

Educating for our Future

2024

GRANTS AWARD LUNCHEON

Presented by



Celebrating Enhanced Educational Experiences Made Possible Through Community Generosity

Welcome to the annual Grants Award Luncheon of the La Crosse Public Education Foundation! Thank you for supporting students, teachers, and schools throughout the School District of La Crosse.

2023 Impact

\$80,000

Gold Star Grant funds for 43 innovative classroom and teacher training projects impacting students at every school in the School District of La Crosse.

415

Uses of Random Acts of Kindness Funds.

\$46,000

Total RAK distributions to meet student and family needs.

To put your support for public education into action in 2024, you can donate using the envelopes on your table or by visiting www.lacrosseeducationfoundation.org/donate.

Featured Presenters: Jocelyn Buxton, Jennifer Voigt, and Lilly Ackerman



Jocelyn Buxton is a fifth grade teacher at Spence Elementary. She has been teaching for 22 years, 11 of those in the La Crosse School District. She and her husband, Josh, a teacher at Central High School, have three children who have all or currently attend district schools. Jocelyn has written and been awarded several Gold Star Grants and appreciates the support of the LPEF and our community donors.

Jennifer Voigt is a 25-year science teacher from Central High School and now the Health Science Academy. She is an alumna of the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse where she earned her B.S. in Biology and Broadfield Science, and Marian University where she earned her Master's degree in Education Technology. She has also completed a Social Justice Certificate from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and is a facilitator for WEAC's Equity Ambassadors program.

Lilly Ackerman is a senior at Central High School and is enrolled in the Health Science Academy. She also serves as the Central student representative on the Board of Education for the School District of La Crosse.

Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer Distinguished Service Award

Kathie Tyser



Kathie Tyser was a teacher, administrator, and associate superintendent in the School District of La Crosse for 30 years before retiring in 2008. She has remained active in the community including serving terms on the La Crosse County Board, the Board of the UWL Foundation, and the La Crosse Public Education Foundation Board. She and her husband, Rob, raised two sons in La Crosse and now also enjoy four grandchildren. For her dedication to the education profession and service to the La Crosse Public Education Foundation, Kathie is this year's recipient of the Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer Distinguished Service Award.

Partner in Education Award

Solar on La Crosse Schools



Formed in 2019, Solar on La Crosse Schools (SOLS) educates, advocates, and fundraises to make solar energy a reality sooner for the School District of La Crosse. SOLS is 100% volunteer-powered and LPEF serves as the fiscal sponsor for the group's efforts. To date, SOLS has successfully fundraised for rooftop solar arrays on Hamilton/SOTA I Elementary, Northside/Coulee Montessori Elementary, and Polytechnic buildings. In addition to fundraising, SOLS facilitates clean energy discussions in the school district, hosts public events, and creates renewable energy learning opportunities for students.

Find out more on their web site –
www.solaronlacrosseschools.org

Richard Swantz Leadership Award

Patty Sprang



Patty Sprang is being honored with the Richard Swantz Leadership Award in recognition of her exceptional stewardship of resources, driven by a caring heart, to advance student achievement in the School District of La Crosse.

Patty is currently the Executive Director of Business Services for the School District of La Crosse and is in her 8th year in the district. Prior to coming to La Crosse, Patty served as Business Manager for the Mishicot School District and Accountant for the Manitowoc School District. Patty earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and Business Management from Silver Lake College and a Master of Science in Education School Business Degree from UW-Whitewater and she holds a Wisconsin School Business Administrator license. Patty's greatest joy comes from spending time with her family including her 4 grandchildren ages 4 to 13. Patty also enjoys traveling to new places and spending time at the ocean.

Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor



Festival Foods' generous sponsorship supports LPEF programs throughout the year bringing Enhanced educational experiences to students in the School District of La Crosse.

2023 Sponsored Grants



Salute to Educators Sponsor

Fowler & Hammer sponsored the following grants in honor of recent retirees from the School District of La Crosse.



Presented in honor of retiree Lora Busch, retired from State Road Elementary School

Wonderbooks for Kindergarten

Recipients: Teresa Fox, Hannah Groth, and Katie Steigerwald

Funds the purchase of Wonderbooks for Kindergarten classrooms at State Road elementary.

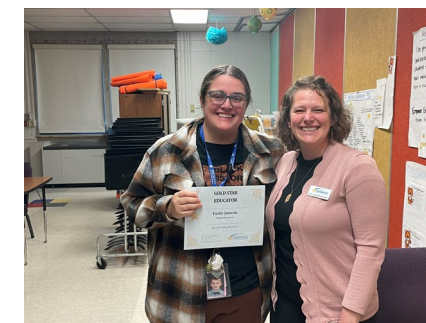


Presented in honor of retiree Kala Justin, retired Teacher Assistant from Central High School

Murder Mysteries: Engaging and Educational

Recipient: Katherine Keeney

Funds the purchase of an online Murder Mystery game for use in English classrooms at Logan High School.



Presented in honor of retiree Mary Mick, retired teacher from Northside Elementary School

Spiral Binding Machine

Recipients: Emily Juneau and Amanda Pfiffner

Funds the purchase of a spiral coil binding machine to make adaptive books for special education students at Hintgen Elementary.

STEM on Wheels

Sponsored by



Recipient: Gary Boisvert

Funds the purchase of OSMOs and a STEAM course kit for an after-school STEM club at Schuh Homes for La Crosse students who can't participate in at-school extracurriculars due to transportation.



Everyone Can Ride

Sponsored by



Recipients: Bethany Peterson, Lindsey Shay, Katelyn Koehler, Emily Franzen, Jarrett Hunt, Reid Hansen, Lisa Boyer, and Jessa Ellenbecker

Funds the purchase of 2 large Adaptive Tricycles for use in the district's middle and high schools' special education classrooms. These bikes will allow students that require adapted equipment to experience the joy and health benefits of riding a bike.



Universal Visuals

Sponsored by



Recipients: Jill Utz Lebakken, Beth Pogreba, and Delane Swanson

Funds the purchase of visuals that help support Hintgen Elementary students in special education, who are English Language Learners. These visuals are important to helping students understand classroom content and participate in classroom routines.



Learn to Ride

Sponsored by **GUNDERSEN**
HEALTH SYSTEM®

Recipient: Emily Siegmeier

Funds the purchase of 20 Strider bikes and helmets to provide students at Northside and Coulee Montessori Elementary the opportunity to learn how to ride a bike.



9-Person Bike with Storage Travel Trailer

Sponsored by



Recipients: Lisa Boyer and Melissa Norman

Helps to fund the purchase of an enclosed travel trailer to house a 9-person bike for use throughout the school district.



UDL Fine Motor in a Box

Sponsored by



Recipients: Shanon Bills, Emily Juneau, Christine Rox, Pa Houa Vang, and Katie Zavodny Olson

Funds the purchase of materials to create interactive, multi-sensory boxes that will provide a strong foundation of small motor skills for students at Hintgen Elementary. These boxes will be used in an inclusive, universal program to support the extensive fine motor and sensory needs of all students.



Middle School Microscopy

Sponsored by  TRUSTPOINT

Recipients: Elizabeth Ramsay, Andy Barth, Kelsey Ferkingstad, and Haley Williams

Funds the purchase of 15 student Monocular Compound Microscopes and a storage cabinet for use in science classrooms at Longfellow Middle School. The additional microscopes will allow more students to engage in hands-on experiences and spark curiosity.



Training the Community in High-Quality CPR and First Aid

Sponsored by  **MAYO CLINIC
HEALTH SYSTEM**

Recipients: Nahmie George and Jennifer Voigt

Funds the purchase of four high-quality and realistic CPR mannequins and two deluxe instructor kits for use in the Health Science Academy to aid in teaching CPR/AED skills throughout the district, and for use locally and when traveling to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Pine Ridge, SD.



Reading is Fun!

Sponsored by



Recipients: Cindy Schofield and Jenny Ruetten

Funds the purchase of Decodable books from High Noon to allow Emerson Elementary to start a reading club for struggling readers. These books are at the student's reading level, but the subject matter is geared toward older readers.



LPEF Endowed Funds: Designated Grants

LPEF Funds:

- Judy and Randy Eddy Sr. Fund
- McGavock Family Music Education Fund
- Quarberg Family Pride of the North Side Endowment
- Rachel Gundersen Endowment for the Arts & Humanities
- Claire E. Jandt Endowment for Library Media at Northside Elementary School
- Randy and Lynn Nelson Fund
- Tom and Jean Heyt Thompson Endowment Fund
- Tyser Power of Nature Fund
- Random Acts of Kindness Forever Endowment Fund

La Crosse Community Foundation Funds:

- Richard Swantz Endowment Fund
- Sally Grimslid Random Acts of Kindness Memorial Fund for Northside Elementary
- Maureen and Robert Freedland-LPEF Fund for Studies of the Shoah
- Kids for Kids Fund-LPEF
- Dr. Gunnar and Mary Baldwin Gundersen Memorial Fund
- Duane and Carol Taebel Fund
- Carol Taebel "Thank A Teacher" Fund
- Tom and Judy Sleik Family Fund
- Judy and Dave Bouffleur Fund

CMAP Spring Outings

Sponsored by the Tyser Power of Nature Fund of the La Crosse Public Education Foundation

Recipient: Nine Dodge

Supported Coulee Montessori Adolescent Program field trips for 6-8th grade students to Wyalusing State Park, Perrot Park, and Deep Roots Community Farm.



The Maureen and Robert Freedland-LPEF Fund for Studies of the Shoah

Recipient: Tammy Gruen

Grant for Logan Middle and High school teachers and students to participate in Viterbo University Holocaust Seminar

Recipient: Jeanne Halderson

Grant to purchase copies of “White Bird” for Longfellow 7th grade students.

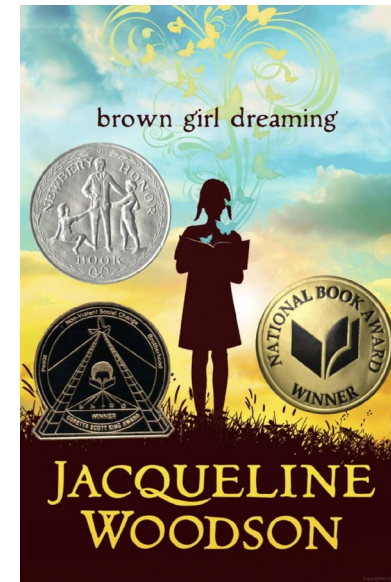


Brown Girl Dreaming

Sponsored by Heather & Stephen Ross and Maureen & Robert Freedland LPEF Fund for Diversity Education of the La Crosse Community Foundation

Recipients: Lisa Stundahl, Jannet Koll,
Jenny Ruetten, and Bethany Nugent

Supports 5th grade literacy curriculum through
the purchase of Brown Girl Dreaming.



Being S.M.A.R.T. District Wide

Sponsored by Richard Swantz Endowment Fund

Recipients: Lindsey Shay, Michelle Powell, Barbara Oettel, Nicole Kuecker, and Hannah DeYoung

Provides S.M.A.R.T. training and tool kits for regular and Special Education teachers across the district in Early Childhood through 1st grade.



Making Math Connections with K'Nex

Sponsored by the Judy and Randy Eddy Sr. Fund

Recipients: Liz Ramsay, Kelsey Ferkingstad, and Haley Williams

Funds the purchase of K'Nex materials to teach geometry and measurement for Longfellow 7th grade students.



Teen Lit Con

Sponsored by Rachel Gundersen Endowment for Arts & Humanities

Recipients: Cindy Halter, Kristi Moulton, Chris Schiffer, Lila Planavsky, Abby Von Arx, and Carrie Wuensch-Harden

Provided funding for a trip for middle and high school students to a on-day Teen Lit Con near Minneapolis.



Quarberg Pride of the Northside Fund

Provides support for Logan High Marching Band and Choir



Virtual Reality STEAM Room Initiation

Sponsored by the Dr. Gunnar and Mary Baldwin
Gundersen Memorial Fund

Recipient: Kyle Allen

Funds the purchase of Virtual Reality Headsets
for students at Northside Elementary to use in
STEAM lab.

Wonderbooks for Early Readers

Sponsored by the Duane and Carol
Taebel Fund

Recipients: Emilie Clifford, Jennifer
Jacobson, Damian Stanton

Funds the purchase of Wonderbooks
for 2nd grade developing readers at
Summit Elementary.

Whole School Phonemic Awareness Library

Sponsored by the Tom and Judy Sleik Family
Fund of the La Crosse Community Foundation

Recipient: Jenn Speckeen

To create a library of activities to
promote awareness for all grades
at Hamilton/SOTA I Elementary.

Game Based Learning to Motivate Summer Math Students

Sponsored by the Judy and Dave Bouffleur Fund

Recipient: Ruth Baardseth

To hone math skills and reinvigorate a love
for math in middle school students at
summer school through engaging in games
and collaboration.

Additional 2023 Gold Star Grants

Making Music Matter - provides Culturally Responsive Teaching training for elementary and middle school music teachers. Recipients: Amanda Wolfgram, Anna Taylor, Brian Renkas

Leveled Library for Book Bags - supplies 1st grade classes at State Road with books that correlate with grade-level topics to be sent home for reading practice. Recipient: Rachel Woods

Stride for Success - to purchase strider bikes and curriculum for kindergarten students at Spence. Recipients: Paul Holman, Julie Wilson, Tricia George, Ashley Schultz, Emily Vien

Dog Tales - funds a visit to the dog kennels of author and trainer, Debra Glenn, to enhance an Iditarod class for 2nd and 3rd grades at Northside. Recipient: Deb Sullivan

Gross Motor/SEL Development - to purchase tricycles and outdoor play materials for early childhood/preschool students at Summit. Recipients: Cathy Leon, Lindsey Fox

Closing the GAP Conference - professional development for Logan High Special Ed teachers regarding assistive technology resources and tools to enhance equitable education. Recipients: Emily Hauser Smith, Greg Milligan

Outdoor Adventure Camp – to increase reading comprehension, executive functioning, and interpersonal skills through outdoor experiential learning for Logan High students with disabilities. Recipients: Gregory Milligan, Emily Hauser Smith

Empty Bowls Project - provides resources for Northside/Coulee Montessori students to create bowls to be sold at a community event to benefit school food pantry and Community Room. Recipients: Amoreena Rathke, Mariah Bigelow, Julie Nelson.

Sweet Creativity - students and teachers at Hamilton/SOTA I will learn cookie and cake decorating, connected to small business career paths, advertising and art history. Recipients: Bethany Nugent, Amanda Scarborough (student teacher)

Project Period - funds the purchase of reusable period underwear and wet bags for female students in grades 3-5 at Hamilton/SOTA I. Recipients: Carrie Wuensch-Harden, Jon Zinniel

CPR for Kids - allows students in 5th grade at Spence to learn the process of adult and child CPR, use of an AED, and choking relief. Recipients: Jocelyn Buxton, Tawni O'Rourke

Power of Place - enhances Special Ed classrooms at Logan High with specialized lighting to reduce sensory overload and create a more calming environment. Recipients: Gregory Milligan, Emily Hauser Smith

Builders of Tomorrow - to purchase books and manipulatives to provide 3rd grade students at Spence with hands-on opportunities for creative exploration. Recipient: Jennifer Woolley

Spotlighting - to purchase spotlights for use in the music classroom at Hamilton and SOTA I Elementary. Utilizing an artistic approach, these spotlights will help create flexible seating and grouping within the music classroom. The spotlights will not only define where students sit but also create an atmosphere where they can create, perform, respond, and connect in a way that is consistent with elementary music curriculum standards. Recipient: Mandy Parmeter.

Soccer Success - to purchase soccer goal frames for North Woods Elementary students to use during recess. Recipients: Tony Paletta and Anna Auten.

Thank you, Sponsors!



Table Sponsors

CCFBank

UWL Alumni & Friends Foundation

Association of La Crosse School Administrators

Viterbo University

La Crosse Tribune

La Crosse Education Association

Western Technical College Foundation

School District of La Crosse Board of Education

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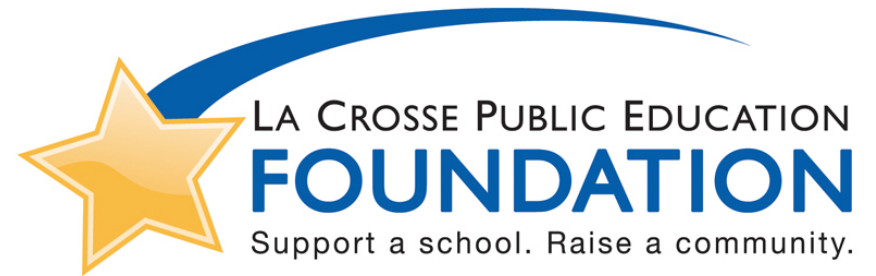
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Acknowledgements

Luncheon Committee: Tom Thompson, Byron Holz,
and Brad Quarberg
Special thanks to Lisa Klein for serving as MC

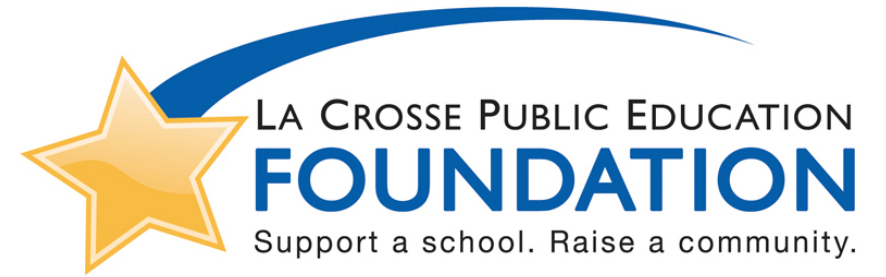
Thank you for celebrating public education with us!

The La Crosse Public Education Foundation (LPEF) strives to enhance learning opportunities for students in the School District of La Crosse while promoting community support and understanding of public education. Founded in 1988 by forward-looking residents passionate about public education, the Foundation invests in innovation for fresh, creative programs and curriculum unable to be funded through the district's already tight budget.

608-787-0226

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