 students.

For additional information regarding the MLRC and its S.M.A.R.T. workshops, call Nancy Farnham or Amy Deden at 612-706-5549 or visit <http://www.themlrc.org>.

For additional information regarding A Chance To Grow, call 612-789-1236 or visit <http://www.actg.org>.

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