



Message from the Board Chair

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

There are exciting things on the horizon for the Alexandria Education Foundation! As you look through this annual report, you can get a glimpse of the organization's work over the last year. The foundation helps the teachers of Alexandria Public Schools impact students every day. Through the annual teacher grant program, technology, curriculum equipment and books are funded in every school across the district. Last year, the foundation awarded nearly \$50,000 to innovative teachers. As a result, students have more opportunities, enhanced learning experiences, and the tools and technology needed to succeed.

The Alexandria Education Foundation has also worked to connect alumni, businesses and community members. The Hall of Fame luncheon and the Jeans and Jewels fundraiser provide opportunities to build connections and support. Last year we held our first EdTalk, featuring alumnus James Woolliscroft. It is a great opportunity to showcase successful graduates of Alexandria Public Schools, and connect them with current students. These connections help to create a positive and intentional impact on students. Through the support of these connections, the Foundation has contributed over \$4.35 million in grants, scholarships and capital gifts in support of education in Alexandria.

This annual reports gives a glimpse of history - the activities of the last year. But it also provides a look to the future. Nominations for the Hall of Fame are due soon. Our second annual EdTalk will take place on Sunday, March 18. Alexandria Public Schools alumnus, Scott Ellison, will be speaking about his career as Associate Athletics Director for Facilities at the University of Minnesota. He will meet with students at the high school the next day. Look for board members at the upcoming STEAM Expo in April. We'd love to tell you more about the foundation and thank you personally for your support. We are also excited for a summer fundraising concert in June. We hope to be able to grow the endowment and provide even more grants and scholarships in the years to come.

We are thankful for, and look forward to, your continuing support.

Sincerely,

Jay Sieling, Chair



AEF Board of Directors

Back row (l to r): Anthony Zimny, Josh Tatge, Jay Sieling, Dana Christenson, Jean Bristow, Tom Ellison.

Front row (l to r): Jennifer Heydt, Eric Karlstad, Craig Olson, Sarah O'Kane, Meri Ripley.

Not pictured: Patrick Kalina

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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

Alumni Hall of Fame

Congratulations to the Alumni Hall of Fame 2017 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.

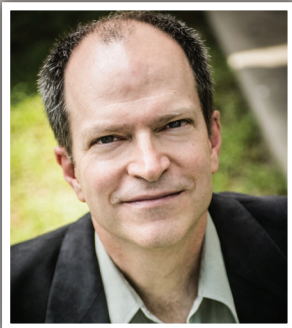
The 2017 inductees, recognized at the Hall of Fame Luncheon Celebration on September 15, 2017 were: **Captain Thomas G. Halvorson**, Class of 1984, United States Navy (USN), Commanding Officer of USS John McCain & USS Mobile Bay; **Michael Tisserand**, Class of 1982, critically acclaimed professional writer/book author; and **Patty Wicken**, Class of 1967, radio personality and talk show host.



Capt. Thomas G. Halvorson



Patty Wicken



Michael Tisserand

2018 Hall of Fame Call for Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for the Alexandria Education Foundation Hall of Fame class of 2018. The deadline to submit nominees for the 2018 class will be April 6, 2018.

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 1998 or earlier, or must have retired from District 206 after serving in the District for a minimum of 10 years.
- Nominees must have realized distinction or achievement in their professional field.
- 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 6, 2018 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 inductees will be recognized at a luncheon in their honor on Friday, September 21, 2018. For more information, email info@alexeducationfoundation.org.



Save the Dates!

MARCH 18, 2018

EdTalk – Design for Use: The Future of Golden Gopher Athletics

Keynote – Scott Ellison, U of M's Associate Athletics Director for Facilities and JHS '77 Alum. Event will be held at Alexandria Area High School, Social – 5:30 p.m.; Presentation – 7:00 p.m. Adults \$25; Students – Free. Tickets can be purchased at Cherry Street Books, Elden's Fresh Foods or Online at: www.alexandria.k12.mn.us/pac.

JUNE 22, 2018, EdRock – Legacy of the Lakes Museum and Gardens Inaugural Outdoor Concert

Fundraising Event featuring the Fabulous Armadillos – central Minnesota's featured band recreating songs from the past just like you remember them. Concert time TBD. Pre-purchase ticket price \$25; at the door \$30.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2018 12:00 p.m., Broadway Ballroom – Hall of Fame Luncheon honoring the 2018 Inductees (to be announced in May).

SEPTEMBER 21, 2018, Alexandria Homecoming. Football Game, Alexandria Cardinals vs. Rocori, game time TBD.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2018, 6:30 p.m., Holiday Inn – 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
10th Annual Benefit Event

Foundation fundraiser event raises over \$17,000 to help fund innovative teaching ideas



Last fall, the Foundation hosted its annual Jeans & Jewels Gala at the Broadway Ballroom around the theme of "Jeans & Jewels Goes Tailgating." 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 over \$17,000, go to support grants that will enable Alexandria teachers to implement creative and innovative educational programs in the classroom.

The 10th Annual Jeans & Jewels Fundraiser has been set for Saturday, September 22, 2018 at the Holiday Inn. The theme for the 2018 event is "Date Night".

We invite you to mark your calendar and plan to join us!

Date Night

Craig Olson, Foundation Board member (left) takes time out from working an event booth to socialize and pose for a picture with event attendee, Jon Olson. Over 350 attended the 2017 Jeans & Jewels Fundraiser.



Jennifer Heydt (right) is all smiles as "The Key Box" event winner of a week's stay at a condo in Bonita Springs, Florida donated by Judy Backhaus (left) and her husband, Lee.



The Silent Auction offered a great selection of items and drew a large crowd hoping to have the winning bid.



Jay Sieling (left) gives a thumbs up to Brandon Richards (right) for being one of the lucky jewelry drawing winners.



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Welcome New Board Members

The Alexandria Public Schools Education Foundation (AEF) is pleased to announce the addition of two new board members: Jennifer Heydt and Meri Ripley.

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



Jen Heydt grew up in Grand Rapids, MN. She comes from a long line of educators, so when her parents told her that teaching was in her blood, she swore she would never, ever become a teacher. So naturally, she graduated from the University of North Dakota with a degree in elementary education. In 2007, after teaching in Lakeville and Fergus Falls, she and her husband, Nick (1995 Jefferson HS graduate), moved to Alexandria with their three (now four) children. She has since become a stay-at-home mom to Will (8th grade), Elle (6th grade), Mac (5th grade), and Griffin (kindergarten). She enjoys going for runs with friends, baking, art, and playing her ukulele for a less than enthusiastic audience. She likes the idea of doing a jigsaw puzzle but can’t recall ever actually finishing one. Who is she kidding, much of her free time is spent on a field, in a car, or in a gym with her kids, but when she can, she loves volunteering in the schools and community.



Meri Ripley is a retired educator who worked her entire 35 years of teaching for Alexandria Area schools. She and her husband Mark are grateful for the education their two adult children received from this school system. She currently serves in several volunteer capacities as well as working part-time at Carlos Elementary School. She is excited to serve in a way that will grant opportunities for students and teachers to better their educational experiences.

Scholarship Awards

The Foundation wants to build a financial cornerstone for investing in students and teachers in Alexandria Public Schools. One of the ways they do this is by helping students attain college degrees. Through a competitive scholarship process, the Foundation financially supports students in the transitions from high school the transition from high school to 2 and 4-year colleges.

AEF has awarded nearly \$25,000 in scholarships since 2009, in support of 28 students.



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 2017 “*Seeds for Future Learning*” scholarship recipients, Jack Schouweiler (left) and Kalissa Klimek (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 2017 “*Class of 1988*” scholarship recipients, Henri Santelman (left) and Emily Berger (right).

EdTalk



The speaker for the Foundation’s inaugural EdTalk event held on January 29, 2017 was Dr. James Woolliscroft, who spoke on the topic of the changing world of health care. Dr. Woolliscroft was the dean of the University of Michigan Medical School from 2007 through 2015 and 2015 Education Foundation Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee.

The EdTalk event is designed to expand the mission of the Foundation by providing learning opportunities to community members as well as students.



Save the date for the 2018 EdTalk featuring Scott Ellison, Associate Athletic Director for the U of M. Ellison’s talk, **Design for Use: The Future of Golden Gopher Athletics**, will combine stories and insight from a 30-year career with the Gophers. Visit www.alexeducationfoundation.org for event and ticket information.

Alexandria Education Foundation Awards nearly \$50,000 in Teacher Innovation Grants



In the spring of 2018, the Foundation awarded **\$49,942** in teacher grants to fund sixteen student-engaged projects planned for the 2017-2018 school year that will impact over 6,300 students across all buildings and grade levels PreK-12. AEF Teacher Grants help our teachers bring more creativity, innovation, and inspiration into classrooms. Projects funded include:

Virtual Reality Headsets

School: Discovery Middle School
Teacher: Katie Dummer
Amount Awarded: \$525

Technology to Promote Writing

School: Garfield Elementary
Teacher: Joe Hurlbut
Amount Awarded: \$120

Outdoor Exploration

School: Lincoln Elementary
Teacher: Barb Walswick
Amount Awarded: \$1,900

Quick Talker Freestyle

School: Early Education Center
Teacher: Stacy Denny
Amount Awarded: \$3,495

Making Music in the 21st Century & Beyond
Schools: All Elementary Schools
Teachers: Elementary Music Teachers
Amount Awarded: \$5,301

Makerspace
School: Lincoln Elementary
Teacher: Susan Nienaber
Amount Awarded: \$1,200

Creating Virtual Tours
School: Miltona Magnet Elementary
Teacher: Chad Gilbertson
Amount Awarded: \$1,022

LEGO WeDo 2.0
School: Voyager Elementary
Teacher: Ben Kettler
Amount Awarded: \$1,814

Sensory Regulation Toolkits
School: Woodland Elementary
Teacher: Mikayla Genereux
Amount Awarded: \$1,750

Makerspace
School: Discovery Middle School
Teacher: Haley Kalina
Amount Awarded: \$5,000

Makerspace
School: Alexandria Area High School
Teacher: Kim Froemming
Amount Awarded: \$6,000

Kids Collaborating, Coding & Computing
School: Woodland Elementary
Teacher: Alicia Wagner
Amount Awarded: \$5,000

Science in the Ag Program
School: Alexandria Area High School
Teacher: Andrew Steiner
Amount Awarded: \$6,290

Virtual Reality Headsets
School: Discovery Middle School
Teacher: Lukas Gotto
Amount Awarded: \$525

Science and Music Connection
School: Early Education Center
Teacher: Connie Good
Amount Awarded: \$3,000

Exploration – Mini Makerspace
School: Voyager Elementary
Teacher: Elizabeth Billberg
Amount Awarded: \$1,400

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 \$212,000 in grants to teachers in Alexandria Public Schools.