### **PRESS RELEASE**

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School District Releases Annual Report on

the Williams College Fund for Mt. Greylock

Investments Made in Professional and

Curricular Development and Technology

Williamstown, Mass.—October 23, 2014—Mt. Greylock Regional School released today its third annual report on how investments from the Williams College Fund for Mt. Greylock affected teaching and learning at the school.

“This fund has added wind to the sails of Mt. Greylock as teachers, administrators, students, and parents work together to make this school all that it can be,” said Tri-District Superintendent Dr. Rose Ellis. “As a result, our curriculum is broader, our teachers are full of fresh ideas, and our students are taking more initiative in their learning.”

Members of the extended Jeffrey Family, which has a long association with Williams, has given funds, which, when supplemented by local donors, has made available $777,000 to support innovation at the school. Spending from the fund began in the 2011-12 academic year and is expected to run through 2015-16.

In 2013-14 the fund provided a variety of professional development opportunities including:

* Social studies teachers working with the International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE) and each other to assess student needs as a guide to evolving their course offerings and pedagogy
* Similar work among ICLE and math and science teachers, including the alignment of the math curriculum with Common Core Standards
* Mt. Greylock and Williams faculty and students collaborating on labs and units in the sciences and social studies to deepen students’ experiences of inquiry-based learning.

“The opportunity to work closely with coach Erika Tate to redesign my curriculum so it addresses the Next Generation Science Standards, incorporates more technology, and is inquiry-based means so much to me,” said 8th Grade Science Teacher Sue Strizzi. “Students are asking questions and taking ownership of 8th grade science in ways they never have.”

Among many steps taken to expand curricular and co-curricular offering were the following:

* Students studying Mandarin using a curriculum developed for them by the Williams Asian Studies Department
* Students pursuing independent work in fashion merchandising, French, German, microbiology, and website development
* Launching the first Ada Lovelace writing competition, in which students researched and honored women in mathematics.

Technology purchases included:

* 39 LCD projectors, covering 95 percent of classrooms
* 50 laptops to advance innovative teaching, learning, and assessment in the middle school
* Completion of the digital photography and video lab, including new software.

“The college is grateful to the donors to this important fund and is encouraged by the creative and effective uses to which Mt. Greylock has been putting it,” said Williams President Adam Falk. “The benefits of this developing of a culture of collaborative innovation at Mt. Greylock will benefit the students, the school, and the community for many years to come.”

The full annual report is available at <http://www.wlschools.org/page.cfm?p=522>.

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