

LA CROSSE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

# Grants Award Luncheon



presented by

**festival**  
foods

LA CROSSE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

# Strong Schools • Strong Community

2016 GRANTS AWARD LUNCHEON

presented by Festival Foods

## Music

Central High School Sextet

Directed by Micah Averbeck • Coached by Busya Lugovier

Julia Ferris - 1st Violin

Alexandra Burelbach - 2nd Violin

Avery Laffey - Viola

Andrew Bolen - Cello

Dale Silha - French Horn

Katharine Baines - French Horn

## Welcome

Tammy Larson, President, Board of Directors

La Crosse Public Education Foundation

Lisa Klein, News 8 WKBT

Strong Schools, Strong Community

Thomas Thibodeau, Viterbo University

Distinguished Professor & Director, Master of Arts in Servant Leadership

## Recognition of 2015-2016 Grant Recipients

### Special Recognition

The Insurance Center • Corporate Partner in Education

Jeff Fleig • Leadership Award

Jerry Kember • Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer Distinguished Service Award

## Closing

Lisa Klein, News 8 WKBT

Special Thanks to our  
Luncheon Sponsor





# Our Named Grant Sponsors

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Franciscan Healthcare

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Rachel Gundersen

# Our Grant Sponsors



# Our Corporate Investors



*Named Grant Sponsor*



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# Other Sponsors

## Table Sponsors

Altra Foundation

Association of La Crosse School Administrators

Johns, Flaherty & Collins

Board of Education/School District of La Crosse

La Crosse Education Association

US Bank

UW-La Crosse/UW-L Foundation

Viterbo University

## Teacher Sponsor

WIPFLI LLP

## LPEF Endowments-Designated Grants

Maureen and Robert Freedland Fund for Studies of the Shoah

Richard Swantz Endowment Fund

Judy and Randy Eddy Sr. Fund

McGavock Family Endowment for Music Education

Dr. Gunnar and Mary Baldwin Gundersen Fund

Duane and Carol Taebel Fund

2016 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Collaborative Desks

- ▶ *Matt De Koch, Logan High*
- ▶ Purchase compact, shaped desks and chairs for a pilot program at Logan High, allowing for unique and multiple configurations to promote collaboration among groups of 3 to 10 students.
- ▶ Sponsored by:



**festival**  
foods



2016 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Gathering Fireflies

- ▶ *Christina Fenton, Logan Middle*
- ▶ Purchase 7 sets of the book "Gathering Fireflies," written by Mai Chao Duddeck, a District teacher and local Hmong artist and author. The book, about a 13-year-old Hmong-American boy coming of age with a confusing mix of cultural dilemmas, will be used at all three middle schools as part of the Hmong Culture unit.
- ▶ Sponsored by:

***Coulee Bank***  
**BANK WITH CONFIDENCE**



Christina Fenton and Mai Chao Duddeck with LPEF Board member Michael Sigman

2016 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# School Tower Gardens

- ▶ *Nancy Hanson, North Woods International Elementary*
- ▶ Purchase three vertical aeroponic gardens for use in 3rd-grade curriculum at North Woods, allowing for year-round growing of organic produce and encouraging healthy eating habits.
- ▶ Sponsored by:



Franciscan Healthcare



2016 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# [art]ifact: where history meets art



- ▶ *Ariel Beaujot, UW-L on behalf of La Crosse County Historical Society*
- ▶ Help fund a community collaborative effort to support students producing original artwork inspired by historical artifacts selected from the collection of the La Crosse County Historical Society. Work will be exhibited at the Pump House Regional Arts Center in Spring 2016.
- ▶ Sponsored by:



Ariel Beaujot, center in black, with planning team

2016 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Logan High Latte Stand

- ▶ *Molly Sarles, Logan High*
- ▶ Support start-up costs for a unique before-school coffee shop at Logan High, providing work experience for students in special education classes with proceeds going toward schoolwide incentives for positive student behavior.
- ▶ Sponsored by:



Molly Sarles with Logan High Principal Deb Markos



2016 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Primary Care Triple P

- ▶ *Melani Fay and Heather Gartner, Northside Elementary*
- ▶ Offer a school-based Positive Parenting Program provided by experts at Gundersen Health System, offering one-to-one assistance to 20 Northside families, helping parents learn to manage child behavioral issues and skill development challenges.
- ▶ Sponsored by:

**GUNDERSEN**  
HEALTH SYSTEM®



Melani Fay and Heather Gartner

2016 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# GoPro Summit Recording Outdoor Adventures

- ▶ *Nick O'Keefe and Lisa Boyer, Summit Elementary*
- ▶ Provide GoPro pocket-sized video cameras and accessories to allow students at Summit Environmental School to document educational and environmental experiences, including daily nature walks, field trips and other activities.
- ▶ Sponsored by:

LA CROSSE  
**Tribune**



Lisa Boyer



LPEF Board Member Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer  
with Nick O'Keefe

2016 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# The Walking Classroom

- ▶ *Carrie Quick and Jean Ruprecht, State Road Elementary*
- ▶ Provide a matching grant to purchase podcast players with access to more than 100 health and fitness lessons for 5th-grade students at State Road, enabling them to “walk, listen and learn.”
- ▶ Sponsored by:

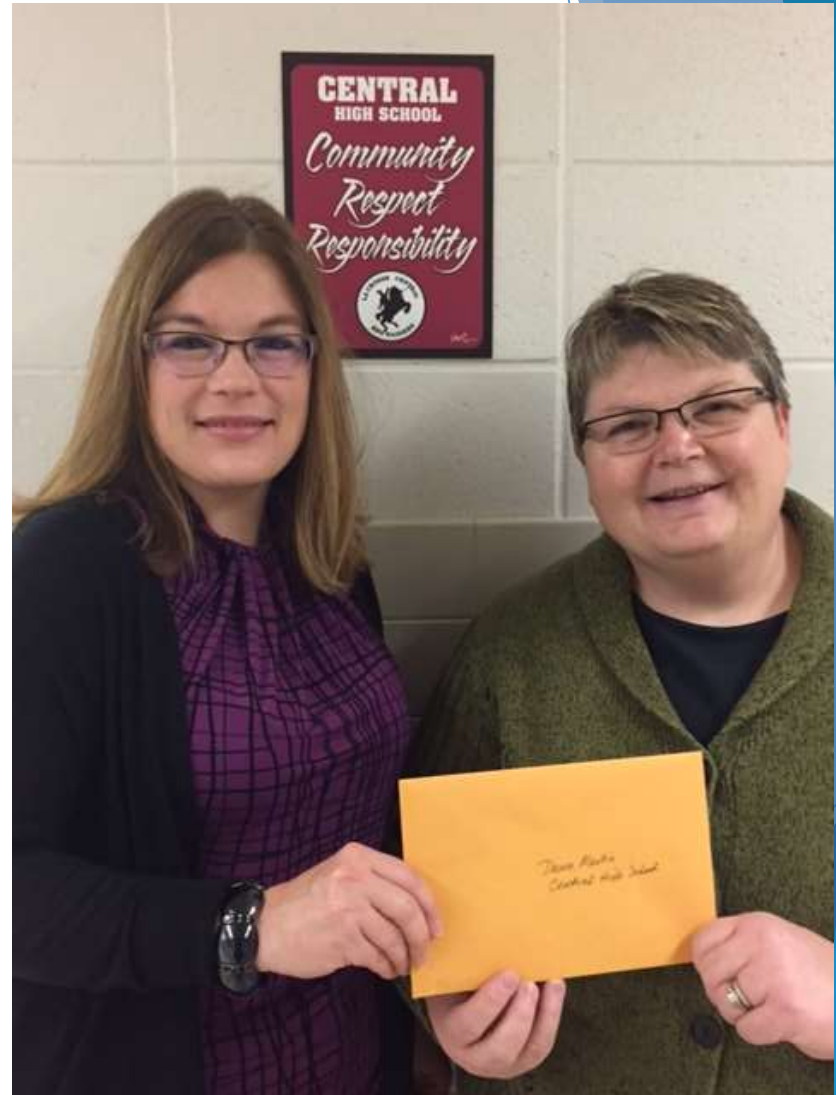


Carrie Quick and Jean Ruprecht

2016 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Acting Like a Pro

- ▶ *Dawn Martin, Central High*
- ▶ Fund a workshop for Central and Logan theater students featuring movie and theater actress Elaine Bromka.
- ▶ Sponsored by **Rachel Gundersen**



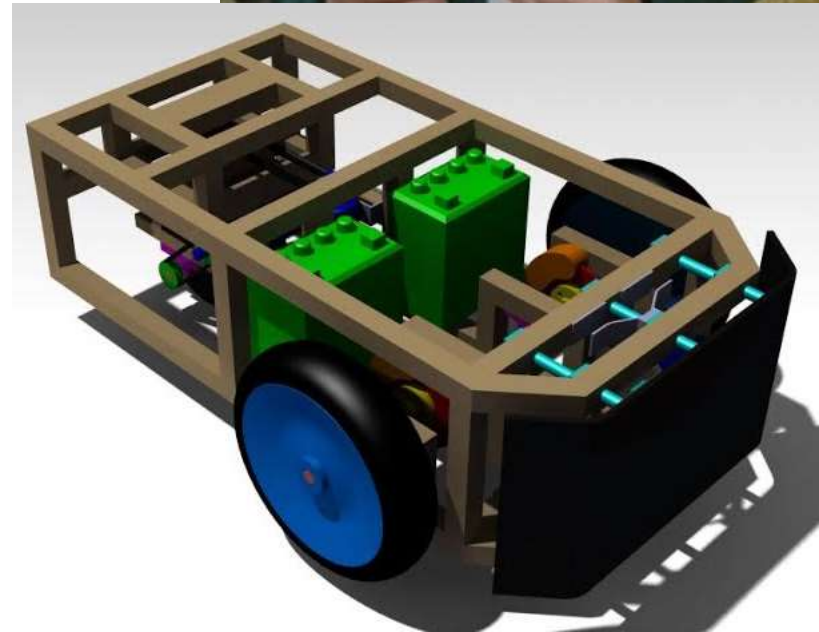
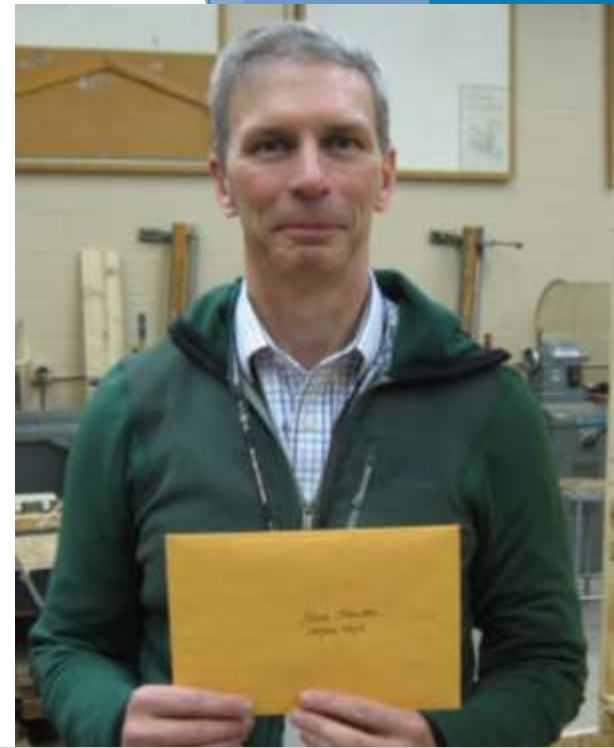
LPEF Board President Tammy Larson with Dawn Martin



2016 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Logan Ranger Autonomous Vehicle

- ▶ *Steve Johnston, Logan High*
- ▶ Purchase materials to be used by Logan High students to design and build a self-driving vehicle to drive autonomously from Trane Plant 4 on East Avenue to Trane Plant 7 on Losey Boulevard.



*Underwritten by:*  
Judy and Randy Eddy Sr. Fund

2016 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Logan High Platform Risers

- ▶ *Doreen Athnos, Logan High*
- ▶ Contribute toward purchase of new, transportable platform risers for use by Logan High School's Show Choir and at other District and community events.



*Underwritten by:*  
McGavock Family Endowment for Music Education

2016 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Grow Our Own Teacher Diversity Program

- ▶ *Bethany Brent, UW-La Crosse*
- ▶ Match tuition scholarships for up to three School District of La Crosse employees returning to school to complete education degrees at UW-La Crosse. The innovative, collaborative program seeks to increase the number of teachers of color by focusing on teaching assistants and other employees of color already in schools.



*Underwritten by:*  
Richard Swantz Endowment Fund

2016 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Creating an Experience with Green Screens

- ▶ *Jeanne Halderson, Longfellow Middle*
- ▶ Give students at all three middle schools the experience of traveling to foreign lands, exploring diverse cultures and even traveling in time through the purchase of green screen technology and body suits. Students will record video in settings where the background can be replaced with scenes from anywhere in the world.



Jeanne Halderson in a Green Screen image created by students Adam Baker, Landon Manock, and Hans Ebert



*Awarded in Memory Of:*  
Barb Kroner, former Longfellow  
Middle School teacher



Barb Kroner



2016 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Bluffs Brigade

- ▶ *Derek Fuglsang, Southern Bluffs Elementary*
- ▶ Support presentations by educator and author Katy MckY during a March 2016 event to celebrate and teach expectations for positive student behavior at Southern Bluffs.



Derek Fuglsang with LPEF  
Board President Tammy Larson



*Awarded in Honor Of:*  
Susan Houlihan, who retired last  
spring after 29 years of teaching



Susan Houlihan

2016 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Fidgets and Focus Tools

- ▶ *Tamara McRoberts, Western Regional Adolescent Center*
- ▶ Provide students housed at the Western Regional Adolescent Center with some alternative seating, fidgets and tools to improve focus, which in turn strengthens learning.



2016 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Science Boot Camp

- ▶ *Michael Lawrence, Hamilton/SOTA I*
- ▶ Allow 50 Hamilton/SOTA I 4th-grade and 5th-grade students to participate in a two-day science boot camp offered by Professor Kyle Backstrand and the science department at Viterbo University.



2016 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Fancy Schmancy Girls Book Club

- ▶ *Becky Lueck, Southern Bluffs Elementary*
- ▶ Purchase sets of "Fancy Nancy" books for use by a counseling group for girls in 1st- through 3rd-Grades at Southern Bluffs, promoting confidence, self-awareness, friendship and communication skills.





2016 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Focus Through Fidgets

- ▶ *Jocelyn Buxton, North Woods International Elementary*
- ▶ Purchase a dozen Kore Stools for use in a pilot program for first-graders at North Woods, allowing students to move while being active listeners and not distracting other students.



2016 1st Round Grant Recipient

# S-fun with Spheros

- ▶ *Linda Watson, Lincoln Middle, and Denise Kuethe-Strudthoff, Longfellow Middle*
- ▶ Purchase Sphero Sprk robotic ball kits to share among all three middle schools, allowing students to use iPads, along with math, science and engineering principles, to program the balls to perform tasks.



Linda Watson



Denise Kuethe-Strudthoff

2016 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Standing Tables

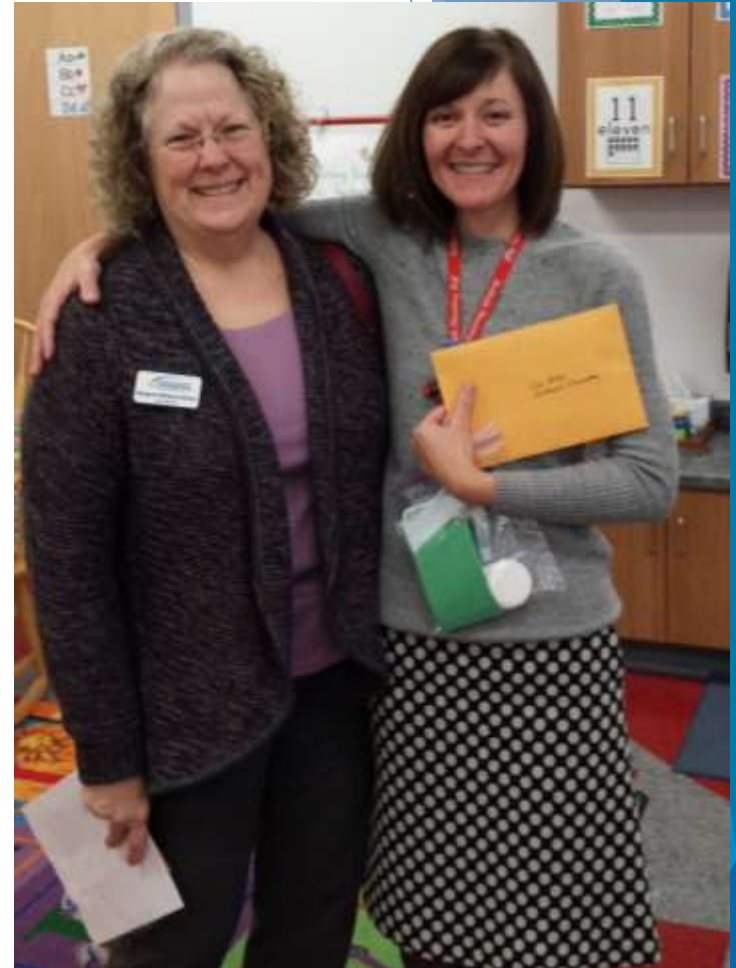
- ▶ *Mandi Hundt, Lincoln Middle*
- ▶ Purchase two standing desks for a pilot program to provide alternative seating for 8th-grade students at Lincoln Middle.



2016 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Deep Roots Farm Field Trip

- ▶ *Lisa Hilker, Northside Elementary*
- ▶ Support a Northside kindergarten field trip in May 2016 to Deep Roots Farm, where students can learn about farm animals and local food sources.



LPEF Board member Margaret Dichtmann-Malzer with Lisa Hilker



2016 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Building Construction: Tiny House Program

- ▶ *Jacob Schumacher, Logan High*
- ▶ Purchase an Aluminum Brake for students in construction classes at Logan High to use in bending aluminum sheets for use as trim pieces for siding, roofing and windows.



Construction students with Jacob Schumacher, far right

2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# The Giving Project

- ▶ *Toni Asher, Pump House Regional Arts Center*
- ▶ Provided a unique opportunity for students of all ages to explore and visually express their understanding and thoughts on giving. Building off the same principles as the 2013-2014 Compassion Project, this project asked students in grades K-12 to create artwork on the topic of ‘giving’ and was shared through display at the Artspire La Crosse community event, a regional celebration of arts and culture.





2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Uke for Youth

- ▶ *Elementary music teachers - Amanda Wolfgram, Jill Schams, Amy Johnson-Pierce, Deb Michaels, Karla Wakeen, Cheri Reavis, Ellen Moon, Beth Waldron and Danielle Fields*
- ▶ Helped buy a set of ukuleles and materials to be shared among all La Crosse elementary schools. Money also goes toward staff training on how to play the ukulele and how to effectively teach the instrument. The goal for the Uke for Youth project is to cultivate life-long music learning and appreciation by students in third through fifth grades. Skills learned can be easily transferred to aid in future learning of string or band instruments.



2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

## Physics of Sensation II

- ▶ *Karen Wilke and Jenny Leren, Longfellow Middle*
- ▶ Continuation of an LPEF grant from the 2012-2013 school year for Karen Wilke's sixth-grade classroom at Longfellow Middle School. Due to the successful implementation of the first grant, new money helped fund the purchase of physical activity and movement equipment for all sixth-grade classrooms at Longfellow. The movement-based equipment helps students focus, listen and learn by enabling a variety of learning styles. In addition, students are involved in a group project to explain and demonstrate Newton's Three Laws of Motion through use of the equipment.



Karen Wilke



Jenny Leren





2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Monitoring Heart Rates

- ▶ *Tyler Hamby, Hamilton/SOTA I*
- ▶ Purchased heart rate monitors for use by fourth- and fifth-grade students at Hamilton Elementary/SOTA I. These monitors help students learn how to accurately measure their target heart rate and recognize the feeling they get when their heart rate is in the health enhancing zone.



Student checking monitor with Tyler Hamby

2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Community Farm Field Trip

- ▶ *Katie Berkedal and GROW La Crosse*
- ▶ Support field trip costs to Deep Roots Community Farm for first-through fifth-grade students at Hamilton Elementary/SOTA I. The field trips are promoted by GROW La Crosse, a local non-profit organization with a mission to connect children to healthy food and nature, and build upon the school garden project that is currently in place at Hamilton/SOTA I. Students engaged in gardening activities and received fresh produce to take home and eat with their families.



*Underwritten by:*

Dr. Gunnar and Mary Baldwin Gundersen Fund

2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Community Field Trips

- ▶ *Steve Michaels, Hamilton/SOTA I*
- ▶ Continue community field trips for students at Hamilton Elementary/SOTA I. The money funds trips to La Crosse's most popular community attractions such as the UW-L campus, the trails in the marsh and Grandad's Bluff. About one local field trip will be taken per month, rotating through grades K-5. These trips will continue to provide students with hands-on experiences that further develop language skills and knowledge by introducing vocabulary in a memorable setting.



LPEF Board member Michael Sigman with Steve Michaels

2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Summit Sand Sculpture

- ▶ *Carissa Brudos, Summit Environmental School*
- ▶ Created a sand sculpture frog pond as part of a program for fifth-grade students at Summit Environmental School that promotes learning the process and techniques involved in the art of sculpting. Students collaborated with La Crosse area sculptor Mike Martino to create a sand sculpture of a frog pond as part of the outdoor education experience.



Carissa Brudos



Mike Martino helps student sculpting fish head



2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Learning by Choice

- ▶ *Stephaine Baker, Hintgen Elementary*
- ▶ Support a plan to change the look and feel of a traditional fourth-grade classroom at Hintgen Elementary in a way that helps students focus for extended periods of time. Money helps buy alternative seating, such as bean bags, camp chairs, and floor cushions.



Stephaine Baker, far right, with her class

2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Fidgets Begone!

- ▶ *Samantha Parkhurst, Logan Middle*
- ▶ Purchased 12 stand-up desks for distribution among sixth-grade classrooms at Logan Middle School. These desks promote focused learning while simultaneously decreasing off-task behaviors by providing an outlet within the educational setting for those students who need to move in order to learn.



2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Real-World Series

- ▶ *Maria Ellis, Logan Middle*
- ▶ Supported a program to provide struggling students at Logan Middle School with strategies and skills to become independent and self-determined adults ready for today's society. The grant helped fund the purchase of Real-World Series Combo Set materials that will engage struggling students in realistic graphic representations that teach them practical strategies and real-world skills.



2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Global Reading

- ▶ *Kellie Schmitz, Jill Gorell, Dani Hartman and Jodi Rumpel, Logan Middle*
- ▶ Supported a project preparing Logan Middle School students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century through a global approach to learning. The project gives students an opportunity to challenge themselves and connect their learning with citizens around the world. The money buys a wide range of reading materials to support the eighth-grade global learning pillars of Sustainability of Natural Resources/Water and Human Rights.



Jill Gorell, left with LPEF Board member Shawn Dutchin



Dani Hartman and Kellie Schmitz



Jodi Rumpel



2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Osmo Learning System

- ▶ *Nicole Ellefson-Johnson, North Woods International Elementary*
- ▶ Purchased 13 Osmo iPad Learning System Starter Kits, providing two for each grade level and one for the Emotional Behavioral Disability classroom at North Woods International Elementary School. These kits provide a new level of engagement and problem solving for students and introduce teachers to ways to use iPads for higher level learning objectives.



2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# I'm a Reading Rockstar!

- ▶ *Summer Elston, North Woods International Elementary*
- ▶ Supported a program designed to engage first-grade students at North Woods in meaningful independent work to improve literacy skills. The grant supported the purchase of recordable microphones allowing students to record, listen to and play back their independent reading, writing, and math facts. The microphones also will be used to track and assess student reading progress throughout the school year.



2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Social Emotional Learning for the Tough Kid

- ▶ *Heather Stern, North Woods International Elementary*
- ▶ Supported an evidence-based social skills intervention program that provides positive and preventative strategies to students who display behavior difficulties. The money helped fund the purchase of The Tough Kid series and SuperHeroes social skills program materials for use by students receiving Emotional Behavioral Disability services at North Woods.



2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Pine Ridge Summer Camp

- ▶ *Thomas Kammer, Health Science Academy*
- ▶ Purchased self-inflating mattress pads to be used by juniors and seniors in the Health Science Academy during the Native American summer leadership camp in southwest South Dakota. The leadership camp coincided with the visit of the Global Partners Project at Gundersen Health System.



Thomas Kammer (fourth from left) with LPEF Board member Shawn Dutchin (third from left) and students



2015 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Folk Dance Residency

- ▶ *Jill Schams, Southern Bluffs Elementary*
- ▶ Support an artist-in-residence program by local folk dance instructor Sue Hulsether. The three-day program at Southern Bluffs Elementary gives students a fresh look at an art form that is rich in history, develops an awareness of the body, and reinforces self-discipline and self-confidence.



# Shoah Fund: Holocaust Picture Book

- ▶ *Jill Gorell and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade unit at Logan Middle School*
- ▶ For a fourth-quarter study of the Holocaust, books will be purchased and supplemented by a presentation from Tim Scott, a Western Wisconsin attorney who is a frequent public speaker in schools, helping students understand the Holocaust and how it relates to current events.



Jill Gorell



*Underwritten by:*

Maureen and Robert Freedland Fund for Studies of the Shoah

# Shoah Fund: Shoah Traveling Library

- ▶ *Scott Bagniefski and a team at Lincoln Middle School*
- ▶ Create a traveling library of Shoah materials for use by 7<sup>th</sup>-grade and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade classes. Books will include novels and the story of Holocaust survivor Eva Schloss. Lincoln teachers will attend Viterbo's Holocaust Educator Training. Lincoln also will host an appearance by Tim Scott with plans to invite members of the Washburn Neighborhood around the school.



Scott Bagniefski



*Underwritten by:*

Maureen and Robert Freedland Fund for Studies of the Shoah

# Academic Achievement Award Recipients

- ▶ *Tim Hill, Central High*
- ▶ *Beth Forde, Logan High*
- ▶ These teachers were honored Nov. 2, 2015, at the Board of Education Academic Achievement Award Ceremony. Teachers were selected by student speakers, who were asked to identify a teacher who has had a major influence on their academic career. Each teacher received a \$250 classroom grant from LPEF.



Tim Hill



Beth Forde



# Corporate Partner in Education: The Insurance Center

- ▶ In recognition of outstanding support for child-centered charities, including the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.



Tim Johnson

# Leadership Award: Jeff Fleig

- ▶ In recognition of excellence in leadership and commitment to social justice, including implementation of AVID in the School District of La Crosse.



**Jeff Fleig** watching on as students talk about AVID at press conference announcing fundraising results

# Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer Distinguished Service Award: Jerry Kember

- ▶ For service to the community and the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.



*Courtesy La Crosse Tribune*



**Jerry Kember, with Susan Miller  
at the 2015 Charlie Miller  
Bowtie Classic Golf Outing and  
Knowledge Open**