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**California Casualty Ready to Help Washington Schools with**

**2017 Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grants**

*San Mateo, CA, October 1, 2016 –* Public High Schools and Middle Schools in Washington in need of financial help for their sports programs are urged to apply for a California Casualty Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant. Qualifying teams can score up to $3,000. Applications must be received at [www.calcasathleticsgrant.com](http://www.calcasathleticsgrant.com) by January 15, 2017 for consideration for the 2016/2017 year.

The grant is named after California Casualty Chairman Emeritus Tom Brown, who is a firm believer that lessons taught on the playing field – teamwork, confidence and sportsmanship – help develop youth who are more engaged in the classroom and the community.

Since its inception in 2011, over $500,000 has been awarded to more than 400 high schools across the nation. Last year, Connell High School, Oak Harbor High, Seattle World School and South Kitsap High School (Port Orchard) shared $6,000 that helped:

* Connell High purchase balls and shoes for the girls bowling team
* Oak Harbor High to provide rain jackets and uniforms for the girls golf team and purchase uniforms for the freshmen football team
* Seattle World School acquire equipment for the soccer team, participation in which has improved grades, attendance and self-worth for students from diverse backgrounds
* South Kitsap High to buy a tent to protect athletes on the track team from inclement Washington weather during competitions

“All students should be guaranteed a great education and also a chance to pursue their sports dreams. We are dedicated to helping educators in both pursuits,” said Doug Goldberg, Senior Vice President.

This year, middle schools are now eligible to apply. Applications are now being taken at [www.calcasathleticsgrant.com](http://www.calcasathleticsgrant.com). The deadline for consideration is January 15, 2017, with 2016/2017 recipients announced in April.

California Casualty has other initiatives that give back to educators for all their hard work including the $2,500 Academic Award, [www.calcasacademicaward.com](http://www.calcasacademicaward.com), and $200 Help Your Classroom grants, www.calcas.com/help-your-classroom.

*Founded in 1914, California Casualty proudly provides the Washington Education Association’s NEA® Auto & Home Insurance Program*. *Headquartered in San Mateo, California, with Service Centers in Arizona, Colorado and Kansas, California Casualty has been led by four generations of the Brown family. To learn more about California Casualty, or to request an auto insurance quote, please visit* [*www.calcas.com*](http://www.calcas.com)*/mhawkins or call 1.866.813.1434.*