



2015 Annual Report



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 2015 Annual Report with you.

The Alexandria Education Foundation (AEF) shares a vision of enhancing education in Alexandria ISD. We work to increase private support for unique learning experiences for students, by raising funds, and uniting the community in support of education excellence.

There is much to celebrate as we reflect on our accomplishments over the past year.

In 2015, the Alexandria Education Foundation:

- Awarded \$30,000 in teacher/classroom innovation grants
- Grew the '206 Club' to 260 members
- Conducted a successful annual donor campaign that will enable us to increase our teacher grant awards to \$40,000 in 2016 – our largest grant round to date
- Held 2 annual fundraising events – the Hall of Fame Luncheon and Jeans & Jewels Gala – raising over \$14,000 that help fund innovative teaching ideas
- Awarded \$4,800 in student scholarships
- Completed a video to help tell the Education Foundation story
- Launched a new website
- Implemented new social media communication tools
- Contributed to the Alexandria Alumni Magazine
- Contributed to the STEAM Expo

The Foundation is governed by a group of volunteer citizens from the Alexandria Area. Fulfilling their terms and stepping down from the Board at the end of 2015 are Susan Scarborough and Greg Trumm. Their visionary leadership and strong support helped provide extraordinary educational experiences for Alexandria Public Schools' students.

In closing, thank you for your financial support. 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, Keith Hoeschen, Randy Winger, Tom Ellison, Jay Sieling.

Front row (l to r): Bonnie Schnell, Julie Critz (ex-officio), Sarah O'Kane, Jean Bristow, Christine Reilly, Craig Olson, Eric Karlstad.

Not pictured: Judy Backhaus, Dana Christenson.

Inside...

- Alumni Hall of Fame
- Save the Dates!
- 2015 Successful Events
- Annual Donors
- New Board Members
- Teacher Innovation Grants
- Scholarship Awards



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.

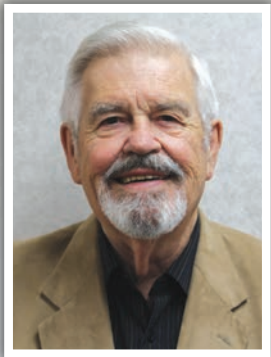
You may also donate online at:
www.alexeducationfoundation.org

Alumni Hall of Fame

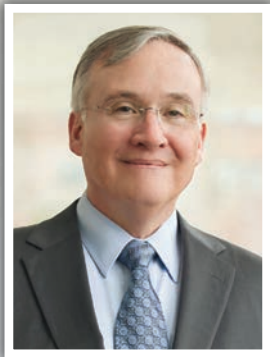
Congratulations to the Alumni Hall of Fame 2015 Inductees!

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 2015 inductees, recognized at the Hall of Fame Luncheon Celebration on October 2, 2015, were: **H. Dan Ness**, Class of 1956, former mayor City of Alexandria and retired partner with accounting firm Ness, Waller, Pearson & Co. now CliftonLarsonAllen; **Joan (Ballard) Larson**, Class of 1947, long-time professional, leader and advocate for Minnesota's library system; and **James Woolliscroft, M.D.**, Class of 1969, and Dean of the University of Michigan Medical School.



H. Dan Ness



James Woolliscroft, M.D.



Joan Larson

2016 Hall of Fame Call for Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for the Alexandria Education Foundation Hall of Fame class of 2016. The deadline to submit nominees for the 2016 class will be April 8, 2016.

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 1996 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. A list of previous honorees can be viewed on this page as well. All nominations received by April 8, 2016 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 2016 inductees will be recognized at a luncheon in their honor on Friday, September 30, 2016 in connection with Alexandria homecoming festivities. For more information, call (320) 808-8437 or email info@alexeducationfoundation.org.



Save the Dates!

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 12:00 p.m.,
Broadway Ballroom – Hall of Fame Luncheon honoring the 2016 Inductees (to be named).

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, 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, live auction along with the opportunity to win special event prizes.

JEANS
8th & Jewels
Annual Benefit Event

OCTOBER 1, 2016,
Alexandria Homecoming.

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

NOVEMBER 12, 2016,
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 \$14,000 to help fund innovative teaching ideas



Last fall, the Foundation hosted its annual Jeans & Jewels Gala at the Broadway Ballroom around the theme of "Music Makes the World Go Round." 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 event prizes courtesy of local donors, silent auction items, a game of Musical Chairs, 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 \$14,000, go to support grants that will enable Alexandria teachers to implement creative and innovative educational programs in the classroom.

The 8th Annual Jeans & Jewels Fundraiser has been set for Friday, September 30, 2016. We invite you to mark your calendar and plan to join us!

Over 350 attended the 2015 Jeans & Jewels Benefit. The evening was a lot of fun, with great friends, food, refreshments, live and silent auctions and special event prizes.



Becky Zwilling (front) organizes the jewelry prize table while Linda Anderson (back left) admires the necklace that lucky jewelry prize winner Deb Dittberner picked out.



Shawn Reilly finds himself left out in the cold in a highly officiated competition of Musical Chairs. Sarah O'Kane, left, went on to win a fabulous athletic and fine arts ticket package valued at over \$1,200.



The Bank Presidents Team took home the 2015 'Foundation Feud' trophy and bragging rights, outscoring the Firemen, Dentists, and Music Teachers teams.



Foundation Donors

(Gifts received January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015)

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Joan Lindquist

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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.

Check out our new website, Like Us on Facebook, Follow Us on Twitter

The Foundation would like to announce our new and improved website at www.alexeducationfoundation.org. Additionally, we have added Facebook and Twitter to our community communications toolbox. On Facebook, Like Us by visiting: www.facebook.com/alexedfound and on Twitter follow us at @AlexEdFound206.



Welcome New Board Members

The Alexandria Public Schools Education Foundation (AEF) is pleased to announce the recent election of five new members to its Board of Directors: Dana Christenson, Tom Ellison, Patrick Kalina, Sarah O’Kane, and Jay Sieling.

“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.”

Jay Sieling is a Liberal Arts Instructor at Alexandria Technical and Community College. He holds a Master of Arts in Humanities from California State University, Dominguez Hills. He studied Speech Communication at Pennsylvania State University. Jay is married to Dr. Deborah Dittberner. They moved to Alexandria in 1995 and have three graduates of Alexandria Public Schools.

Sarah O’Kane is a graduate of Fergus Falls High School and Minnesota State University Moorhead with a degree in Business and Professional Communications. She and her family moved to Alexandria in 2010. Sarah is actively involved in Alexandria Public Schools on the Strategic Planning Committee, Curriculum Advisory Committee, as a Junior Achievement instructor and other volunteer opportunities. Sarah and her husband Chris have three daughters - Allison (16), Erin (14) and Jordan (11).

Tom Ellison grew up in the Alexandria area and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1979. Tom graduated college in 1984 from Moorhead State University, majoring in Industrial Technology Education. Tom taught for many years in the Brandon-Evansville School District before accepting a position in the fall of 2012 with Alexandria Public Schools as an industrial arts teacher at the high school. Tom and his wife, Julie, have two grown children that also graduated from Alexandria Public Schools.

Patrick Kalina is a 2000 graduate of Jefferson High School and is married to Haley Kalina who teaches science at Discovery Middle School. The couple have two children. Patrick holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Administration and Music from North Dakota State University and a Masters in Business Administration degree from Southwest MN State University – Marshall. He is a Project Manager with the Customer Service Department at Douglas Scientific and is involved in a variety of boards and organizations throughout the community.

Dana Christenson is a 1982 alum of Jefferson High School. He received an English degree from Lawrence University in Appleton, WI and taught middle school English for nine years in Winnetka, IL, just north of Chicago. He and his wife Becky, also a Jefferson alum, were happy to return to Alexandria to raise their two sons, Sam, a freshman at DePaul University, and Brady, a senior at AAHS. Dana taught English and was a Dean of Students at Discovery Middle School before becoming the principal at Voyager Elementary, where he has been the last seven years.

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 \$15,000 in college tuition scholarships to 20 seniors over the last seven 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 2015 “*Seeds for Future Learning*” scholarship recipients, Megan Hanson (left) and Alec Wosepka (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 2015 “*Class of 1988*” scholarship recipients, Sam Christenson (left) and McKenna Petrie (right).

Alexandria Education Foundation Awards \$30,000 in Teacher Innovation Grants



In May 2015, the Foundation awarded \$30,000 in teacher grants to fund student-engaged projects planned for the 2015-2016 school year that will enrich learning and encourage classroom innovation. Projects funded included:

Media Productions

School: Alexandria Area High School
Grades: 10-12
Submitted by: Ty Granning, Digital Arts Teacher
Award: \$6,000

Health Applications Manikin Lab Expansion

School: Alexandria Area High School
Grades: 11-12
Submitted by: Meg Simon, Science Teacher
Award: \$5,110

Math Graphing Calculators

School: Discovery Middle School
Grades: 8
Submitted by: Heidi Fischer, Math Teacher
Award: \$4,800

Technology Integration

School: Voyager Elementary School
Grade: 2
Submitted by: Benjamin Kettler, Elementary Teacher
Award: \$2,350

Hands on Literacy

School: Woodland Elementary School
Grade: Kindergarten
Submitted by: Jennifer Erickson, Elementary Teacher
Award: \$3,550

Enhanced Physical Education with Technology

School: Discovery Middle School
Grades: 6-8
Submitted by: Kelly Lewis, Physical Education Teacher
Award: \$3,000

Play is a Powerful Teacher

School: Miltona Science Magnet Elementary
Grade: K-5
Submitted by: Chad Gilbertson, Elementary Teacher
Award: \$2,940

Osmo – Changing The Way We Use Our iPads

School: Miltona Science Magnet Elementary
Grade: K-5
Submitted by: Chad Gilbertson, Elementary Teacher
Award: \$1,750

The Second City Improvisation Workshop

Program: Community Education
Grades: 9-12
Submitted by: Community Education
Award: \$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.

To date, nearly \$125,000 awarded in innovative teaching grants for:

- STEM Engineering
- Core Curriculum
- Technology
- The Arts