



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 2014 Annual Report with you.

Since 2003, the Alexandria Education Foundation has partnered with Alexandria Public Schools to support student excellence and expanding learning opportunities for all students. During that span, **the Foundation has contributed over \$2,375,000 in grants, scholarships and capital gifts.**

Many great things are happening as a direct result of the Foundation's work. One example is the Foundation's Innovative Grant Program. This program provides the opportunity for teachers to apply for grants that transform ideas into instructional programs that engage, inspire and excite students. Projects funded by the Foundation expand classroom experiences beyond the boundaries of the school district's budget. The Foundation is making it possible to expand learning opportunities for students and contributing to a culture of excellence in District 206! As an alumnus of this great school district, that makes me proud and inspires me!

Yet, we've only just begun to respond to the creative ideas teachers are bringing to us. Our ability to support innovative, quality educational experiences in the classroom depends upon the strength of our financial resources.

Currently our endowment is over \$300,000. **Our goal is to grow our endowment to \$1,000,000 so that the Foundation can invest \$50,000 annually into our classrooms.** Grants would go directly to support:

- Students in developing essential knowledge and skills
- Students in every building and every grade level
- The Arts and Academies of Alexandria

None of the Foundation's work would be possible without you. Your tax-deductible gift to the Foundation directly affects the academic life of students both today and for years to come. I encourage you to join me and invest in excellence today!

Sincerely,

Greg Trumm, Chair
Jefferson High School, Class of 1979



AEF Board of Directors

Back row l to r: Greg Trumm, Judy Backhaus, Jean Bristow, Chad Larson, Keith Hoeschen.

Front row l to r: Becky Nelson Zwilling, Christine Pohlig Reilly, Susan Scarborough, Craig Olson, Randy Winger.

Not pictured: Craig Andrews, Bonnie Schnell.

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LEAVE A LEGACY®

The Alexandria Education Foundation (AEF) supports educational excellence and a passion for learning by partnering with our community. Our focus is on funding projects above and beyond the scope of the state budget and local tax dollars.

Funds raised will directly impact students through grants to classroom teachers and other funded projects that help support initiatives that further the mission and educational goals of the School District.



How you can help

As a stakeholder in providing a quality education for our

students, we hope you will join us in supporting the AEF. Through our affiliation with the West Central Initiative Foundation, who manages our fund, a full range of planned giving vehicles and access to gift planning assistance is available to donors.

Making a Gift

To make a gift simply mail a check to:

**Alexandria Education Foundation
PO Box 308, Alexandria, MN 56308.**

You may also donate online at:

www.alexandria.k12.mn.us/edfoundation.

click on the Donate Online page.

Contact Susan Scarborough,
foundation treasurer, for more
details at (320) 808-8437.

Alumni Hall of Fame

Congratulations to the Alumni Hall of Fame 2014 Inductees!

The Alexandria 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 2014 inductees, recognized at the Hall of Fame Luncheon Celebration on September 19, 2014, were: **Mary Kathryn Bursch**, Class of 1978, award-winning broadcast journalist at WTSP 10 News in the Tampa Bay area; **Mark Lundstrom**, Class of 1969, a professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Purdue University, founding director of the National Science Foundation’s Network for Computational Nanotechnology, and author; and **Paul McCabe**, Class of 1978, and a retired FBI special agent.



Mary Kathryn Bursch



Mark Lundstrom



Paul McCabe

2015 Hall of Fame Call for Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for the Alexandria Education Foundation Hall of Fame class of 2015. The deadline to submit nominees for the 2015 class will be April 24, 2015.

Anyone may submit a nomination and the Foundation Board will make honoree selections based on the following criteria:

- Nominees must have graduated from an Alexandria High School in 1995 or earlier, or must have retired from District 206 after serving in the District for a minimum of 10 years.
- Nominees must have realized distinctive achievements in their chosen field(s) that include such areas as business, education, science, professions or community service.
- Nominees may or may not be currently holding the position(s) in which they achieved major success.
- Nominees may be living or deceased.

Nominations can be submitted via the online form link at:

www.alexandria.k12.mn.us/halloffame. A list of previous honorees can be viewed on this page as well. All nominations received by April 24, 2015 will be considered. The Foundation Board will make the final selection of inductees with names announced in May. Those not selected will remain in the pool for future consideration. The 2015 inductees will be recognized at a luncheon in their honor on Friday, October 2, 2015 in connection with Alexandria homecoming festivities. For more information, contact Susan Scarborough at (320) 808-8437 or by email at info@alexeducationfoundation.org.



Save the Dates!

OCTOBER 2, 2015, 12:00 p.m., Broadway Ballroom – Hall of Fame Luncheon honoring the 2015 Inductees (to be named).

OCTOBER 2, 2015, 6:30 p.m., Broadway Ballroom – Jeans & Jewels Gala Event - “Music Makes the World Go Round” is this year’s theme. This special event is an event to thank all Foundation donors, as well as a fundraiser open to the public. The event features a silent auction, along with the opportunity to win special event prizes.

JEANS 7th & Jewels
Annual Gala Event

OCTOBER 3, 2015, Alexandria Homecoming. Community Parade, 11:00 a.m., Football Game, Alexandria Cardinals vs. Rocori, 2:00 p.m. kick-off.

NOVEMBER 12, 2015, All Day – Give to the Max Day As you consider your charitable end-of-year giving, please consider participating in Give to the Max Day. To make a gift visit: <https://givemn.org/> and in the Find A Cause field type: Alexandria Education Foundation.



Alexandria Education Foundation hosts successful events; proceeds directly benefit District 206 students

The Alexandria Education Foundation (AEF) hosted its annual Hall of Fame Luncheon and Jeans & Jewels Gala at the Broadway Ballroom as part of School District 206 homecoming festivities. Proceeds from the events, which totaled nearly \$10,000, will go to fund innovative teaching ideas that increase learning opportunities for all District 206 students.

AEF established the Hall of Fame event to honor deserving District 206 alumni and staff for excellence, accomplishments, and recognition in their field. This year, three individuals were inducted as the Hall of Fame class of 2014 – Mary Kathryn Bursch, Mark Lundstrom, and Paul McCabe. More than 225 alumni, family, friends, and community members attended the luncheon held September 19.

Later that evening, the Foundation hosted the Jeans & Jewels Gala around the theme of “The Game Show Edition.” Over 350 attended this special event which serves as an appreciation event for all foundation contributors, an opportunity for potential members to learn more about the Foundation, as well as a fundraiser open to the public. The event featured jewelry prize drawings, silent auction items, a live auction, a ‘Foundation Feud’ competition, and special event prizes courtesy of local donors.



Paul McCabe, a retired FBI special agent, and Mary Kathryn Bursch, an award-winning broadcast journalist, pose proudly with their plaques following their induction into the Alexandria Public Schools Hall of Fame.



Winners gather around the jewelry display to claim their prizes.



The team of Alexandria volunteer fire fighters, led by Alexandria Fire Marshal Dennis Stark, won the “Foundation Feud” competition over participating teams of attorneys, educators, and healthcare workers who were all helping to raise funds for the Foundation.



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(Gifts received June 2013 through December 31, 2014)

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We apologize for possible inaccuracies in this listing of our contributors. Please advise the Foundation of corrections by calling (320) 808-8437.

AEF Wants to do More!

Your tax-deductible donation directly benefits all who are involved in our extraordinary school system. Invest in excellence today!

The Students: All gifts to the Alexandria Education Foundation directly affect the academic life of students both today and for years to come.

The Teachers: We provide a means for teachers to apply for grants that transform ideas into instructional programs that engage, inspire and excite students. These are projects that can make a significant difference in students' educational experience.

The Alexandria Area Community: Our schools are at the heart of our community, and the educational experience helps shape the quality of life here. It's in the interest of all stakeholders – students, parents, grandparents, alumni, staff, and property and business owners – to maintain our district's reputation for educational excellence.

Foundation Awards \$17,649 in Teacher Innovation Grants

The Alexandria Education Foundation (AEF) is pleased to announce the 2014 Teacher Innovation Grant Awards. The Foundation recently awarded **\$17,649** in teacher grants to fund student-engaged projects planned for the 2014-2015 school year that will enrich learning and encourage classroom innovation. Projects funded include:



- **SMART Tables**
School: Miltons Science Magnet Elementary
Grades: K-5
Submitted by: Christie Converse
Award: **\$7,649**

The SMART table is a mobile tool (on wheels) that allows teachers to adapt quickly to meet the needs of students at varying academic levels, supports standards-based education, engages students, and encourages collaboration among students.



- **Physics in Manufacturing, Building of Remote Control Cars Class Project**
School: Alexandria Area High School
Grades: 10, 11, 12
Submitted by: Tom Ellison, Industrial Technology Teacher & Todd Dahleisid, Physics Teacher
Award: **\$10,000**

Funding will support the Physics in Manufacturing course at Alexandria Area High School. In this course, students will experience inquiry-based learning by applying physical science concepts to design and build an electric car using equipment related to manufacturing industries. Students will apply motion by applying concepts of Velocity, Acceleration, Inertia, Force, Momentum, Energy and Torque. Through the design of the car, students will apply the principles of Electricity, Thermodynamics, and Magnetism.

Annually, AEF invites the district's teachers and staff to submit grant applications for projects and programs that will have a meaningful impact on students. The grant requests are primarily in the areas of engineering, core curriculum subjects, technology, and arts programs.

Since 2009, AEF has distributed grants and gifts totaling more than \$150,000 that have directly supported:

- Students in developing essential knowledge and skills
- Students in every building and every grade level
- The Arts and Academies of Alexandria

AEF Board Opportunities

The AEF's Board of Directors is comprised of volunteer individuals who are committed to sustaining the tradition of excellence in District 206 schools. New board member terms start in January. In 2015, the Board will welcome Eric Karlstad, Director of Student Success at Alexandria Technical & Community College, and a 1987 Jefferson High School Alum, to the Board. Other board members are pictured and listed on the cover page.



No special experience is required, just a passion for excellence in education! If you are interested in serving on the AEF Board, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email us at info@alexeducationfoundation.org if you would like to be considered for a board position at a future time.

Scholarship Awards

The Foundation wants to build a financial cornerstone for investing in students and teachers in Alexandria Public Schools. One of the ways we do that is by helping students attain college degrees. Through a competitive scholarship process, the Foundation financially supports students in the transition from high school to 2 to 4-year colleges. The purpose is to make the cost of a college education more affordable for students. Over the last six years, our organization has awarded **\$10,000 to 16 graduating seniors**.



The **Seeds for Future Learning Scholarship** provides for two \$400 scholarships to students who have an interest in pursuing a college degree in business, education, manufacturing, or agriculture.

Chad Larson, foundation board member, (pictured middle), poses with the 2014 "Seeds for Future Learning" scholarship recipients, Brett Ludwig (left) and Chase Kohler (right).



The **Class of 1988 Scholarship** fund was created through a generous 1988 Jefferson High School graduate. These scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each are awarded to one male and one female who plan to pursue a degree in education, health care, or the arts.

Congratulations to the 2014 "Class of 1988" scholarship recipients, Brett Ludwig (left) and Megan Bristow (right).

Capital Campaign Appreciation Luncheon & AAHS Tour

On June 24, 2014, AEF hosted an appreciation luncheon and tour of Alexandria Area High School (AAHS) for capital campaign donors that generously pledged \$4 million in private financial support for the new high school. The luncheon and tour were a great success with more than 150 in attendance.

Tours led by high school student ambassadors highlighted the design features of the building. The Academic wings showcased the Academies of Alexandria and the Foundation's support of college readiness and college preparation. The donor wall and designated room signage acknowledged Capital Campaign gifts. Many technology features throughout the building were made possible through Foundation support of teacher grants with a focus on technology that supports personalized and hands-on learning.

