

# Excellence and Equity in our Schools



LA CROSSE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## Grants Award Luncheon

presented by

**festival**  
foods

# Excellence and Equity in our Schools

## 2017 GRANTS AWARD LUNCHEON

presented by Festival Foods

### Music

Central High School Quartet

Directed by Micah Averbeck • Coached by Busya Lugovier

Julia Ferris • 1st Violin

Asya Her • 2nd Violin

Avery Laffey • Viola

Elijah Marriott • Cello

### Welcome

Shawn Dutchin, President, Board of Directors

La Crosse Public Education Foundation

### Mistress of Ceremonies

Lisa Klein, News 8 WKBT

### Speaker

Excellence and Equity in Our Schools

Randy Nelson

Superintendent of Schools

### Recognition of Grant Recipients

#### Special Recognition

Festival Foods/Dave & Barb Skogen • Corporate Partner in Education

Annette O'Hern • Leadership Award

Gregory Bonney • 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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TRUST • INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Rachel Gundersen

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# Corporate Investors/ Named Grant Sponsors

The Wells Fargo logo, which consists of the words "WELLS" and "FARGO" stacked vertically in a yellow, serif font, set against a solid red square background.

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# Other Corporate Investors

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**THE Insurance CENTER**

# Our Grant Sponsors



# Other Sponsors

## Table Sponsors

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## Teacher Sponsors

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# LPEF Endowed Funds: Designated Grants

## La Crosse Community Foundation Funds

Maureen and Robert Freedland Fund for Studies of the Shoah

Richard Swantz Endowment Fund

Dr. Gunnar and Mary Baldwin Gundersen Fund

Duane and Carol Taebel Fund

## Trust Point Funds

Judy and Randy Eddy Sr. Fund

McGavock Family Endowment for Music Education

2017 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Trauma Sensitive Schools Workshop

- ▶ *Tracy Taylor-Johnson, Summit*
- ▶ The grant will provide training for 60 or more teachers throughout the District in techniques to identify and address key indicators of traumatic stress in children.
- ▶ Sponsored by:



Tracy Taylor-Johnson (right) with LPEF Board member Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer



2017 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# All American Boys

- ▶ *Whitney Redman, Logan High*
- ▶ Grant money will purchase 225 copies of the book “All American Boys,” by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely, for use in sophomore English classes at Logan High. The contemporary young adult novel addresses issues of race in today's society. It will be paired with the classic novel, “To Kill a Mockingbird.”

▶ Sponsored by:  
***Coulee Bank***  
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Whitney Redman with LPEF Board and Board of Education member Brad Quarberg

2017 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# White Board Projector

- ▶ *Kasey Pomeroy, Summit Elementary*
- ▶ The grant will purchase a projector and equipment to be used in daily instruction to meet the special needs of Summit students with vision impairments and sensory needs.
- ▶ Sponsored by:



Franciscan Healthcare



Kasey Pomeroy (left) with LPEF Board member Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer



2017 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Spence Outdoor Classroom

- ▶ *Shelley Shirel and staff, Spence*
- ▶ The grant provides start-up funding for outdoor classroom and garden space at Spence. The goal is to create a calming and peaceful outdoor education space for curriculum-connected lessons, while instilling a love and curiosity of nature in students.
- ▶ Sponsored by:



Grant delivery to Spence 2<sup>nd</sup>-grade and 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade classes and teachers

TRUST POINT  
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Also underwritten by:  
Duane and Carol Taebel Fund

2017 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Reader's Theater & Fun Props

- ▶ *Mary Her Zong, Summit Elementary*
- ▶ Grant money will buy scripts and props to help Hmong students and other English Language Learners improve vocabulary, grammar and fluency. The scripts make reading fun as students play a character, with content based on math, social studies and science skills.
- ▶ Sponsored by:



Mary Her Zong (left) with LPEF Board Member Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer



2017 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Junk and the Possibilities

- ▶ *Carissa Brudos, Summit, and Maria Mason, North Woods*
- ▶ Grant money will support a collaborative project for students to work with a visiting artist, staff members, family and community members to understand the impact of trash on our environment, and how to transform discarded objects into art.
- ▶ Sponsored by:

**GUNDERSEN**  
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Maria Mason



Carissa Brudos (left) with LPEF Board member Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer

2017 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# STEM Education

- ▶ *Christine Rox, Shanon Bills and Karen Landstrom, Hintgen Elementary*
- ▶ Grant money will purchase a variety of tools and supplies for use in three kindergarten classrooms at Hintgen, helping students explore science, technology, engineering and mathematical skills.
- ▶ Sponsored by:

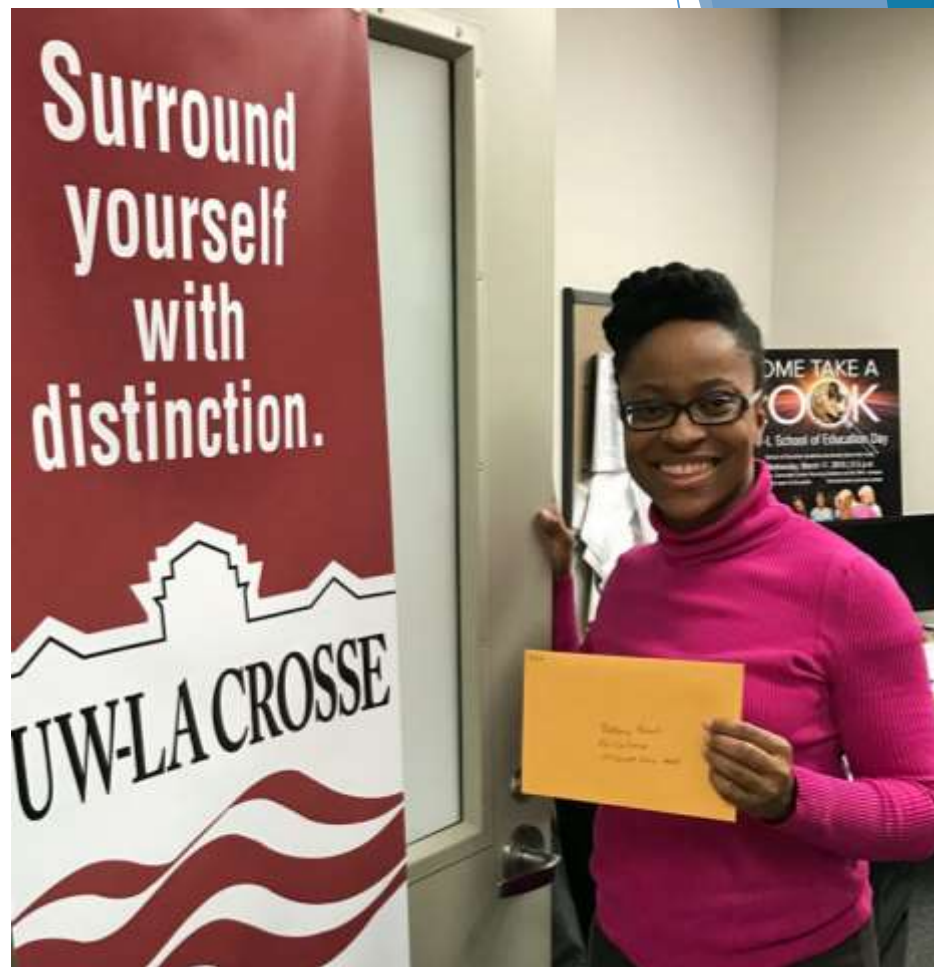


Christine Rox, Shanon Bills and Karen Landstrom

2017 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Grow Our Own Teacher Diversity

- ▶ *Bethany Brent, UW-L*
- ▶ Money provides tuition scholarships for up to three District employees returning to school to complete education degrees at UW-L. 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.
- ▶ Sponsored by:



Bethany Brent



2017 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

## Breakout EDU

- ▶ *Cassandra Sturzl, Logan Middle*
- ▶ Grant money will purchase multiple sets of Breakout EDU kits, which challenge students to work through content-based problems in order to open a series of locks. Each clue leads to subsequent challenges until students work collaboratively to solve puzzles and break into the box.
- ▶ Sponsored by:



Cassandra Sturzl with LPEF and Board of Education member Brad Quarberg

2017 1<sup>st</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Cassie Stephens Residency



Steve Michaels

- ▶ *Bethany Nugent and Steve Michaels, Hamilton/SOTA I*
- ▶ Supports expenses for an artist-in-residence visit by Cassie Stephens, an art educator who is nationally recognized for efforts to integrate art-related activities and content into the everyday classroom.
- ▶ Sponsored by  
**Rachel Gundersen**



Bethany Nugent (left) with LPEF Board member Cari Mathwig-Ramseier

2016 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Grant Recipient

# Explore Healing Aspects of Art

- ▶ *Amoreena Rathke and Laura Huber, Northside; and Steve Michaels, Hamilton/SOTA I*
- ▶ Give students a chance to work with Tyanna Buie, an African-American artist from Milwaukee who uses art as a means of therapy to build resilience.



*Underwritten by:*  
Dr. Gunnar and Mary  
Baldwin Gundersen Fund



Laura Huber (center) and  
Amoreena Rathke



Steve Michaels



2017 1st Round Grant Recipient

## Logan High Exo Arm

- ▶ *Steve Johnston, Logan High*
- ▶ Grant money will purchase materials to design and fabricate a robotic "Exo Arm" to be used in metal grinding operations. The arm will mimic the function of the human arm in order to minimize repetitive work injuries.



Steve Johnston (right) with LPEF and Board of Education member Brad Quarberg



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

2017 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Mid West Music Fest

- ▶ *Steve Michaels, District Fine Arts Supervisor*
- ▶ Grant money will allow Northside and Hamilton elementary students to work with visiting hip-hop music artist Toki Wright to create original rap and hip-hop compositions to be performed at the Mid West Music Fest.



*Underwritten by:*  
McGavock Family Endowment  
for Music Education



Steve Michaels with LPEF Board member Cari Mathwig-Ramseier

2017 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Parents Raising Resilient Children

- ▶ *Jocelyn Buxton and Michelle L. Powell, Spence*
- ▶ Money provides training for 10 elementary teachers who in turn will teach parents of pre-schoolers how to better respond to children's behaviors, including self-regulation skills, how electronics impact child development, discipline and parenting styles, and overcoming barriers and changes.



Michelle L. Powell



Jocelyn Buxton with LPEF Board member Tammy Larson



Underwritten by:  
Richard Swantz Endowment Fund



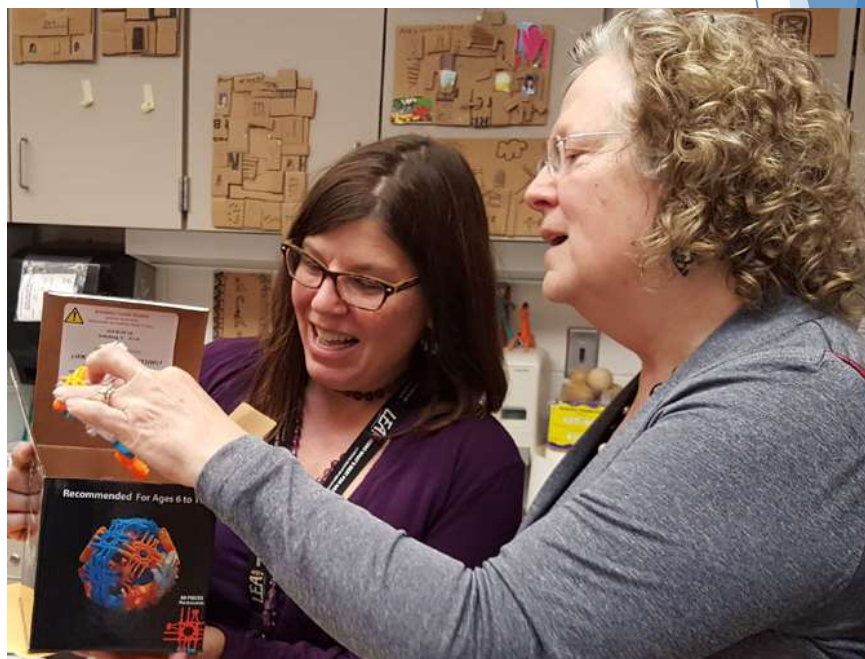
2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Lux Blox Project

- ▶ *Ronnah Metz, Spence; and Jean Brady, Emerson*
- ▶ Grant supports purchase of three sets of Lux Blox, an innovative set of construction blocks that allow students to make structures that curve, bend and move; students use the blocks to develop art, math, science and engineering skills addressed in state standards.



Jean Brady with students



Ronnah Metz with LPEF Board member Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer



*Underwritten by:*  
Duane and Carol Taebel Fund

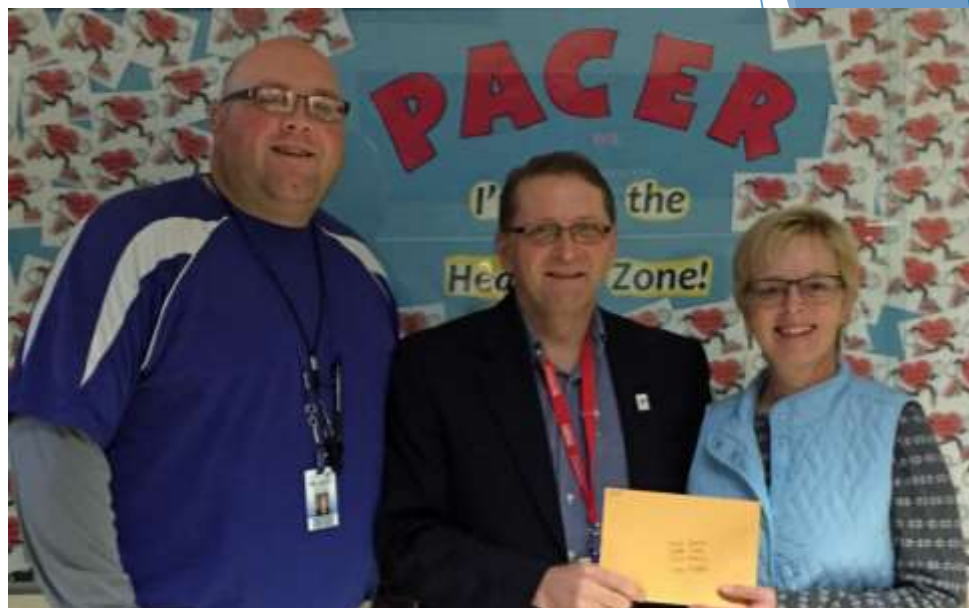
2017 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Cardio Drumming

- ▶ *Lorrae Swartz, Chester Janke and Jessica Pfenning, Logan Middle*
- ▶ Grant will purchase exercise balls, drumsticks and storage to help students improve fitness and health, and inspire them to find joy in movement. The creative activity combines drumming to music with sticks on a yoga or exercise ball.



Jessica Pfenning



Chester Janke (left) and Lorrae Swartz (right) with LPEF Board member Brad Quarberg



*Awarded in Honor of:*  
Karen Wilke, retired Longfellow  
Middle School teacher



Karen Wilke

2017 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Longfellow Garden Club

- ▶ *Lisa Hammond,  
Longfellow*
- ▶ Grant money will buy supplies for use by a school cook to start an informal Garden Club to help students learn about starting, planting and harvesting vegetables.



Lisa Hammond (left) with LPEF  
Board member Julie Nelson



*Awarded in Honor Of:*  
Robin Wilson, retired  
administrative assistant



Robin Wilson



2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Learning Through Music

- ▶ *Resa Hawes and Paula Hueners, Summit Elementary*
- ▶ Grant money supports a contract with a music therapist to teach functional and behavioral concepts through the use of music, working with students with intellectual disabilities.



Resa Hawes



Paula Hueners (left) with LPEF Executive Director David Stoeffler

2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Logan Middle Grand Piano

- ▶ *Steve Michaels, District Fine Arts Supervisor*
- ▶ Grant supports community fundraising to buy a grand piano for use by North Side middle school and high school students, as well as for community performances in a great, historic venue.



Current upright piano

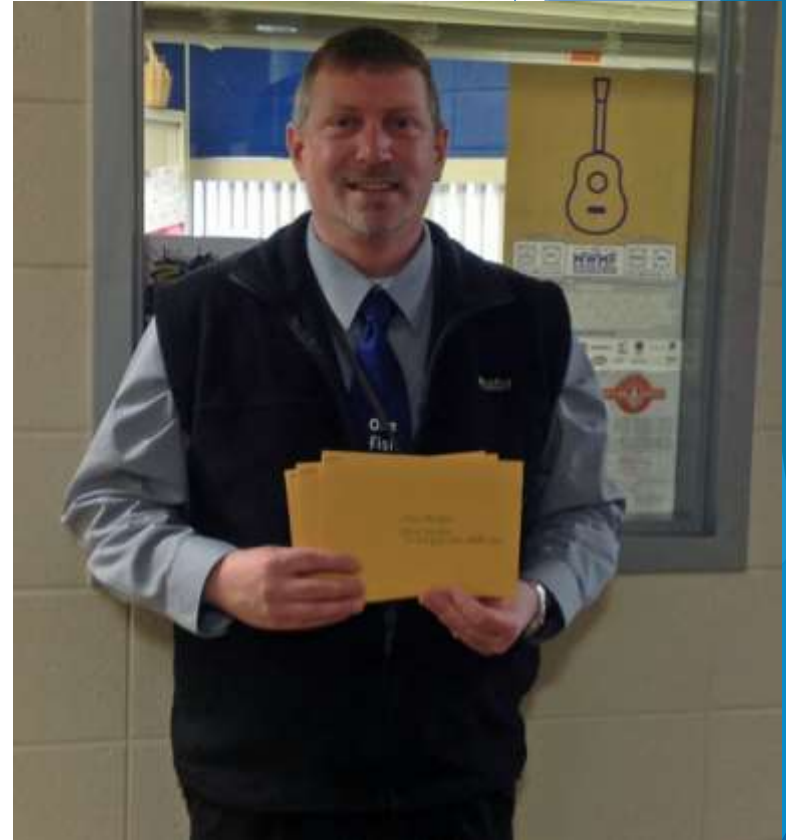


Logan Middle School auditorium

2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Intersession Behavior Interventions

- ▶ *Steve Michaels, Hamilton/SOTA I*
- ▶ Grant money will contract with skilled behavioral interventionists to work with students in small groups during intersessions, helping students improve social skills and other behavior in an effort to reduce disruptions and office referrals.



Steve Michaels

2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Mirrors and Windows

- ▶ *Kellie Schmitz and Danielle Hartman, Logan Middle*
- ▶ Grant money supports purchase of a variety of high quality, leveled books to help Logan Middle students think critically about global topics and to “reflect who we are and what we will become.”



Kellie Schmitz (left) and Dani Hartman



2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Mission Possible with Mindstorms

- ▶ *Jodi Brueggeman, Spence Elementary on behalf of all elementary and middle schools*
- ▶ Grant money buys 5 Lego Mindstorms kits to supplement 15 owned by the District for use in challenging 5th-grade and middle-school students to learn important science, computer science, technology, engineering and math skills.



Jodi Brueggeman (left) with LPEF Board member Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer

2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Living Compassion: Real Life Stories

- ▶ *Rick Blasing, Lincoln Middle*
- ▶ Grant money supported a school assembly featuring local musicians and two local individuals sharing their own tragic life stories and their experiences with compassion, forgiveness and redemption.



Rick Blasing introducing the program to students



Tim Vernier



Devyn Prielipp



2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Global Art Murals

- ▶ *Sherrie Sikora, Logan Middle*
- ▶ Grant money purchased materials for use by students to create canvas murals to hang in the hallways at Logan Middle, reflecting the rich diverse cultures represented by students and staff.



Sherrie Sikora (with Mr. Potato Head)

2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Animation: Wave of the Future

- ▶ *Penny Reedy and Angeli Engel (student) for Longfellow/LDI and 7 Rivers Community High School*
- ▶ Grant money used to purchase animation software to challenge students to learn higher order skills and to express themselves in unique ways that engage teens.



TOP: Angeli Engel demonstrates animation software.  
RIGHT: Penny Reedy (left) with Angeli Engel and LPEF Board member Cari Mathwig-Ramseier



2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Reaching and Teaching Children Who Hurt

- ▶ *Tracy Taylor-Johnson, Summit Elementary on behalf of other elementary teachers*
- ▶ Grant purchased books by an author who spoke at the Rebuilding for Learning Summit, allowing a group of teachers to be better prepared to learn and develop strategies for children who suffer from trauma, mental illness, abuse, neglect, etc.



Tracy Taylor-Johnson (right) with LPEF Executive Director David Stoeffler



2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Making Math Meaningful

- ▶ *Allison Graumann, Emerson Elementary*
- ▶ Grant purchased materials to create hands-on math centers and activities for use in first-grade classrooms, providing differentiated instruction to help students achieve or exceed standards.



Allison Graumann with 1<sup>st</sup>-grade students last spring



2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

## 9<sup>th</sup> Street Show Choir to Chicago

- ▶ *Jennifer Gulsvig, Lincoln Middle*
- ▶ Grant supplemented \$4,500 in online fundraising to support a trip to a Chicago show choir competition by the Lincoln Show Choir.



Jennifer Gulsvig (right) backstage with choir members prior to performance in Chicago

2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Growing the School Gardens

- ▶ *Katie Berkedal, GROW La Crosse*
- ▶ Grant provided added support to continue school gardens and related programming at State Road and Hamilton/SOTA I schools. The gardens provide fresh food and cultivate healthy eating habits by students.



ABOVE: Student working with plants at Hamilton/SOTA I.



LEFT: Kari Bersagel Braley (center) of GROW La Crosse with Shelly Healy (State Road Interim Principal in 2015-16) and LPEF Board member Chris Blaylock

2017 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Spence School Garden

- ▶ *Katie Berkedal, GROW La Crosse*
- ▶ Grant will purchase supplies to support developing a school garden at Spence Elementary, including recipe demonstrations and garden-themed lessons, such as seed starting and pollination.



Anne Seehafer (right), executive director of GROW La Crosse, with LPEF board member Tammy Larson

2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Buildingwide Mindfulness

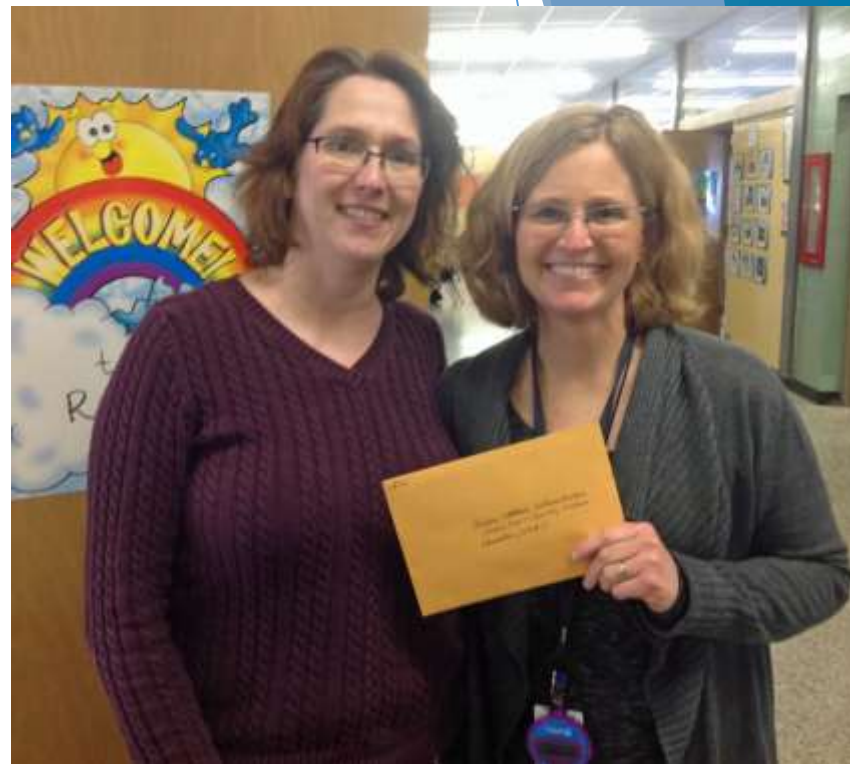
- ▶ *Barbara Wettstein, Katherine Erickson, Jamie Sage and Courtney Kirchner, Hamilton/SOTA I*
- ▶ Grant purchased materials and tools for use in classrooms as staff implement 'mindfulness' strategies that provide concrete ways for children to get their bodies and brains ready to learn.



Jamie Sage



Courtney Kirchner



Katherine Erickson (left) and  
Barbara Wettstein



2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# SMART for Teacher

- ▶ *Barbara Oettel, PaHoua Vang and Christine Rox of Hintgen; and Laurie Kartman, Michelle M. Powell, Vivian Storm and Linda Justin of Southern Bluffs*
- ▶ Provide materials to support Stimulating Maturity Through Accelerated Training in brain stimulation activities that promote learning readiness for pre-K and kindergarten students.



Barbara  
Oettel



PaHoua  
Vang



Michelle M.  
Powell



Christine  
Rox



(From left) LPEF Board member Tammy Larson with Vivian Storm, Laurie Kartman and Linda Justin

2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Reading in the Classroom

- ▶ *Diane Block, Logan Middle*
- ▶ Grant purchased access to an internet-based program, Read Naturally Live, that uses visual and auditory prompts to help students develop reading skills and improve vocabulary. The program is tailored to each student's needs and will be used across the District with middle school students with intellectual disabilities.



Diane Block with student Kaleb Sivanich

2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# The Orchestra Sings

- ▶ *Danielle Fields, Summit Elementary*
- ▶ Grant provided transportation for Summit 5th-graders to participate in concert with the Madison Symphony Orchestra.



Danielle Fields (left) with 5<sup>th</sup>-grade teachers Marty Maus and Erica Rasmussen

2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Traveling Salad Bar Garden

- ▶ *Faye Kielley, for Emerson Elementary and other schools*
- ▶ Grant used to recycle an old salad bar by equipping it with grow lights and other equipment so it can be used as a traveling garden, producing a crop of herbs or vegetables to be used in school meals.



Faye Kielley (left) with School Nutrition Supervisor Lyn Halvorson



2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# ACT Parenting Class

- ▶ *Becky Lueck and Michelle M. Powell, Southern Bluffs*
- ▶ Grant supported training in the ACT/Parents Raising Safe Kids Program for two educators, so they in turn can provide parenting programs for families at Southern Bluffs.



Michelle M.  
Powell



Becky Lueck (left) with LPEF Board  
member Tammy Larson

2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Mug Life Cafe

- ▶ *Trinity Isbell (student) with support from Keachen Abing, 7 Rivers Community High School*
- ▶ Grant supported purchase of equipment for use by an entrepreneurial student creating a student-run coffee shop at 7 Rivers in the Hogan Administrative Center.



Trinity Isbell (left) with Keachen Abing

2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Focus Through Movement and Rhythm

- ▶ *Teri Amann, Hamilton/SOTA I*
- ▶ Grant purchased exercise equipment to provide active transitions between subjects, or "brain breaks," to increase focus by students at SOTA I, including students with learning disabilities and those learning the English language.



Teri Amann

2016 2nd Round Grant Recipient

# Games Galore

- ▶ *Amanda Wolfgram, with parents Mike Haupert and Mark Kendhammer, North Woods*
- ▶ Grant supported replacing, updating and supplementing board games for use in after-school club run by community volunteers. The club helps students develop higher-level thinking and social skills. A 2009 LPEF grant originally funded games for the club.



Amanda Wolfgram (center) with students and LPEF Board member Judy Sleik (back right)



2017 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Offsite Construction

- ▶ *Nick Kalina, Central High*
- ▶ Grant will purchase a space heater for use by students in the Construction Career Academy working with the city of La Crosse on building a new home



Nick Kalina (left) with LPEF Board member Julie Nelson

2017 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Teaching Social Skills

- ▶ *Jocelyn Buxton, Spence Elementary*
- ▶ Grant will purchase a set of books by author Julia Cook, focusing on developing a variety of social skills and helping children better understand how their actions impact themselves and others.



Jocelyn Buxton (back left) with students and LPEF Board member Tammy Larson (back right)

2017 1st Round Grant Recipient

# Hands on Learning

- ▶ *Teresa Fox, State Road*
- ▶ Grant will buy materials for a kindergarten classroom to provide students with hands-on learning experiences, particularly to enhance the students' sense of numbers and the ability to use them on a daily basis.



Teresa Fox (right) with LPEF Board member Angela Strangman

2016 Wish List Grant Recipient

# Black Youth Summit

- ▶ *Shaundel Spivey, District Cultural Liaison*
- ▶ Grant supported first-ever summit for African-American students in grades 6-10, aimed at building self-confidence and encouraging academic excellence and community service, all through a social justice lens.



Shaundel Spivey



HS juniors Shaniece Riley and Joye Miller



Middle school students asking questions of high school panel



# Academic Achievement Award Recipients

- ▶ *Eric Martin, Logan High*
- ▶ *Doug Dammen, Central High*
- ▶ These teachers were honored Nov. 7, 2016, 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.



Eric Martin



Doug Dammen

# Corporate Partner in Education: Festival Foods

- ▶ In recognition of deep support of public education and a passionate commitment to serving and enriching the lives of others.



Dave and Barb Skogen

# Leadership Award: Annette O'Hern

- In recognition of excellence in leadership of career education, including the Health Science Academy and leading student visits to the Pine Ridge Reservation.



Annette O'Hern is recognized by tribal members and welcomed during a fall visit to Pine Ridge

# Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer Distinguished Service Award: Gregory Bonney

- ▶ For service to the community and the La Crosse Public Education Foundation, including serving two terms as President of the LPEF Board.



Gregory Bonney with his son, serving chili at the 2015 State Bank Financial Chili Cook Off



Gregory Bonney