

Latest grants help teachers' dreams come true

Support for virtual reality software and hardware, school gardens, weight room improvements, a community visit by an award-winning author, ice fishing equipment and a special jazz arrangement for a middle school ensemble were among 15 grants totaling almost \$29,000 announced April 10 by the La Crosse Public Education Foundation (LPEF).

Several of the latest Gold Star Grant projects focus on equity and social justice efforts, including purchase of teaching resources and books for reading clubs, and support for an effort to increase the number of teachers of color in the School District of La Crosse.

The 15 grants were chosen from among 28 applications requesting more than \$100,000. Grants are selected for funding based on creativity, ability to engage students and the total impact or reach of the project. This is the second round of LPEF grants awarded this school year, bringing the total to \$70,353 awarded to 47 grant recipients.

See Page 2 for details on the latest grants.



La Crosse Design Institute students react to news of a grant awarded to teacher Maggie McHugh, right.

“Whether it’s \$400 or \$4,000, we love seeing the joy these grants bring to classrooms. Teachers deserve the extra recognition and support for bringing innovative projects to life.” - *Angela Strangman, LPEF Board President*

New endowed fund supports arts/humanities grants

Former LPEF Board President Rachel Gundersen, a retired school psychologist, has created a new endowment fund to enhance learning opportunities for students in the arts and/or the humanities. The fund, established through a generous gift to the La Crosse Public Education Foundation, will provide an annual grant in perpetuity related to fine arts,



Rachel Gundersen

history, literature, global studies or a host of other topics. Teachers will apply through the usual twice-annual LPEF grants process, with the first grant expected to be available in 2019.

Gundersen said she wanted to provide school staff with an incentive to implement innovative programs. “I’m just astounded at the creativity of the people who work in this District,” Gundersen said, adding that “a little bit of money goes a long way for an individual teacher.”

Inside:

- Registrations open for Bowtie Classic
- Thank a Teacher Day May 8
- Teachers honored at Grants Luncheon



Members of the Central High Hiking Club pause for a few minutes of silence to appreciate the view from the Zoerb Prairie Lookout along the Hixon Forest Trail. An LPEF grant, funded with support from Mayo Clinic Health System Franciscan Healthcare, helped Central Teacher Isaac Pischke cover busing costs and rental equipment for the club.

2nd round brings total grants to \$70,353

Here is a brief summary of 15 grants totaling \$29,000 awarded April 10 by LPEF. For the school year, LPEF has supported 47 projects at a cost of \$70,353:

Multiple schools

- \$4,000 to bring award-winning author Gene Luen Yang for a 2-day visit to La Crosse in Spring 2019.
- \$4,000 for teaching resources and books to inspire all students and help them find their voices, including creating social justice book clubs across the district.
- \$2,400 for tuition assistance for two district employees working on teaching degrees by attending UW-L's Grow Our Own Teacher Diversity program.
- \$1,900 for toolbox kits of books and curriculum materials to improve student social and emotional learning.

School gardens

- \$2,338 to GROW La Crosse to support new garden projects at Hintgen and Hamilton/SOTA I.

Hintgen Elementary

- \$2,345 for a "kindness retreat" to help 4th-5th graders improve school culture.
- \$632 for computer hardware to use DVDs that help calm students at the start of the day or following recess.

North Woods International School

- \$2,500 for initial purchase of multicultural books as North Woods begins to implement the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program.

Southern Bluffs Elementary

- \$774 for two sets of books on equity and social justice issues for group reading and studies by staff.

Summit Environmental School

- \$1,543 to buy ice-fishing equipment for student use three days each winter in physical education classes.

Logan Middle School

- \$361 for story cards and wordless books to improve writing skills among students with intellectual disabilities.

Longfellow Middle School and La Crosse Design Institute

- \$3,050 for hardware/software for students to use virtual reality and 3-D modeling for classroom projects.
- \$1,000 to commission an arrangement of "Fanfare for the Common Man," by Aaron Copland, for performances by the Longfellow/LDI jazz ensemble.

Logan High School

- \$1,700 to purchase new upholstery for benches in the weight room and other upgraded equipment for use by physical education classes and athletes.
- \$435 to invite Jamie Nabozny to speak and screen his documentary, "Bullied," about struggling in school as he was bullied for being gay.

Bowtie golf outing set for Sept. 1

Registration is open for the sixth annual Charlie Miller Bowtie Classic Golf Outing and Knowledge Open. The event honors the late Dr. Charles Miller III, who served 15 years on the Board of Education and



Dr. Charles Miller

was a co-founder of the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.

Teams compete on golf skills and general knowledge questions asked by honor students. Each team plays for a La Crosse school, with prize money going to the school for classroom projects. Last year's event raised nearly \$28,000 for LPEF programs.

Join the fun Saturday, Sept. 1 at the Forest Hills Golf Course in La Crosse, with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Registration is \$85, with an early bird rate of \$75 before July 1. Special rates are available for a limited number of school-organized teams.

For information and registration forms, contact us or go to: LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org/charles-miller-bowtie-classic

The presenting sponsor is DALCO, a leading source of cleaning supplies and other equipment for the School District of La Crosse.



Learn more about classroom grants at: LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org



Logan High teachers Terry Curtis, Justin Pitz, and Steve Johnston enjoyed treats during Thank a Teacher Day 2017.

Join us May 8 for Thank a Teacher Day

Parents, students and members of the general public are invited to join LPEF again this year to celebrate teachers, teaching assistants, food service staff, custodians, administrative assistants, nurses, principals and other staff who make a difference every day in the lives of our children.

Please join us Tuesday, May 8 for the fourth annual Thank a Teacher Day in La Crosse Public Schools. Volunteers organized by LPEF will deliver muffins, donuts and fresh fruit for staff in 15 locations as part of Thank a Teacher Day.

Treats for nearly 1,000 School District of La Crosse employees will be provided via grant support from the La Crosse Community Foundation's Carol and Duane Taebel Family Fund. Other community volunteers are expected to join us, including members of the District Wide Parent Committee, as well as Rotary Interact Clubs from Central and Logan high schools.

We may not always appreciate the challenges teachers face each day. So, as we enter the home stretch of the school year, we ask people to take a moment to say 'Thank You' to the teachers and other school staff.

Want to volunteer? Call our office at (608) 787-0226 or email Executive Director David Stoeffler at:

david@lacrosseeducationfoundation.org

More than 80 educators honored at 2018 Grants Award Luncheon

More than 80 educators who have received grants and awards from the La Crosse Public Education Foundation in the past year were honored Jan. 22, 2018, at LPEF's annual Grants Award Luncheon. About 270 people, including award winners, District staff and community members attended the festive event held in the Cargill Room at The Waterfront.

Attendees at the event, presented by Festival Foods, learned how the Community School concept will help Northside Elementary and Hamilton Elementary enhance student learning by developing supports for children, parents, families and community members within the school neighborhood. LPEF will provide \$7,500 start-up grants to each school for community and student programs.



SALUTE TO EDUCATORS SPONSOR



NAMED GRANT SPONSORS



Rachel Gundersen



LPEF 2018 Corporate Investors

Please support the following businesses, which are providing at least \$1,000 in annual support to the La Crosse Public Education Foundation, outside of sponsorship of specific events.





Students, teachers get creative with LPEF grants



With grant support from the La Crosse Public Education Foundation, students at Spence Elementary School are making colorful mosaics for the school garden. **Read about the latest round of grants inside.**

La Crosse Public Education Foundation
PO Box 1811
La Crosse, WI 54602-1811

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

LPEF Board adds three new members

Graduates of Central and Logan High School, as well as the owner of a local accounting firm, have joined the Board of the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.

Katie Berkedal is the fund allocation manager at Gundersen Medical Foundation. She is a Central High School graduate and received her bachelor's degree in Social Advocacy and Communication from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash. She and her husband, Sam Servais (an art teacher at Onalaska High School) have two children at SOTA I Elementary (second and fourth grade).

Adam Kendle is a CPA and the owner of Gillette & Associates, LLC CPAs. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse with a bachelor's degree in Accounting. He and his wife, Katie, have two children at Emerson Elementary (kindergarten and third grade).

Pelli Lee is the youth outreach and transition coordinator for WisCorps, a nonprofit conservation corps providing life and employment skills for youth and young adults. Pelli is a 2010 graduate of Logan High School and a 2015 graduate of UW-La Crosse. He and his wife, Joua Moua, live on La Crosse's North Side and have a 1-year-old daughter.

LPEF is directed by a volunteer Board of 21 members. For more details, see our website:

<http://lacrosseeducationfoundation.org/who-we-are/>



From left: Katie Berkedal, Adam Kendle, and Pelli Lee

About LPEF

The La Crosse Public Education Foundation (LPEF) was created 30 years ago to enhance learning opportunities for students in the School District of La Crosse. Due in part to special one-time gifts, LPEF provided more than \$400,000 in support in 2017 to District schools.

Follow us on social media

Facebook.com/
LaCrosseEduca-
tionFoundation



Twitter: @LaCrosseEdFdn

Donate Online

LaCrosseEducation
Foundation.org/donate

Visit us online: LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org

Email Executive Director David Stoeffler: david@lacrosseeducationfoundation.org