Message from the Board Chair

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

It has been my privilege to serve with a very dedicated Board of Directors this year and it is with great pride and excitement that I share our 2012-2013 Annual Report with you.

The Alexandria Public Schools Education Foundation (APSEF) is a growing organization which is governed by a 13 member volunteer board. The foundation has had a significant impact on District 206.

Thanks to the support of many, the foundation has:

• Awarded 21 grants totaling over $75,000 to Alexandria School District 206 teachers and schools to fund innovative teaching ideas.
• Raised $4,000,000 to support the construction of the new Alexandria Area High School.

Currently over $1.5 million has been applied to the high school project.

What’s remarkable is that this has been accomplished in five short years (2009-2013) through the generosity of those who have stepped up and donated to the foundation!

Through the Innovation Grant Program, the foundation has increased learning opportunities for students in every school and at all grade levels. The foundation fills a unique role in District 206. We strive to be the catalyst that turns an innovative teaching idea into action! Each year thoughtful and caring teachers write creative applications for funds that will bring their idea to life. These ideas may include new teaching materials to support curriculum, or the use of new technologies in the classroom so that teachers are able to make learning much more interactive and engaging for students. With financial support from the foundation, projects featuring several technology platforms, including iPads, ebooks, robotics, and interactive response systems were implemented across the district this past school year. We expect the interest and need to continue to grow.

Our ability to support innovative, quality educational experiences in the classroom depends upon the strength of our financial resources. I encourage you to renew your pledge or consider a donation. Together, we can make an impact and increase learning opportunities for all district students.

Sincerely,

Greg Trumm, Chair

Greg is an Alexandria resident, business owner, 1979 Jefferson graduate, and proud father of three daughters that all graduated from District 206.

APSEF Board of Directors
Back row l to r: Rick Lahn, Craig Andrews, Christine Pohlig Reilly, Susan Scarborough, Amy Wensman.
Seated l to r: Jerry Hansen, Judy Backhaus, Keith Hoeschen, Sylvia Christopherson, Greg Trumm.
Not pictured: Chad Larson, Heidi Ryan, Becky Nelson Zwilling.
Congratulations to the Alumni Hall of Fame 2012 Inductees!
The Alexandria Public Schools Education Foundation established the "Alumni Hall of Fame" in an effort to honor outstanding alumni who have earned distinction or achievement in their chosen field.

The 2012 inductees, recognized at the Hall of Fame Luncheon Celebration on September 21, 2012 were: John Hawkes, Class of 1977, critically acclaimed film and television actor; Joani Nielsen, Class of 1985, entrepreneur and business owner; and Richard "Bud" Peterson, 1940 graduate, renowned World War II fighter ace and architect in Minnesota.

Three Honorees Chosen for Foundation 2013 Hall of Fame
The Alexandria Public Schools Education Foundation in partnership with Alexandria Public Schools is pleased to announce the 2013 Alumni Hall of Fame Honorees.

Three individuals will be honored at this year’s Luncheon – Vern Anderson, Class of 1960, co-founder of three major manufacturing businesses and Andes Tower Hills; Robert “Bob” Roubik, 1957 graduate, chief nurse anesthetist at George Washington University, teacher and researcher; Marge VanGorp, Class of 1941, writer/author/genealogist/community volunteer.

These individuals will be honored at the 7th annual Hall of Fame Luncheon Celebration. The event is open to the public and is set for Friday, September 27 from 12:00-1:15 p.m. at the Broadway Ballroom in Alexandria. For ticket information contact Susan Scarborough, foundation treasurer, at (320) 762-3310, extension 4271.

Making A Lasting Difference
The Alexandria Public Schools Education Foundation (APSEF) raises funds to support innovative programs and initiatives that support student learning. The foundation’s annual pledge drive, along with two special events – the Hall of Fame and Jeans & Jewels Gala – raised more than $45,000 last fall. A portion of the monies raised help strengthen the foundation’s endowment fund, as well as the teacher grants program, to help ensure future excellence and innovation in our schools.

“On behalf of the entire foundation, we’d like to thank all the patrons and volunteers for making these events so successful,” said foundation chair Greg Trumm. “Our success means that our students and teachers can have important resources that can make the teaching and learning environment even more meaningful.”

The Innovation Grant program is designed to provide teachers with the opportunity to improve student achievement and learning through innovative and creative practices. Qualifying projects are proposed by teachers and administrators, and are evaluated in a competitive review process by APSEF board members. Those which best meet the foundation’s objectives are recommended for funding and implementation.

Students district-wide have benefited from projects funded in the areas of technology equipment; literacy enrichment and intervention programs and equipment; materials for math, reading and writing improvement; science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs.

The Education Foundation is independent from the School District but works closely with the Board of Education and District 206. It is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of business and community leaders, parents, alumni, retired teachers, and staff members. Donations from supporters are an investment in current and future students. For more information on the work of the foundation or to donate online, visit www.alexandria.k12.mn.us/fd/

Saying Farewell to Jefferson
Jefferson High School is retiring at the end of the 2013-2014 school year and District 206 is starting to plan for ways to honor the school’s proud history. It’s a building that has been in existence for almost 55 years, serving over five decades of students and families. If you would like to be involved in planning activities to honor Jefferson, contact Jill Johnson, District 206 communications coordinator, at (320) 762-2141 ext. 4202.
MAJOR GIFTS
Bruce and Kathleen Pohlig, $40,000 in support of Jefferson High School music program
Anonymous Donor, Class of 1988, $50,000

SILVER ($1,001 - $2,500)
Richard and Diane Nelson Bruce and Kathleen Pohlig Terry and Susan Quist

BRONZE ($225 - $1,000)
Lee and Judy Backhaus Brenda and Tracy Boogart Mitch and Julie Critz Chad and Kathy Duwenhoeger Bill and Barb Egger Scott and Janell Gronholz Jim and Wanda Hafner Scott and Natalie Heckert

TERRY K. LEWIS
Thomas and Ruth Obert Randy and Amy Amundson Paul and Amy Amundson

BRENT AND SALLY SMITH
Michael and Susan Scarborough

MARK AND SARA ILLIES
Ken and Heidi Ryan David and Joyce Rogosheske Paul and Sally Ringdahl

CLAYTON AND JUDY HOVDA
Alan and Kathy Grundele Jerome and Joyce Guenther Brent and Marilyn Baldwin Virginia and Marie Batsole Greg Billberg

KAREN K. EMHRETSON
Bill and Lynn Thoennes

KIM EMMET
Kathy Fischer

TOM AND ANGIE ANDERSON
Carol and Andrew Bissett and Maria Batsole and Tonya Elsen and Tom Elsen

JANE FOSSTOM AND JERRY MCKENZIE
Judy and Tonya Elsen

JERRY MCKENZIE
Shane and Victoria Schaaf

TOM AND JILL PARTINGTON
Ann and Gerald Stoeck

DEAN AND ANNETTA KNOWLES
Bill and Mary Lou Moll

Terry and Susan Quist

It’s Time to Renew Your Membership!
If you haven’t done so already, please take a moment to renew your annual donation to the Alexandria Public Schools Education Foundation (APSEF) using the enclosed envelope. You can also help the APSEF reduce renewal notice mailing costs by pledging securely online at https://www.givewpx.com/tax/2013/.

Simply click on the Donate Online link on the left hand side of the page and you will be redirected to the West Central Initiative Fund (our fiscal agent) website.

If you are a District 260 staff member and already signed up for automatic payroll deduction those contributions will continue as usual and the amount that is your membership will always be current!
Donations to APSEF are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

If you prefer to mail a check, please address it to: Alexandria Public Schools Education Foundation, PO Box 308, Alexandria, MN 56308.

If your name has been omitted or misspelled, please accept our apology and please notify us so that your membership will always be current!
Donations to APSEF are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

If you prefer to mail a check, please address it to: Alexandria Public Schools Education Foundation, PO Box 308, Alexandria, MN 56308.
Innovative Teaching Grants

Foundation Awards $20,000 in Teacher Grants for 2013-2014

The foundation recently awarded $20,000 in teacher grants to fund student-engaged projects planned for the 2013-2014 school year that will enrich learning and encourage classroom innovation. Projects funded include:

- $7,400 will provide for the purchase of ultrabooks, tablets, iPads, and iPad minis in order to expand on the secondary instructional and learning process in select math, science, social and world languages classrooms.

- $3,500 will allow for a more challenging and rigorous level of glass fusion for 6th graders; introduce glass blowing and glass fusion for high school curriculum; and continue and expand glass fusion through District 206 Community Education. Grant dollars will allow for the purchase of kilns, glass accessories and supplies, along with glass blowing training.

- $3,500 will provide for updating sewing technology by purchasing computerized machines, curriculum and design software to support middle school family & consumer sciences curriculum. It will also allow for the use of unconventional materials to learn production skills, technical reading, entrepreneurship, vocational skills and teamwork.

- $3,300 will provide for the purchase of iPads and ProScope handheld digital microscopes in order to explore materials, record information, and take pictures, promoting scientific thinking and problem solving skills.

- $2,300 will enable students to collaborate with peers, analyze and synthesize information and utilize technology skills to create digital stories. Using an iPad for video recording, a green screen, and an iMac for video editing, students will bring science, social studies, and literacy to life as they share what they have learned.

Scholarship Awards

Seeds for Future Learning Scholarships

This scholarship established by Richard and Shirley Klimek provides for two $400 scholarships to students who have an interest in pursuing a college degree in business, education, manufacturing, or agriculture. Christine Polihak Reilly, foundation board member, (pictured left), poses with one of the 2013 “Seeds for Future Learning” scholarship recipients, Michael Wastine. Not pictured: Dyon Ward.

Class of 1988 Scholarships

Through a $50,000 contribution to the foundation endowment from a generous 1988 Jefferson High School graduate, one male and one female graduate pursuing a degree in education, health care, or the arts will each receive a $1,000 scholarship. Postsecondary plans can include either a 2-year or 4-year program. Pictured left: 2013 “Class of 1988” scholarship recipients, Megan Shelden and Robin Larson.

High School Project Update

Thanks to a capital campaign spearheaded by the foundation in 2011, $4 million was raised to support the construction of the new Alexandria Area High School.

The three-story classroom wing is well underway and you can start to feel the spaces taking shape. The exterior metal stud framing is complete and fireproofing is being applied. As weather permits, contractors will complete the roofing systems, concrete work, exterior brick, and window installation.

Throughout the gymnasium and performing arts areas the roofing systems are complete and mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) systems are being installed.

Over the student commons “the heart of the school”, the glu laminated beams and roof structure is being installed.

On the site, road ways are in and utilities are complete. Over the summer and fall, contractors will complete final site work for the fields, stadium, tennis courts, parking lots, and landscaping.

To view the construction site webcam and monthly progress updates, visit www.alexandria.k12.mn.us/phaseII.

Milestone Reunion

In partnership with School District 206, the foundation supports opportunities for alumni to gather together. What better opportunity to plan something unique and special than with the opening of a new state-of-the-art high school?

Alexandria Area High School is expected to be ready for the opening of school in September 2014. More important, it should also be ready for tours during the summer or fall when many classes are holding reunions. Five-year to fifty-year milestone anniversary classes in 2014 include: 2009, 2004, 1999, 1994, 1989, 1984, 1979, 1974, 1969, and 1964. We’re looking for ideas on how to reconnect our alumni to celebrate the past but also to get a glimpse of the future!

If you are interested in serving on the Milestone Reunion 2014 committee, please contact Jill Johnson at alumni@alexandria.k12.mn.us.