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For Immediate Release

**TRAWICK FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
\$150,000 TEAMUP GRANT AWARD
*S'Team Sligo***

A 21st century project to develop middle school youth leaders

The Trawick Foundation is pleased to announce a grant award to *S'Team Sligo*, a team of four nonprofits serving a diverse group of middle school youth attending Sligo Middle School (Sligo). The lead nonprofit organization Big Learning, a.k.a. MCCPTA Educational Programs, partners with Class Acts Arts, Passion 4 Learning and Sligo. The grant award is for \$150,000 with two option years funded at the same level if the prior year's objectives are met.

This innovative year-long project is designed to develop a corps of student leaders who represent a cross section of the entire Sligo community and who can model academic excellence, collaboration and engagement for their peers, families, and students within Sligo. The team of 24 students, 6th and 7th graders, will be responsible for planning and ultimately executing a Community Learning Day to be held one year hence on Saturday, September 26, 2015.

Sligo's focus on environmental issues through the Maryland Green School program provides a real world platform for the youth to be engaged through "STEAM" activities such as outdoor adventure, artistic creation, scientific exploration and multi-media communications as they develop their leadership and team building skills.

"Collaboration among nonprofits has proven to be a successful strategy." said Carol Trawick, President. "We are excited to see this partnership of four organizations that will bring their unique competencies to a program designed to engage and build a team of student leaders from the Sligo community."

The TeamUp grant program encourages nonprofits to work in partnership in order to maximize the utilization of their resources and to employ best business practices. The participating nonprofits were required to attend a briefing session, seminars on budget development and outcomes, and meetings with a Foundation consultant to develop and enhance their collaborative process. Further consulting support will be given the *S'Team Sligo* team members to assure adequate program evaluation.