

News Release  
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## Grants Fund Lab Equipment for DeKalb High School

Thanks to local foundations, the DeKalb High School science department is outfitting a college-level laboratory at the high school. The science department received grants from both the DeKalb County Community Foundation and the DeKalb Education Foundation to purchase needed equipment.

Teacher Isabelle Kovarik wrote the grant requests, totaling more than \$5,000. In October, the DeKalb Education Foundation awarded the high school \$1,496 for a micro centrifuge. This month the science department received a grant for \$3,565 from the DeKalb County Community Foundation to purchase a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machine. A PCR machine duplicates DNA for testing. The machine automates the process of DNA replication, eliminating the need to use bacteria.



Tim Suter of the DeKalb County Community Foundation presents a grant check to Isabelle Kovarik. Sue Wong and principal Lindsey Hall were also on hand for the presentation.

Students in Advanced Placement Biology will use the equipment as part of their molecular biology lab work. Molecules and cells make up approximately 25% of AP Biology course content. Biology teacher Sue Wong said students learn key skills needed for forensic science in molecular lab projects. Students have previously performed this lab work at Northern Illinois University during the summers.