celebrating students teachers donors



30 years





It was a year to celebrate!

With school back in full swing, it is a great time to reflect on the past year. The 2015-16 school year certainly is one to remember and celebrate, full of opportunities to commend our students on their amazing and inspiring accomplishments. We are extremely proud of our students and educators, and enjoy celebrating their successes during their journey with us and beyond. Generous donations made through the foundation continue to support children and families in the crucial effort to allow students to come to school each day equipped and ready to learn. We are fortunate to have developed strong relationships with committed community partners who provide not only financial and material assistance, but volunteer support to our students and schools. We celebrate our continuing partnerships with these individuals, businesses, and foundations that provide resources to support the basic needs and futures of our students. We celebrate the foundation and community efforts that have supported dozens of classroom grants, fellowships for teachers, and classroom and program initiatives.

With a personal stake in the community, our board is more committed than ever to exploring new ways to make a measurable difference in our children's education. "It's not about what it is. It's about what it can become."—Dr. Suess

Deng Johnston Dena Johnston, Executive Director

We have much to celebrate at Lawrence Schools Foundation. We are proud of our LEAP program and all of our generous business partners that participate to make our schools stronger. Our dedicated educators should certainly be celebrated. Some of our most exciting moments are the days we are able to honor our teachers with a special award or an innovative teaching grant. There would be no celebration without our donors. We are fortunate to have many like-minded people in our community who value education and all of the empowerment that it brings to our children. Last but certainly not least we celebrate our students. From the preschoolers in our early childhood education program to the senior scholarship recipients, I am constantly inspired by the accomplishments of our young people.

Our future is bright here in River City. Let's celebrate!

Gail Vick, Board President

Our work is to bolster student achievement and teaching excellence in Lawrence Public Schools. Your support is instrumental in changing young lives at a time when our schools need us now more than ever. Please include the Foundation in your charitable giving. It's easy to give, and every amount is welcome!











SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2015, a total of more than \$51,000 was awarded to 43 graduating seniors in recognition of their achievement and to assist with post-secondary tuition. These scholarships are made possible by individuals, families and organizations, often in honor or remembrance of someone special and/or to encourage young scholars to pursue a particular field of study.

SCHOOL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

The School Assistance Grants is a program established by the Lawrence Schools Foundation to provide funding for defined areas of use in the Lawrence Public Schools for needs that are not being met with state or federal monies. All schools in the district are encouraged to apply for funds currently available and selections will be based on equity and merit as determined by a review committee. In 2015, \$3,416.94 was used to create a makerspace and ideation lab at South Middle School. The school was able to repurpose the library classroom and a previous office area

to provide space for self-directed learning. The makerspace lab is available to all 590 students at South,

as well as the school staff.

STUDENT CHAMPIONS

Hunter Goode and Claire Sanner in the 2016 graduating class at Lawrence Free State High School, and Amani Bledsoe and Kyleigh Severa in the 2016 graduating class at Lawrence High School were celebrated as student champions at the 2015 Community Education Breakfast. Students are selected each year for this special recognition by their counselors on the basis of scholarship and leadership, and also in 2015 on the basis of their athletic achievement.

OTHER CELEBRATIONS

COMMUNITY EDUCATION BREAKFAST

More than 500 guests joined us in September 2015 for the annual Community Education Breakfast. In his keynote presentation, Clint Bowen, University of Kansas assistant head football coach and 1990 graduate of Lawrence High School, entertained with stories of growing up in Lawrence and how his experiences as a young student shaped his adult life.

TGIFOLLIES!

For more than 25 years, the annual Foundation Follies has raised money for the Foundation's Innovative Teaching Grants and School Assistance Grants. Each year, nearly 150 talented teachers, staff and administrators put on a fabulous show and enjoy the opportunity to unwind in May as the school year draws to a close.

TEACHER EXCELLENCE

EDUCATOR AWARDS

Lawrence has fabulous teachers, and we want to make sure they know how much their talents and dedication are valued. More than \$18,000 was awarded to outstanding teachers in 2015.



- Dedication To Education Award (\$5,000): Cara McNorton, 5th grade teacher at Kennedy Elementary
- Allen Press Distinguished Teacher Award (\$500): Jo Huntsinger, biology teacher at Lawrence High School
- Excellence In Teaching/Bobs Award (\$10,000): Mike Jones, band director at Lawrence High School, and Rachel Dirks, orchestra director at Lawrence High School
- Educators of the Year/ Golden Apple Awards (\$1,500 each):

 Debra Williams, special education teacher at Sunset Hill Elementary, and Shakiyya Bland, math teacher at Liberty Memorial Central Middle School
- Barbara Hodgson Dream To Achieve Award (\$100): Linda Kucza, 4th grade and Title 1 math teacher at New York Elementary School who retired after the 2015-2016 school year

INNOVATIVE TEACHING GRANTS

Innovative Teaching Grants are awarded each year to teachers or groups of teachers who implement innovative and unique projects for their students to enrich learning, enhance student achievement, and engage students in critical thinking and problem solving. In 2015, a total of \$16,557.23 was awarded for nine separate projects at elementary schools, middle schools and high schools. These projects are evaluated at the end of the funding cycle and can serve as pilots for other schools in the district.

DONOR-INSPIRED FUNDS

There's more! More than \$31,000 was allotted in 2015 for special programs such as Homegrown Lawrence, Outside for a Better Inside, the Tilson Heacock LHS Band Fund, the Tilson Heacock LHS Choir Fund, and Truity Education Fund Educator Awards.



INNOVATIVE TEACHING GRANTS

Keep on Reading in the Summertime



Sunset Hill special education teacher **Debra Williams** knows that some elementary students are at risk to have their achievement test scores decline after summer vacation, so she applied for a

Lawrence Schools Foundation grant, which put three appropriately-leveled books into the hands of 35 targeted students during June, July and August of 2015.

The goal to reduce the loss of reading skills and prevent the development or widening of an achievement gap was met when the students returned in the fall. "The students who participated in the summer reading program in grades K-3 appeared to maintain scores from spring to fall and did not appear to lose any ground," Williams said.

"With the help of the Lawrence Schools Foundation, The Keep on Reading Summer Reading Project provided high-interest leveled readers to a targeted group of students, along with continued teacher communicationand encouragement over the summer months," Williams said. "Thank you, Lawrence Schools Foundation, for helping students close the summer achievement gap."





celebrating

RECOGNITION ALL AROUND



Lawrence Education Achievement Partners

A Champion for the Cause

With a 4.0 grade-point average, letters in basketball and track and an extensive list of extracurricular activities and volunteer work, **Brittany Ray** was recognized as a student champion at the



Foundation's annual Community Education Breakfast in 2010.

"I was very honored to be recognized," Ray said. "It was a special moment because all of my teachers from preschool through the Lawrence Public Schools were so inspiring. The teachers in the district go above and beyond and have the students' best interest in mind. They want to see you succeed. I had that in all of my teachers."

When Ray was graduating from Northwestern University she nominated LHS social studies teacher, Valerie Schrag for the University's **Distinguished Secondary Teacher** Award — which honors high school teachers who had "transformative effects" on the lives of graduating seniors they once taught. Schrag was one of five teachers across the country to receive the award and was honored at the University's graduation.

"I nominated Ms. Schrag, but there were countless other teachers I could have nominated," Ray said.

Business and Community at Work for Our Schools

For more than 23 years, the mission of the

Lawrence Education Achievement Partners (LEAP) has been to create and build community partnerships that support and enhance student achievement and success in the Lawrence Public Schools. Each one of our schools, including the Lawrence College and Career Center, has LEAP partners. Some businesses and community organizations are districtwide LEAP partners, which means that any school in the district may call on them for assistance. LEAP partners may focus on scholastic enrichment, such as reading to kids in class, tutoring or donating classroom supplies. Others volunteer to help at school events or make monetary or in-kind donations to support these events. Many of our LEAP partners sponsor Lawrence Schools Foundation signature events and purchase tables or donate goods and services to make the Foundation Follies and the Community Education Breakfast successful. Our LEAP partners enjoy being involved with the schools and learning from the students or teachers. The Lawrence College and Career Center offers new opportunities for

LEAP TOTALS (2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR)

	School	I	Districtwide	AII
	Partners		Partners	Partners
Cash Donations	\$ 10,205.84	\$	21,761.54	\$ 31,967.38
In-kind Gifts	46,936.71		59,689.00	106,625.71
Volunteer Value				
Volunteer Hours	1,827		4,894.50	6,722
Value (\$23.56/hour)	 43,044.12	_	115,314.42	<u>158,358.54</u>
TOTAL	\$ 100,186.67	\$	196,764.96	\$ 296,951.63

Our LEAP Superstars

LEAP partners to mentor and train students.

While we consider every single person who volunteers to support our schools a superstar, some organizations stand out because their combined support totals \$10,000 or more in a school year for their partner school, the district or the Lawrence Schools Foundation. Thank you to the following 2015-2016 Master LEAP partners:

Big Brothers Big Sisters—districtwide partner Kansas Athletics, Inc.—districtwide partner Lawrence Hy-Vee Stores—partners with Deerfield Elementary, Langston Hughes Elementary, Quail Run Elementary, Sunflower Elementary, Southwest Middle School, Lawrence Free State High School and Lawrence High School Lawrence Memorial Hospital—partners with Pinckney Elementary and Project Search Lied Center of Kansas and US Bank "Adventures in Imagination"—districtwide partners

Pelathe District, Heart of America Council, Boy Scouts of America—districtwide partner The Merc Co-op—partners with Hillcrest Elementary, Sunset Hill Elementary and West Middle School

Truity Credit Union & Truity Education Foundation —partners with Langston Hughes Elementary, Prairie Park Elementary, Lawrence Free State High School, Lawrence High School and districtwide

2015-2016 LEAP PARTNERS

Broken Arrow

Central National Bank Checkers Pet World Premier Martial Arts Raising Cane's

Cordley

Capital City Bank Cottin's Hardware & Rental Dillons Stores–Mass. Street Lawrence Noon Rotary Club

Deerfield

Hy-Vee-6th St.

Hillcrest

Body Boutique
Commerce Bank–lowa Street
Freddy's Frozen Custard &
Steakburgers
Noodles & Company
Premier Martial Arts
The Merc Co-op
Wal-Mart–lowa Street

Kennedy

Dr. John H. Hay, D.D.S., Inc. Independence, Inc. United Way of Douglas County

Langston Hughes

Dillons Stores–6th & Wakarusa Hy-Vee–Clinton Parkway J&S Coffee Truity Credit Union University National Bank

New York

Altrusa
Cottin's Hardware & Rental
Emprise Bank
Kiwanis Club
Lawrence Breakfast
Optimist Club
Lawrence Wesleyan Church
Stevens & Brand, L.L.P.
Western Star #1 Masonic Lodge

Pinckney

Big Heart Pet Brands Gould Evans Associates Lawrence Memorial Hospital

Prairie Park

Capitol Federal Savings Hy-Vee–Clinton Parkway Peoples Bank–Harper Street Truity Credit Union

Quail Run

Berry Plastics Hy-Vee–6th Street Legends Dental Center Pioneer Ridge Premier Martial Arts

Schwegler

Dairy Queen–lowa Street Premier Martial Arts Raising Cane's Runza Schlumberger

Sunflower

Central National Bank Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers Hy-Vee–Clinton Pkwy Premier Martial Arts

Sunset Hill

Meritrust Credit Union Stephens Real Estate The Merc Co-op

Woodlawn

Bowersock Mills &
Power Company
First State Bank & Trust
ICL Performance Products
Noodles & Company

Liberty Memorial Central Middle School

Cottin's Hardware & Rental KU Natural History Museum Lawrence Arts Center Rodrock Chiropractic & Acupuncture The Summit Wakarusa Valley Credit Union

South Middle School

Mainstreet Credit Union McDonald's of Lawrence Printing Solutions Raising Cane's Sigler Pharmacy UNI Computers

Southwest Middle School

Bartlett & West Engineers, Inc. Hy-Vee–Clinton Parkway McDonald's of Lawrence t Loft

West Middle School

Commerce Bank–lowa Street Sonic–6th Street t.Loft The Merc Co-op

Lawrence College and Career Center

Amarr Entrematic

Lawrence Free State High

Amarr Entrematic
Capital City Bank
Central Bank of the Midwest
Commerce Bank—
Wakarusa Street
Eileen's Colossal Cookies
Go Driving School
Hy-Vee–6th Street
McDonald's of Lawrence
t.Loft
Therapy Works
Treanor Architects
Truity Credit Union

Lawrence High

Amarr Entrematic
Capitol Federal Savings
Commerce Bank–23rd Street
Go Driving School
Gould Evans Associates
Hallmark Cards
Hy-Vee–Clinton Parkway
Pinnacle Career Institute
Raising Cane's
Truity Credit Union

Districtwide-Early Childhood

Dr. James Otten, D.D.S. Dr. Sharon Michel Green, O.D. Jayhawk Breakfast Rotary

Districtwide-Fine Arts

KU Theater Lied Center of Kansas Theatre Lawrence US Bank

Districtwide–Community Connections/C-Tran

Applebee's-lowa Street

Districtwide-Project Search

Lawrence Memorial Hospital KU Dept. of Human Resources Joblink, a Division of Cottonwood United Way of Douglas County

Districtwide Applebee's-lowa Street Best Western Lawrence Big Brothers Big Sisters Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence Brigas Auto.com Chili's CiCi's Pizza Douglas County Fire & Medical Eileen's Colossal Cookies Epic Fun, LLC First Student Hastings Hot Box Cookies Kansas Athletics, Inc. Lawrence Habitat for Humanity Lawrence Police Department Lawrence Public Library McAlister's Deli Minuteman Press Montana Mike's Office Depot Pelathe District, Heart of America Council, Boy Scouts of America Pet World Printing Solutions Royal Crest Lanes Super Target The World Company Truity Credit Union 23rd Street Brewery **UNI Computers** Wal-Mart

Watkins Museum of History

Zarco USA, Inc.

2015 FOUNDATION FINANCES

	2015	Last Five Years
Donated:		
Via Campaigns and Events	\$ 151,598	\$ 1,043,775
For Specific District Betterment Programs	\$ 218,862	\$ 1,325,166
Granted:		
To District for Programs and Support	\$ 261,039	\$ 1,517,197

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2015

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Cash & Equivalents Investments at Fair Value Total Assets	\$ 221,743 1,593,315 \$ 1,815,058		
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current Liabilities	\$ 55,692		
Net Assets Endowed Funds Temporarily Restricted Funds Unrestricted Funds Total Net Assets	497,584 720,790 540,992 \$ 1,759,366		
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 1.815.058		



2015 FOUNDATION DONORS

MASTERS (\$10,000 and Above)

Brown, Larry Dann, William Davidson III, John and Shirley Schaeffer Douglas County Community Foundation Ethel and Raymond Rice Foundation Lawrence Public Schools Silicon Valley Community

SCHOLARS (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Foundation

Advanco, Inc. Gray, Captain and Katharine Hillcrest PTO Truity Credit Union Yellow Chair Foundation Aetna, Inc.

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Schmidt, Gregory and Eva

celebrating

TEACHER RECOGNITION

Instilling the Importance of a Lifetime of Learning





Instilling the importance of a lifetime of learning into the fifth-graders at Kennedy Elementary made Cara McNorton (pictured above, second from left), an excellent choice as the recipient of the Foundation's annual Dedication to Education Award in 2015.

"It is my goal to teach kids to be independent of me and to continue their learning even when I am not with them," McNorton said. "My hope for them is they always know I believe in them, because sometimes knowing that someone believes in you is just what you need to take the next best step."

McNorton has taken extra steps to prepare her students for their futures by creating a College Bound Program, which includes researching schools and visiting Johnson County Community College, creating a scholarship through the Foundation for Kennedy alumni and starting a Kennedy alumni group.

"The support of the Foundation makes dreams happen through a wide variety of programs designed to enrich education for Lawrence students," she said.

celebrating

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

A Long-term Investment



When Jamison Montes de Oca received the Stan Roth Science Scholarship administered by the Lawrence Schools Foundation in his senior year of high school, he admitted he may not have appreciated the gift at the time.

"I didn't fully understand what it would mean to getting me to where I am now," Montes de Oca said. "I probably took it for granted at the beginning, but the scholarships have gone a long way and helped make me who I am today."

This past spring Montes de Oca graduated from Baker University with a degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. He is currently in the University of Kansas Pharmacy School and en route to fulfilling his dream of helping others by serving in the health care field.

"Scholarships are not only an investment into students' lives, but a long-term investment as students use the scholarships to learn and transform society for the better," he said.

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Kennard, Perry

Kendrick, Lynnie

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