



# 2019 IMPACT REPORT



[AlexEducationFoundation.org](http://AlexEducationFoundation.org)



# AEF MISSION

*The Alexandria Education Foundation is committed to supporting student excellence and expanding learning opportunities in Alexandria Public Schools.*

## CONNECT WITH US

### Alexandria EDUCATION FOUNDATION

We want to keep you informed and hear from you. Visit [AlexEducationFoundation.org](http://AlexEducationFoundation.org) for upcoming events and to sign up for our newsletter.

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## CONTACT US

Alexandria Education Foundation  
P.O. Box 308  
Alexandria, MN 56308  
320.815.5052

Through the support of these connections, AEF has contributed over

# \$4.4 million

in grants, scholarships and capital gifts in support of education in Alexandria Public Schools.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ★ Jay Sieling, Chair        | ★ Jeff Montgomery         |
| ★ Sarah O’Kane, Vice Chair  | ★ Linda Nelson            |
| ★ Patrick Kalina, Treasurer | ★ Meri Ripley             |
| ★ Dana Christenson          | ★ Josh Tatge              |
| ★ Tom Ellison               | ★ Anthony Zimny           |
| ★ Jennifer Heydt            | ★ Julie Critz, Ex-officio |
| ★ Eric Karlstad             |                           |



Back row (l to r): Jeff Montgomery, Anthony Zimny, Dana Christenson, Jay Sieling, Josh Tatge, Tom Ellison, Eric Karlstad. Seated (l to r): Linda Nelson, Meri Ripley, Jennifer Heydt, Sarah O’Kane. Not pictured: Patrick Kalina.

February 2020

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

The Alexandria Education Foundation had a year of growth and change in 2019. We are pleased to announce that we have established our own nonprofit status. All donations are now recognized officially by the Alexandria Education Foundation rather than West Central Initiative who has been our fiscal agent for the past ten years. The board is thankful for the role that West Central Initiative played in helping us grow.

As always, our primary goal is to make an impact on students in Alexandria Public Schools. In 2019 the foundation awarded \$38,931 in teacher grants. This results in more opportunities and enhanced learning experiences for students that are above and beyond the scope of the state budget and local tax dollars.

The foundation strives to unite alumni, businesses, and community members to join efforts in supporting our public schools. We connected with friends and supporters at our four annual events: EdCelebrate, Hall of Fame Luncheon, EdTalk, and EdRock.

The Alexandria Education Foundation continues to grow and evolve and this could not happen without your support. We look forward to a successful year in 2020!

With thanks and appreciation,

*Christine Reilly*

Christine Reilly  
Executive Director



*Our vision is to be a premier education foundation that significantly impacts Alexandria students.*

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# INVESTING IN STUDENT LEARNING



**TRAVERSE CLIMBING WALL**  
Woodland Elementary –  
Leigh Mattox



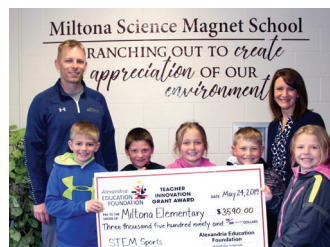
**SAFARI JUNGLE GYM**  
Voyager Elementary –  
Brenda Hintermeister



**TEACHER GRANTS**  
AEF AWARDED **\$38,931**  
in Teacher Innovation  
Grants for 2019-2020



*Visit our website for details on each of these exciting grants –  
as well as the 66 previously awarded to Alexandria Public Schools.*



**CARDINAL CUP COFFEE CART**  
Discovery Middle School –  
Amy Staples

**DIVE INTO LEARNING: VR/AR**  
Discovery Middle School –  
Lukas Gotto

**TRAIL CAMERAS**  
Woodland Elementary –  
Barb Walswick

**OUTDOOR STUDIES**  
Alexandria Area  
High School – Jeff Pokorney

**OUTDOOR MAKERSPACE**  
Early Education Center –  
April Larson

**START YOUR OWN BUSINESS**  
Alexandria Area High School –  
Megan Jacob

**STEM SPORTS**  
Miltons Science Magnet –  
Chad Gilbertson

**AAHS zSPACE**  
Alexandria Area  
High School – Meg Simon

**SUPER HERO TRAINING**  
Lincoln Elementary –  
Molly Taylor, Shari Petersen,  
Amy Borden, Lori Hochhalter

**INCREASING  
MUSIC LEARNING**  
Lincoln Elementary –  
Kayla Noble

**\$330,000+**  
AWARDED  
IN GRANTS  
TO TEACHERS  
SINCE 2009

**4,000**  
PreK–12 students  
impacted yearly by  
AEF Funding

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## INVESTING IN FUTURE LEADERS

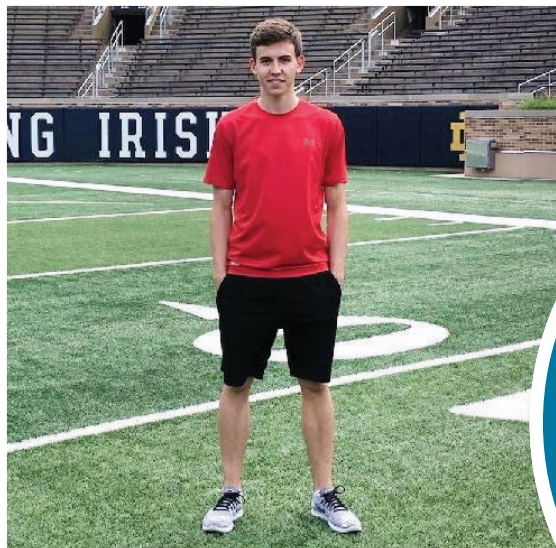
# 2019 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Parker Olson and Sydney Christenson were recipients of *The Class of 1988 Scholarship*, each receiving a scholarship in the amount of \$2,200.



Kodi Bundermann and Brooklyn VonBank were recipients of *Seeds for Future Learning Scholarship*, each receiving a scholarship in the amount of \$400.



Parker Olson, *2019 AEF Scholarship* recipient, is attending the University of Notre Dame.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The Foundation wants to build a financial cornerstone for investing in students in Alexandria Public Schools. One of the ways we do this 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 and 4-year colleges.

Visit our website for details on these continuing education scholarships to graduating seniors.



"I sincerely thank the Alexandria Education Foundation for the scholarship presented to me. The tremendous support from them and the entire community has opened many doors for me."

— 2019 AEF scholarship recipient  
Parker Olson



SINCE 2009,  
NEARLY  
**\$35,000**  
has been awarded  
to help **36 students**  
further their  
education



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# ENGAGED WITH THE COMMUNITY

## EdCelebrate

Guests enjoy games, silent auction, prize drawings, live auction, fabulous food, and friends while they support our schools and our students.



## EdTALK

Our annual EdTalk event brings notable alum back as a tie-in to the strong education foundation they received in Alexandria Public Schools and to give back by creating connections with current students.



Joanna Bursch Hawthorne, Global Partnerships Director at Facebook and Jefferson High School Alum Class of '96, was the 2019 EdTalk speaker. Prior to her community talk, Joanna spent the day at Alexandria Area High School where students in the business marketing class presented to her for feedback.



The stage was set, the weather was picture perfect, and **Post Traumatic Funk Syndrome** put on a fantastic show at our summer concert fundraising event.



\*Dr. John J Feda ('42)  
\*\*Kim Jenson ('76)  
Sylvia Christopherson  
(Alumni Staff, 1968-2001)



\*posthumous induction – award accepted by daughter Mary Lambert \*\*award accepted by son Mark Jenson

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# Foundation Donors

(Gifts received January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019)



## ENDOWMENT GROWTH

*Did You Know...*

THAT THE ENDOWMENT  
HAS GROWN TO

**\$440,000+**

SINCE 2007

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Shane and Vickie Schmidt  
Bonnie Schnell  
Marty and Heidi Schultz  
Roger and Ruthie Schultz  
Larry Scott  
Carol Serum  
Greg and Therese Serum  
MaKenzie Shutter  
Jay Sieling and Deb Dittberner

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 Frank and Mary Lou Starke  
 Tom and Steph Steidl  
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 Ken and Judy Woodie  
 James Wooliscroft  
 Tom and Kelly Wosepka  
 Jerry and Mary Kaye Wright  
 Bill and Kim Ziegler  
 Anthony and Leann Zimny  
 Brian and Sara Zimny  
 Dan and Colleen Zimny  
 Dan and LaVonne Zinda  
 Craig and Becky Zwilling

## ACADEMIES FUND-DECA

Dr. Thomas Kiehne  
 Craig & Kalee Olson  
 UBS

## ARTS FUND - SCOTLAND TRIP

Michelle Aslagson-Klimek  
 Dr. Todd G. Anderson, Central Lakes Orthodontics  
 Dr. Dean R. Anderson Dentistry  
 Kari Gilbertson  
 Ed and Kay Rooney  
 Brent and Sally Smith

## ARTS & MUSIC FUND

Jeff and Bonnie Brand  
 Jay Sieling and Deborah Dittberner  
 Shawn Mayernick

## DONATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Kim Jenson/Raymond James Company

## GENERAL OPERATING

Marilyn Baldwin  
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 Barbara Howell  
 Pam Langseth  
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 Heidi Ryan  
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 Larry Scott  
 Gary Steffen  
 Rose Marie Stoeck  
 Mark and Carmon Watkins  
 Catherine Wegner

## MATCHING GIFTS

New York Life Insurance

## MEALS WITH CARE

Paul and Linda Engebretson  
 Alan and Cathy Hansen  
 Jefferson High School Class of 1969  
 David and Diane Olson  
 Matt Walker

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Alexandria Area High School Sunshine Fund  
*In memory of Jon Connor*  
 Tom and Angie Anderson  
*In memory of Bob Rader*  
 Tom and Angie Anderson  
*In memory of Arlo Kluver*  
 Tom and Angie Anderson  
*In memory of Margaret Movold*  
 Tom and Angie Anderson  
*In memory of Timothy Radil*  
 Tom and Angie Anderson  
*In memory of Gloria Whiting*  
 Tom and Angie Anderson  
*In memory of Toni McCarten*  
 Tom and Angie Anderson  
*In memory of Hunter Schultz*  
 Tom and Angie Anderson  
*In memory of Randy Thoen*  
 Tom and Angie Anderson  
*In memory of Ruth Kalpin*  
 DeWayne and Dorothy Bisek  
*In memory of Paul Donley*  
 Jeff Carlson  
*In memory of Arnice Carlson*  
 Wayne and Solveig Elton  
*In memory of Bob Rader*  
 Wayne and Solveig Elton  
*In memory of Arlo Kluver*  
 Shawn Mayernick  
*In memory of Mr. Lehman*  
 Dennis and Bonnie Miller  
*In memory of Bob Vipond*  
 Thomas and Ruth Obert  
*In memory of Joan Ballard Larson*  
 Thomas and Ruth Obert  
*In memory of Virgil Batesole*

Michael and Donna Podratz  
*In memory of Don Eral*

Michael and Donna Podratz  
*In memory of Merle Trousil*

Michael and Donna Podratz  
*In memory of Bob Vipond*

Terry and Susan Quist  
*In memory of Jack Dressen*

Michael and Susan Scarborough  
*In memory of Joan Ballard Larson*

Gregg and Mary Sonstegard  
*In memory of Bob Vipond*

David and Kim Walsh  
*In memory of Courtney Grace Walsh*

Roy and Patty Wicken  
*In memory of Bob Vipond*

## SPONSORSHIPS

Alexandria Area USBC  
 Alomere Health  
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 Arnquist Carpetsplus Colortile  
 Bell Bank  
 Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate  
 BlackRidge Bank  
 Blue Ox Timber Frames  
 Bremer Bank  
 Central Lakes Orthodontics  
 CliftonLarsenAllen  
 Databae Systems  
 Einerson Family Dentistry  
 Elden's Fresh Foods  
 Geneva Capital  
 Glenwood State Bank  
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 Integrity Title  
 Juettner Motors  
 Knute Nelson  
 Neighborhood National Bank  
 Nodland Construction Company  
 Paradis Broadcasting, KXRA-KX92-Z99 Radio  
 Sanford Health-Broadway Clinic  
 Snyder Thornburg Wealth Management  
 The Aagard Group  
 Thrivent Financial - Ted Haar  
 True North Consulting Partners  
 Vantage Bank  
 Viking Bank  
 Zimny Insurance Agency



In addition,  
**THANK YOU**  
 to the many supporters who  
 participated in our fundraiser  
 and attended our annual events.

*All efforts have been made to make  
 this report as accurate as possible.  
 If you find an error or omission,  
 please accept our apology and  
 notify the Foundation  
 at 320-815-5052 so  
 corrections can be made.  
**THANK YOU for Your Support.***

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