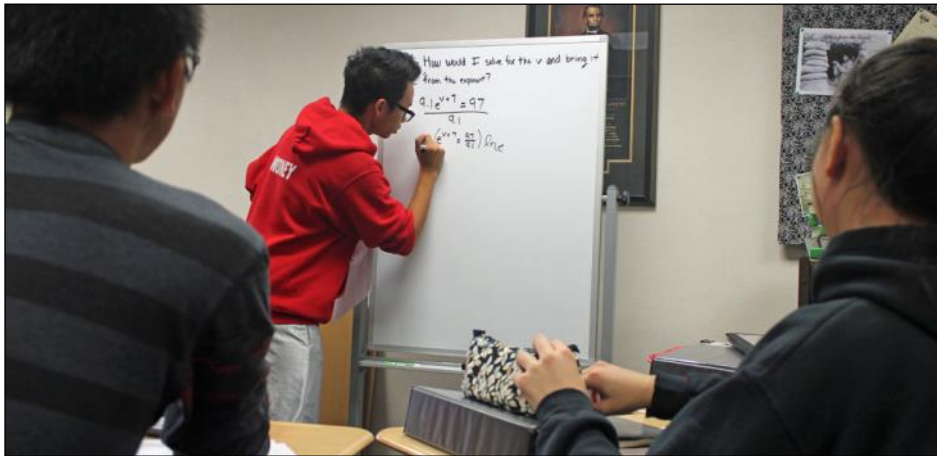


Join us in honoring teachers and other grant recipients on Jan. 16 at LPEF's annual Grants Award Luncheon, presented by Festival Foods. For information or an invitation, please contact our office at (608) 787-0226.



Logan Senior Nhia Thao works on a math problem in tutoring session with fellow students.

## AVID provides 'backbone' for seniors with college ambitions

Nhia Thao wants to get an education that will allow him to support a family, and says AVID is preparing him for the intense classes ahead in college.

Kiara Schultz would be the first in her family to go to college, and says AVID is giving her "the backbone to ask the higher-level questions" so she can achieve her goal of becoming a nurse practitioner.

Kobe King fears he's going to be very busy when he gets to UW-Madison on a basketball scholarship, and AVID is helping him get more organized and develop better study habits. "In college, you have to learn more on your own," King says.

King and Schultz, both seniors at Central High, and Thao, a senior at Logan High, are part of a group of nearly 50 diverse students working toward graduation next spring after completing the AVID program.



Central's Kobe King says AVID taught him better study habits.

AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. It is a college-readiness program - already in place in nearly 5,000 schools across the country - and being implemented in La Crosse public schools with support from nearly \$230,000 in fundraising by the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. Read more online: <http://LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org/avid-seniors-determined-to-succeed/>



Longfellow Middle School 7th-graders Alex Weinberger (with iPad) and Nick Teff use green screen technology purchased through an LPEF grant. More details inside.

### In This Issue

- School-by-school look at impact of more than \$100,000 in LPEF grants
- Bowtie Classic, Chili Cook Off raise funds
- Salute to 2016 LPEF sponsors
- Endowments leave lasting legacy
- New website helps schools raise funds for projects

# Higher grant funding leads to more than \$100,000 investment in last two years

Innovative projects in every school and in every curriculum area have been launched due to the ongoing classroom grants program of the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.

More than 80 grants, totaling more than \$100,000, have been awarded in just the past two years. Increasing grant funding continues to be a top priority for the LPEF Board. The next round of grants will be announced in December.

Here is a roundup of recent grant funding, broken down by school.

## Elementary Schools

More than \$4,000 in grants have gone to support projects that serve all nine elementary schools, including helping buy ukuleles used to teach students the basics of stringed instruments. Also, a \$2,492 grant paid for printing booklets on La Crosse history.



### Emerson Elementary

**2 grants, \$1,510 +**

**Highlight:** Teacher Allison Graumann received a grant for hands-on materials to help first-graders learn math skills.

### Hamilton/SOTA I Elementary

**7 grants, \$7,634 +**

**Highlights:** Teachers have taken students on field trips to a community farm, and purchased classroom materials to help children take “brain breaks” and develop other strategies for increasing focus and mindfulness. Teacher Michael Lawrence received a grant to have his SOTA I students participate in a two-day science boot camp at Viterbo University.

### Hintgen Elementary

**4 grants, \$3,000 +**

**Highlights:** Teachers received grants to buy alternative seating, such as bean bags, and also other tools and materials to help students with sensory needs improve focus for better learning. Hintgen teachers shared grants with Southern Bluffs staff to receive special training in brain stimulation activities to help pre-K and kindergarten students be more ready to learn in school.

### North Woods International

**6 grants, \$5,740**

**Highlights:** Teacher Nancy Hanson received a grant to buy Tower Gardens, unique vertical gardens used to grow organic vegetables with only a fraction of the water needed to grow equivalent amounts of produce using traditional methods. Teacher Nicole Ellefson-Johnson’s grant to buy Osmo iPad kits led the District to buy added kits to engage students in other

**At left: River Powell, part of Nancy Hanson’s 3rd-grade class last year at North Woods, harvested lettuce grown in vertical, aeroponic gardens purchased with an LPEF grant.**



**Southern Bluffs students Rylie Danielson and Jazzlyn Pate spin around the dance floor as part of a folk dance workshop.**

schools through the multiple activities in higher-level problem-solving.

### Northside Elementary

**3 grants, \$3,000 +**

**Highlights:** Teacher Amoreena Rathke is working with counterparts at Hamilton Elementary on plans for a visiting artist who uses art as a means of therapy to understand childhood trauma. Social Worker Heather Gartner and Counselor Melani Fay organized a school-based Positive Parenting Program provided by experts from Gundersen Health System, offering training to 20 Northside families.

### Southern Bluffs Elementary

**5 grants, \$3,770 +**

**Highlights:** In addition to working with Hintgen staff to help pre-K students, grants have supported a visiting author, parent training and purchase of furniture better suited for fidgety students. Teacher Jill Schams received a grant to support a folk dance residency that was a hit with kids.

### Spence Elementary

2 grants, \$1,299

**Highlight:** Art teacher Ronnah Metz worked with Emerson teacher Jean Crayton on a grant to buy three sets of Lux Blox, innovative construction blocks allowing students to make structures that curve, bend and move.

### State Road Elementary

3 grants, \$2,300 +

**Highlight:** Teachers Carrie Quick and Jean Ruprecht engaged students in exercise and learning about health and fitness through "The Walking Classroom." The grant allowed purchase of podcast players with more than 100 lessons for students to use while they "walk, listen and learn."

### Summit Elementary

5 grants, \$5,267 +

**Highlights:** Teachers received a grant to bus students to participate in a concert with the Madison Symphony Orchestra. Grants have supported the annual outdoor education experience, to purchase GoPro video cameras and to hire a music therapist to teach functional and behavioral concepts to students with intellectual disabilities.

### Middle and High Schools

Nearly \$10,000 in grants the past two years have gone to projects serving multiple middle schools or high schools. Included is support for robotic ball kits, a coach for string quartets and the purchase of seven sets of the book "Gathering Fireflies," written by Mai Chao Duddeck, a District teacher and local Hmong artist.

### Lincoln Middle School

6 grants, \$7,980 +

**Highlights:** A series of outside speakers and events have helped focus Lincoln students on the issues of compassion, kindness and anti-bullying behavior. The most recent program invited two local people to share their own tragic life stories and their experiences with compassion, forgiveness and redemption.



**Longfellow Middle 7th-grader Marissa Pickar pretends to pet a fiddler crab as Eli Gardner films her with his iPad. Green screen technology, purchased with an LPEF grant, allows students to substitute a photo into the background, making it look like she's touching the crab. Read more online: <http://LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org/green-screens/>**

### Logan Middle School

8 grants, \$15,444 +

**Highlights:** Classroom furniture, engaging reading materials that help students reflect on their place in the world, and support for a new grand piano are among several grants. Students were joined by counterparts at other schools to work with a visiting composer. Teacher Sherrie Sikora is working with students to create canvas murals to hang in the hallways, reflecting the rich, diverse cultures represented by students and staff.

### Longfellow Middle School and La Crosse Design Institute

4 grants, \$5,974 +

**Highlights:** Students at LDI received microscopes to attach to iPads, and will be working with counterparts at 7 Rivers High School to use animation software to express themselves through projects. Teacher Jeanne Halderson's grant allowed purchase of green screen technology and body suits, allowing students to record video and replace the background with scenes from anywhere in the world.

### 7 Rivers Community School

1 grant, \$320 +

**Highlight:** Student Trinity Isbell received a grant to buy equipment for a start-up coffee shop for students, and for staff in the Hogan building.

### Central High School

3 grants, \$5,003 +

**Highlights:** Broadway actress Elaine Bromka did a theater workshop. Students in technical education classes are able to work with modern welding equipment.

### Logan High School

7 grants, \$11,316 +

**Highlights:** A McGavock Family Music Education grant helped underwrite the purchase of new platform risers for music performances. Teacher Steve Johnston has received grants to help students build a drone, and design and build a self-driving car. A before-school coffee shop was funded to give students in special education classes work experience, with proceeds going to support schoolwide incentives for positive student behavior.

## LPEF 2016 Board of Directors

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Dawn Hemker

## La Crosse Public Education Foundation

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# Please thank and support these major sponsors of LPEF

2016 Charlie Miller Bowtie Classic  
 presenting sponsor

Grants Award Luncheon  
 presenting sponsor

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## Bowtie Classic raises nearly \$24,000 for LPEF programs



The fourth Charlie Miller Bowtie Classic Golf Outing and Knowledge Open, held Sept. 3, attracted 91 golfers and raised a record of nearly \$24,000 for LPEF grants and other programs.

The presenting sponsor was Coulee Bank.

Other major sponsors of the Bowtie Classic:



Hole-in-One Contest Sponsored by Honda Motorwerks.

Special thanks to the family of the late Dr. Charles Miller III for supporting the Bowtie Classic, including helping at the event and underwriting the cost of golfing for two teams of La Crosse school students.

## OTHER 2016 CORPORATE INVESTORS



## 2016 LPEF WEBSITE SPONSOR



## 2016 RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS SPONSOR

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## Chili Cook Off is heartwarming event

About 1,000 chili tasting fans and supporters of local children's charities were on hand Oct. 8 for the 25th annual State Bank Financial Chili Cook Off at Riverside Park. Nearly 30 teams of cooks made chili to serve to hungry fans, with all proceeds going to support LPEF and the DARE program. Special thanks to Viterbo University and Brickl Bros for providing added sponsorship support to LPEF.

**SB**  
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# A legacy of leadership for children and La Crosse public schools

The La Crosse Public Education Foundation has a growing portfolio of endowed funds to support grant projects and other initiatives that sustain and strengthen teaching and learning in the School District of La Crosse.

**Gertrude Salzer Gordon Private Foundation**, established for the benefit of LPEF, supports general operations and grant programs.

**Janet Kircher Isler Board Advised Fund** was created by a bequest from Janet Kircher Isler, a 1936 graduate of Central High School and a long-time teacher in Illinois, and supports special projects.

**Barbara Schroeder Board Advised Fund** was created by a bequest from Barbara Schroeder, a 1968 graduate of Central High School, and supports special projects.

**Richard Swantz Endowment Fund**, named for the former superintendent of schools and one of LPEF's founders, fosters teacher excellence by funding a grant each year in the area of staff development.

**Maureen and Robert Freedland Fund for Studies of the Shoah** supports projects to expose students to the history of the Shoah, the systematic genocide against the Jewish people and other "undesirable" groups targeted for destruction by the Nazi Regime in World War II.

**Judy and Randy Eddy Sr. Fund**, established by longtime La Crosse residents Randy Eddy Sr. and his wife, Judy, and supplemented with proceeds from the Randy Eddy Mathathon, supports students and teachers with an emphasis on Logan High School.

**McGavock Family Endowment for Music Education** provides annual funding for a program or project to enhance music education. The fund is named for Ronald and Philip McGavock. Ronnie was a professional entertainer who settled in La Crosse to raise a family. Philip was a music educator in his native Illinois.

**Steven and Julianna Blanchar Memorial Fund** provides funding for Kindergarten field trips for all students in the district during their first year of school.

**Sally A. Grimslid Memorial Fund** provides extra funding for Northside Elementary School each year. The fund was established in memory of Sally, a former teacher at Franklin Elementary School, a predecessor to Northside.

**Kids for Kids Fund**, created with a donation from the Norman L. Gillette Sr. Family Fund, provides funding for dental and mental health services for schoolchildren in need.

**Duane and Carol Taebel Fund** provides annual support for LPEF with preference to activities for teachers and students at Spence Elementary School.

**The Dr. Gunnar and Mary Baldwin Gundersen Fund**, established through the generosity of Dr. Cameron and Rachel Gundersen, supports classroom grants and programs.

To discuss planned giving or creation of an endowment to support a specific need in La Crosse schools, please contact Executive Director David Stoeffler at (608) 787-0226.

## How it all started

The La Crosse Public Education Foundation was founded in 1988 by some forward-looking La Crosse residents who were passionate in their support of public education in La Crosse. The organization received its 501(c)(3) status in February 1989.

Early supporters include: Jean Bassett, Kathryn Cappelen, Harry Dahl, Sue Durtsche, Roberta Gelatt, Elmer Grassman, Rachel Gundersen, Robert Johnson, Audrey Kader, Marilyn Kochsiek, R. Bruce Larson, Richard Lommen, Dr. Charles H. Miller III, Jess Ondell, Ronald Paczkowski, Nancy Quinlisk, Thomas Sleik, Roland Solberg, Gary Stuhr, Brad Sturm, Richard Swantz and Dorothy Tonniss.

They established an endowment to help fund the work we do. Over the years, community members, local businesses and school district staff have contributed generously.

La Crosse Public Education Foundation Endowment Fund, created at the La Crosse Community Foundation in 1991, ensures funding will be available to sustain the organization in perpetuity. Among many individuals and businesses who donated to the initial endowment were these major donors:

- The Gelatt Family, including Northern Engraving Corp., the Gelatt Foundation, Roberta and Daniel Gelatt, and Philip and Elizabeth Gelatt
- Russell and Gail Cleary
- Harry Dahl
- Rachel Gundersen
- Richard Lommen/Ronald McDonald House Charities
- First Federal (now Associated Bank)
- Northern States Power (now Xcel Energy)
- Norwest Bank (now Wells Fargo)
- La Crosse Tribune
- Trane Co.



Gertrude Salzer Gordon



Janet Kircher Isler



Barbara Schroeder

**La Crosse Public Education Foundation**

P.O. Box 1811

La Crosse, WI 54602-1811

PLACE  
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## Support-a-School.org helps teachers raise money for classroom projects



Students at Hamilton/SOTA I will get to test out classroom furniture and teachers will have an easel to use outdoors in the school garden, due to a new fundraising tool offered by the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.

[Support-a-School.org](http://Support-a-School.org) is a “crowdfunding” website to help teachers, schools and Parent-Teacher

Organizations raise money for much-needed equipment, materials and experiences for students in the School District of La Crosse.

The fundraising site, exclusively for La Crosse public schools, launched at the outset of the school year. Already, more than \$2,300 in online donations have been made, including the Hamilton projects, letting Logan High buy equipment to diagnose problems with electric motors, and providing support for reading materials at Southern Bluffs and Logan Middle.

Pending projects will provide science and math materials for 1st-graders at North Woods, and engaging books for 4th-and-5th-graders at Summit. One campaign supports plans for a new walking track at Southern Bluffs.

New projects are posted frequently as teachers submit ideas using a simple online application. Check out the creativity of teachers and make your tax-deductible credit-card donation at [Support-a-School.org](http://Support-a-School.org).



### 3-day seminar examines equity gaps

More than 200 staff members from the School District of La Crosse, plus community representatives, came together in mid-August for three days of soul-searching about achievement gaps and other inequities in schools. Work continues throughout this school year to develop plans for change.

LPEF helped raise funds for the Equity Institute, with support from: Dave and Barb Skogen; John and Linda Lyche; Don and Roxanne Weber; Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration; Maureen and Robert Freedland; and State Bank Financial.

**Visit us online: [LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org](http://LaCrosseEducationFoundation.org)**

**Email Executive Director David Stoeffler: [david@lacrosseeducationfoundation.org](mailto:david@lacrosseeducationfoundation.org)**