



## Message from the Board Chair

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

The purpose of an annual report is to let donors and community members know the results of an organization's work – both financially and in furthering its mission. This report will highlight the Foundation's work in 2016 and how we used your gifts to advance our mission. The purpose of my letter is simply to say, **thank you**. The students of Alexandria Public Schools are the reason why we do what we do, but you are the reason we can do what we do.

The Alexandria Education Foundation helps the teachers of Alexandria Public Schools make an impact on students every day. Because of the generosity of our donors, and the impact of the annual teacher grant program, you will find technology, curriculum, equipment and books funded through the Foundation in every school across the district. This means students have more opportunities, enhanced learning experiences, and the tools they need to succeed.

The Foundation also plays a key role in connecting our alumni, businesses and community members together with the opportunity to have a positive and intentional impact on students. In fact, the Foundation has **contributed over \$4.34 million in grants, scholarships, and capital gifts** in support of education in Alexandria.

A group of volunteer citizens from the Alexandria Area governs the Foundation. Fulfilling their terms and stepping down from the Board at the end of 2016 are Bonnie Schnell and Randy Winger. Their visionary leadership and strong support helped provide extraordinary educational experiences for our students.

Thank you for your financial support. None of the Foundation's work would be possible without you. We look forward to seeing you and working with you in the year ahead to continue the tradition of excellence in Alexandria Public Schools.

With gratitude,

*Christine Reilly*

Christine Reilly, Chair

Jefferson High School, Class of 1993



### AEF Board of Directors

**Back row (l to r):** Patrick Kalina, Tom Ellison, Josh Tatge, Jean Bristow, Judy Backhaus, Dana Christenson.

**Front row (l to r):** Anthony Zimny, Julie Critz (ex-officio), Eric Karlstad, Craig Olson, Christine Reilly.

**Not pictured:** Keith Hoeschen, Sarah O'Kane, Jay Sieling.

## Inside...

- Alumni Hall of Fame
- Save the Dates!
- 2016 Successful Events
- Annual Donors
- New Board Members
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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 West Central Initiative, 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.alexeducationfoundation.org](http://www.alexeducationfoundation.org)

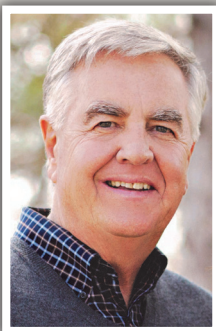


# Alumni Hall of Fame

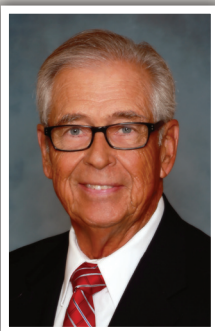
## Congratulations to the Alumni Hall of Fame 2016 Inductees!

The Alumni Hall of Fame was created in 2007 as a means to honor graduates, or any staff or faculty member, who has earned distinction or achievement in their professional field.

The 2016 inductees, recognized at the Hall of Fame Luncheon Celebration on October 1, 2016 were: **William (Bill) Flaig**, Class of 1967, retired Douglas County Hospital administrator; **Wayne Elton**, retired District 206 principal and administrator; **Kathryn (LeRoy) LeBrasseur**, Class of 1948, community champion of senior causes; **Thomas William Flaig, M.D.**, Class of 1991, and Associate Professor of Medical Oncology at the University of Colorado.



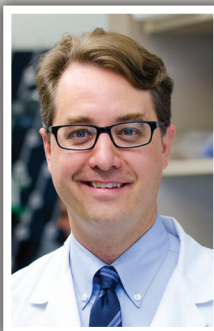
Bill Flaig



Wayne Elton



Kathryn LeBrasseur



Thomas Flaig, M.D.

## 2017 Hall of Fame Call for Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for the Alexandria Education Foundation Hall of Fame class of 2017. The deadline to submit nominees for the 2017 class will be April 7, 2017.

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 1997 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.alexeducationfoundation.org](http://www.alexeducationfoundation.org). A list of previous honorees can be viewed on this page as well. All nominations received by April 7, 2017 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 2017 inductees will be recognized at a luncheon in their honor on Friday, September 15, 2017 in connection with Alexandria homecoming festivities. For more information, call (320) 815-8254 or email [info@alexeducationfoundation.org](mailto:info@alexeducationfoundation.org).



## Save the Dates!

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2017 12:00 p.m.,**  
**Broadway Ballroom – Hall of Fame Luncheon** honoring the 2017 Inductees (to be named).

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2017, 6:30 p.m.,**  
**Broadway Ballroom – Jeans & Jewels Fundraiser**

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 and a live auction along with the opportunity to win special event prizes.

**JEANS & JEWELS**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Event**

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2017,**  
**Alexandria Homecoming.**

Community Parade, 11:00 a.m.,  
Football Game, Alexandria Cardinals vs. Brainerd, 2:00 p.m. kick-off.

**NOVEMBER 10, 2017,**  
**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://www.givemn.org/>

and in the Find A Cause field type: Alexandria Education Foundation.



## Foundation fundraiser event raises \$15,000 to help fund innovative teaching ideas



Last fall, the Foundation hosted its annual Jeans & Jewels Gala at the Broadway Ballroom around the theme of “Every Student Counts.” Over 350 attended this special event which serves as a thank you event for all Foundation contributors and a fundraiser open to the public.

The event featured jewelry prize drawings, a live auction, special events, a silent auction, and a ‘Foundation Feud’, making it a fun evening for all!

The AEF wishes to express our appreciation to all of those who attended our Jeans & Jewels fundraiser. Special thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and donors, the event planning committee, and everyone else who committed their time and energy to make this a successful evening. Proceeds from the event, which totaled nearly \$15,000, go to support grants that will enable Alexandria teachers to implement creative and innovative educational programs in the classroom.

The 9th Annual Jeans & Jewels Fundraiser has been set for Friday, September 15, 2017. The theme for the 2017 event is “Jeans & Jewels Goes Tailgating”. We invite you to mark your calendar and plan to join us!



*Emma Wilson Johnson (front) proved the big winner in a game of “Trunks & Tails” taking home half of a \$1,480 jackpot with the other half of the fundraising event benefiting the Foundation Endowment.*



*A blindfolded Wanda Hafdal gets encouragement from Dana Christenson (left) in a game of “Pin the Tail on the Donkey” in hopes of winning one of two Fitbits!*



*Bria Pedraza is all smiles as she shows off the watch she won in a jewelry prize drawing at the event.*



*Jean Bristow watches Eric Karlstad choose a combination from a list of possibilities in hopes it will open one of three ballot boxes holding valuable gift baskets in “The Right Combination” special event.*





# Foundation Donors

*(Gifts received January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016)*

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Craig & Becky Zwilling

## GIVE TO THE MAX DAY DONATIONS

Paul & Judy Florell  
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Joan B. Larson  
Michael & Susan Scarborough

## OTHER GIFTS

Alexandria Fire Dept. Relief Assn  
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Farrel Bergner  
Jeff & Bonnie Brand  
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*In honor of Wayne Elton*  
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Marjorie Van Gorp

## MATCHING GIFTS

Douglas Machine Inc.  
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New York Life Insurance

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

AAHS Sunshine Fund,  
*In memory of Amelia Rostedt*  
Lynn M. Anderson,  
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Brittany Lynk,  
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Diane Merrifield,  
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Terry & Susan Quist,  
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Terry & Susan Quist,  
*In memory of Harriet Buhl*

Terry & Susan Quist,  
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Shirley Whitten,  
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Junnell Widmark,  
*In memory of Bill Heegaard*  
Junnell Widmark,  
*In memory of Josie Heegaard*

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*We apologize for possible inaccuracies in this listing of our contributors. Please advise the Foundation of corrections by calling (320) 815-8254.*

## Connect with the Alexandria Education Foundation

We want to keep you informed and hear from you.

Visit [www.alexeducationfoundation.org](http://www.alexeducationfoundation.org) for upcoming events and to sign up for our newsletter.

Become a fan and stay connected with the Alexandria Education Foundation. On Facebook, Like Us by visiting: [www.facebook.com/alexedfound](http://www.facebook.com/alexedfound) and on Twitter follow us at @AlexEdFound206.





## Alexandria Education Foundation Awards \$40,000 in Teacher Innovation Grants



The Foundation recently awarded **\$40,000.38** in teacher grants to fund nine student-engaged projects planned for the 2016-2017 school year that will impact over 3,700 students across all buildings and grade levels K-12. AEF Teacher Grants help our teachers bring more creativity, innovation, and inspiration into classrooms. Projects funded include:

### Using Technology to Enhance Reading Standards

Teachers: Kari Johnson & Elizabeth Billberg  
School: Voyager Elementary  
Students Impacted: 75 – 3rd grade  
Amount Funded: \$1,245

### Health Applications Manikin Lab Expansion

Teacher: Meg Simon  
School: Alexandria Area High School  
Students Impacted: 75 – 11th and 12th grade  
Amount Funded: \$5,554

### Making Music in the 21st Century & Beyond

Teachers: Joelle Bureson, Rhonda Blaser, Lynn Johnson, Kayla Noble  
Schools: All Elementary Schools  
Students Impacted: 1,758 – K-5th grade  
Amount Funded: \$5,000

### iPads in the Science Classroom

Teacher: Barb Walswick  
School: Lincoln Elementary  
Students Impacted: 490 – K-5th grade  
Amount Funded: \$3,812

### Green Screen: bring writing to life

Teacher: Ben Kettler  
School: Voyager Elementary  
Students Impacted: 90 – 2nd grade  
Amount Funded: \$1,431

### Science: Project and Problem Based Learning

Teacher: Kelley Swan  
School: Woodland Elementary  
Students Impacted: 230 – 4th and 5th grade  
Amount Funded: \$3,812

### Virtual Reality in Our Classrooms

Teachers: Chad Gilbertson, Denise Jorud, Donna Evink, Christi Converse, Kimra Kirksey, Amy Revering  
School: Miltona Magnet Elementary  
Students Impacted: 138 – K-5th grade  
Amount Funded: \$5,000

### Traverse Climbing Wall

Teacher: Brenda Hintermeister  
School: Voyager Elementary  
Students Impacted: 500 – K-5th grade  
Amount Funded: \$7,646.38

### Maker Spaces

Teachers: Megan Paulson, Kimra Kirksey, Shelly Wevley  
Schools: Garfield, Miltona, Carlos  
Students Impacted: 350  
Amount Funded: \$6,500

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  
awarded over \$162,000  
in grants to teachers  
in Alexandria  
Public Schools.

## Welcome New Board Members

The Alexandria Public Schools Education Foundation (AEF) is pleased to announce the addition of two new board members: Anthony Zimny and Josh Tatge.

“We are excited to welcome these new members,” said Christine Reilly, Foundation board president. “Each one has close ties to the community and shares a passion for education that will help advance the mission of the Foundation.”



**Anthony Zimny** is a 2003 graduate of Jefferson High School and is engaged to Leann Pogatchnik who is a Physician Assistant at CentraCare – Melrose. After high school Anthony continued onto college where he graduated from St. Cloud State University with a B.S. Degree in Insurance/Risk Management and moved back to Alexandria in 2008. Anthony serves as a Partner/Client Advisor at Dilley Zimny Insurance, which has an office in Alexandria and St. Cloud. He is also involved with SERTOMA, Alexandria Chamber Ambassadors, and St. Mary’s Church.



**Josh Tatge** is a 1993 graduate of Jefferson High School. He and his wife Chelsie have two daughters, Regan and Lili. Josh has been a financial advisor at Steidl, Benzinger, Tatge, Seifert & Engebretson, a financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. since 2000, while Chelsie works as a Speech Language Pathology Assistant at the Early Education Center. Josh has been and continues to be involved in several organizations serving the Alexandria area.

## 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 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.

**AEF has awarded \$19,800 in college tuition scholarships to 24 seniors over the last eight years.**



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.

Craig Olson, foundation board member (pictured middle), poses with the 2016 “*Seeds for Future Learning*” scholarship recipients, Geoffrey Griepentrog (left) and Whitney Olson (right).



The **Class of 1988 Scholarship** fund was created through a generous 1988 Jefferson High School graduate. These scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 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 2016 “*Class of 1988*” scholarship recipients, Amy Jost (left) and Michael Helgeson (right).