

Annual Report

2019



122

Classrooms Supported Through Fund a Need Programs

30 Years Building Community Pride Through Education

The Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools believes that all students should have what they need to reach their full potential. We engage the community to inspire students and educators and create educational opportunities that enhance academic and personal success.



64

Schools Served

\$1,555,568
FUNDS RAISED

382 Funds Supported

222 Beyond the Classroom Funds
32 Strong, Stable Families Funds
94 College and Career Funds
25 Next-Level Learning Funds
9 Cross Pillar Funds



APPROXIMATELY

2,500 Donors



Every Dollar Given to the Inspiring Dreams Fund in Turn Raised \$7 for LPS

42,000+

Students Empowered



\$345,000

72 Scholarships to 108 Students for Higher Education





Giving Days

Days of giving the Foundation championed.

Staff
Fund
Drive

Giving
Tuesday

Give
to
Lincoln



Spark Summer Camp

A summer dedicated to creating curiosity, enhancing exploration and bringing creativity to kids across the community.

74 kids per week in attendance (K–5)

29 middle school students in one-week program

10 scholarships awarded

50 clubs participating in projects

10 weekly STEAM themes



Inspire Awards

Honoring **128 students and educators** who are an inspiration to their school and the community. See all of the award recipients @FoundationForLPS Facebook page.



Spread the Love

Events of love held by our donors to raise awareness around the Foundation and its mission.

849
People
Reached

22
Gifts
Made



Fund a Need

A platform for educators to share a special classroom need and gain visibility to fund it.

122 classrooms empowered
96 needs fully or partially met
40 schools served
\$82,000+ raised





Outstanding Educator Awards

Honoring outstanding educators who are an inspiration to students.

37
Nominations

19
Awards

24
Recipients

Outstanding Educators

Breanna Hagedorn	Will Smith	Emily Wiebeck
Jonas Christensen	John Neal	Chris Haeffner
Emily Seifferlein	Jessica Halsey	Joy Harvey
Andrew James	Deanna Macek	Rae Hunter-Pirtle
Emily Koopmann	Kelsey Lorimer	Jeff Smith
Megan Zillig	Michael Hart	Kim Sparks
Emily Ediger	Karen Krull	Pam Steckelberg
Lee Dreyer	Polly Bowhay	Sarah Davis



This year, we introduced our inaugural volunteer award, the **Billie Bussmann Spirit Award**, to Billie Bussmann for her spirit, passion and commitment to LPS. Her gifts have made a significant difference advancing the mission of the Foundation.

Honor Roll Society Strengthening our School System

Honor Roll Society is made up of parents and community members who have committed \$250+ annually to high-quality education and helping students achieve the next-level of excellence through their monetary support and direct interaction with the district.

Nikki Archer
 Pamela Baker
 Patrick & Ellen Beans
 Bryant & Stephanie Bone
 Randall & Jan Bretz
 Mary & Roger Bruning
 Eric Buchanan
 Robert & Billie Bussmann
 Mary Campbell
 Richard & Ginna Claussen
 Susan & Adam Crotteau
 Nick & Ann Cusick
 John & Susan Dittman

Jill & Donald Everett
 Patti Harney & Jim Gregolin
 Russ & Shari Freeman
 Adam & Heidi Hayes
 Brian Hefner & Leslie Gibbens
 Sabrina Hellbusch & Ted Reinwald
 Barbara J. Jacobson
 Valerie & Will Jones
 Andy & Katie Kafka
 Lillie & Max Larsen
 Andrew & Anne Loudon
 Jenna Ferris-McGhee & Ferrell McGhee
 Allison & TJ McGinn

Austin McKillip
 Britta & Jacob Muhleisen
 James & Takako Olson
 Lisa & Robert Rauner
 Judy & William Roper
 Curtis & Megan Ruwe
 Susan & David Shamblin
 Jessica & Trent Sidders
 Piyush & Aradhna Srivastav
 Tawnya Starr & Jay Wilkinson
 Carrie & Layne Sup
 Kathy & Arlyn Uhrmacher
 Natalia Wiita
 Jeffery & Cindy Yost

PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY.

→ Experience for a lifetime.

Leslie Gibbens, Honor Roll Society member, was one of two individuals who piloted a new opportunity for donors to be principal for a day—her adventure took place at the school of her choice, Lincoln Southeast High School. During her experience she took tours of the buildings, met with teachers between classes, spoke with staff and gained valuable insight from Brent Toalson, on all things related to his work as principal of Southeast High School. “I am impressed with how much is overseen day-in and day-out!” Leslie reflected.

She learned a lot about Knight Pride, the confidence Mr. Toalson has in the administrative team and the effort the school undertakes to give back to others. Other observations from her day at Southeast that left an impression included the graduation rate of 93 percent, the staff’s commitment to treating all students equally and the lack of chaos in the school.



“Through all things I experienced, I was impressed with how much the school involves kids in giving back and re-enforcing respect for others.”

– LESLIE GIBBENS

On the Agenda

- Discuss challenges and successes of the school
- Attend a morning staff meeting
- Greet students
- Deliver morning message and announcements
- Take a school tour/walk-through
- Conduct a fire drill
- Read to classroom and listen to stories written by the students
- Visit ELL classes
- Visit kitchen and learn about nutrition services
- Time for lunch room duty! Eat and interact with the students
- Attend specialty classes like ACES
- Visit with other staff and facility
- Talk to a SEM — security

Strong, Stable Families

Addressing basic and emergency needs so all students come to school ready to learn.

Focusing on early childhood learning, family engagement and emergency needs to ensure every student comes to school ready to learn and with the hope for a better future.

\$38,691

Funds given to families, students and teachers in need.

387

Families supported in times of crisis.



Family Literacy

197 families supported in **12 buildings** and **13 programs** through 2Gen Family Literacy Program.

\$17,854

Given through the 2Gen Family Literacy Program to support literacy, adapting to cultures, engaging parents in homework and other learning opportunities, and connecting parents to school support via personal relationships.

Instilling Hope

“ Last year, my family had to move out of the trailer we were living in because it wasn’t safe anymore. We lived in a hotel for a while until mom found a place, but she was struggling to make first month’s rent even though my sister also had a job and was helping out. We needed just a little bit more to finally move into our new home.

Because of you, we were able to get the rest of the money we needed so we could move to a house that was safe for me and my brother. Now I have my own bed to sleep in and even my own room to do my school work. Thank you! ”



OUR FOUR PILLARS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Next-Level Learning

Partnering with the community to enrich student learning.

Supporting camps and clubs, academic and creative exploration, and full-service community schools. Empowering regular participation in high-quality before and after school learning, and enriching summer school programs that not only build strong school to community partnerships but increase engagement.

\$58,847

Provided to student competitions, project equipment, conferences and other student experiences including The Career Academy.

\$78,589

Provided to help students take their learning to the next level through out-of-school activities from music to science, leadership to foreign travel.

7

Foreign study trips to France funded through the Elizabeth Grone Know-Your-Neighbor Fund.

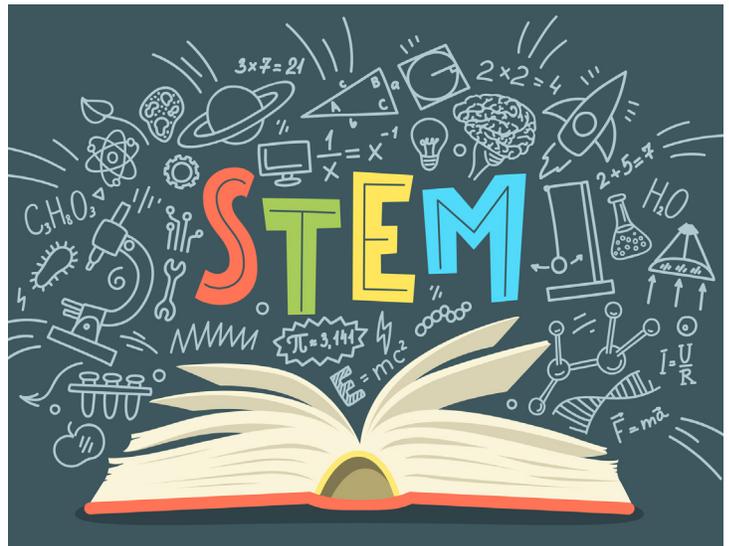
\$26,227

Provided to students to enhance skills in STEAM through Saturday Science, Spark, Lincoln STEM Ecosystem and Prairie Immersion.



Strengthening Expertise to Strengthen Impact

To strengthen Spark Summer Camp efforts, the Foundation for LPS is an integral part of the STEM Ecosystem in Lincoln, NE. This program group works to lift up and connect Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) organizations across the community to strengthen career paths, opportunities and experience for all LPS students. The ecosystem was selected into the global community of practice committee formed in 2019 and is vigorously working on plans to connect with students to understand where they can make the largest impact.



OUR FOUR PILLARS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Beyond the Classroom

Wrapping resources around extra-curricular activities.

Providing for activities such as athletics, arts and volunteerism to help students learn critical life skills outside of the classroom. Empowering students to build citizenship, health, teamwork, responsibility and leadership skills to compliment academic experiences and lead to a successful adulthood and career path.

\$21,314

Provided to music projects.

\$10,000

Provided to athletic projects.

\$9,353

Provided to books and library achievements.

\$15,427

Provided to special education.

5

Funds supporting career and technology education.

76

Funds supporting elementary schools.

23

Funds distributed to middle schools.

53

Funds distributed to high schools.



Empowering Skills Through Technology



Cory Free of Lincoln North Star High School used the Fund a Need program to upgrade the VEX Robotics technology from V4 to V5. The Lincoln North Star Robotics team had a tradition of a strong presence at the SkillsUSA and Vex Robotic Competitions but financing the technology and equipment to stay competitive was becoming difficult. Without access to new technology, ability to compete would be affected by privilege as much as talent.

Since the current budget barely covered entry fees, they needed a way to get the new technology. Cory turned to the Foundation. He was elated when the need was funded, and he learned his team would be one of the first in the LPS district to possess the new technology. The outcome was incredible — students competed on a fair turf and were able to expand their expertise to a more advanced coding language, which will aid them well in their career paths after graduation.

OUR FOUR PILLARS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

College and Career

Helping students get ready to thrive.

Enabling students to explore multiple opportunities that help them realize their potential and expose them to the full range of career options is critical to long-term success. That’s why we not only fund numerous scholarships for all types of career fields, but also work closely with The Career Academy (TCA) to provide hands-on dual credit classes accessible to all students.

7

Funds disbursed for dual credit tuition assistance.

42

Dual credit students supported.

\$10,876

Provided for tuition assistance.

\$345,000

Awarded in post-secondary scholarships.

108

Students awarded post-secondary scholarships.



Paving Career Paths and Building Futures

THE CAREER ACADEMY

“ After being at TCA for over a year now, I have loved the environment, teachers, content, and trips we are able to take in the pathway that suits us best. Since being able to come to TCA, I have been able to get a jump start on my future career path and cannot wait to see what the future holds.”

– Student pursuing Criminal Justice

“ I am attending the Culinary Pathway because Culinary Arts is my passion, and I hope to have a long and successful career in it. TCA is the best place for me to be to advance my skills and further help my career. Being able to spend a lot of my school week in lab, doing hands-on work is one of my favorite things about TCA. I hope to continue my education at SCC once I graduate. Thank you for helping me do that.

– Student pursuing Culinary Arts



Board Officers

Wendy Van DeLaCastro, President

Jim Townsend, Chair

Piyush Srivastav, Vice-Chair

Bruce Mieth, Treasurer

Russ Sebek, Secretary

Jackie Ostrowicki, Immediate Past Chair

Board Members

Christina Ball

Patrick Beans

Rita Bennett

Cliff Carlson

Jared Carlson

Brent Comstock

Kimberly Goins

Jessica Greenwald

Jon Gross

Cathy Hedstrom

Dr. Steve Joel

Dr. Valerie Jones

Anne Loudon

Britta Muhleisen

John Olsson

Walter Powell

Dr. Vann Price

Bob Rauner

Steve Schmidt

Natalia Wiita

Ginny Wood

Donors Who Contributed a Gift of \$2,500+

Michael Alesio

Christina & John Ball

Travis Berry

Linda Bourg

Roger Boye

Mary & Roger Bruning

William C. Buntain

Gayle & Steve Carper

William & Marilyn Cintani

Judy & John Clark

Richard Conradt

Ginger & James Dager

Cassandra Dittmer

Paige Duncan & Jonathan Henning

Paul W. Essman

Robert & Carlene Falos

Chrystal Fleharty

Nancy C. Fuchs & Philip H. Schoo

Deborah Gaspard

Leslie A. Gibbens & Brian Hefner

Judy & Jeffrey Greenwald

MarySue Harris

Ellan Hove

Ashley Hustad

Paul & Terri Johnson

Angela J. Leddy

Erika Nunes

James & Paula Owens

Laura Plicanic

Cheryl & Charles Richter

Barbara E. Rino

Susan & John Russell

Rebecca Silvertrust

Suzanne & Scott Sughroue

John P. Torpy

Son Q. Tran

Karen Ward

Thomas & Roxane Weyhrauch

Mae L. Whitmer

Catherine Williams

Wendy L. Wysong & Tracy J. Rickett

Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors

Lincoln Journal Star | Capital One | Teledyne Isco, Inc. | AT&T
Farm Credit Services of America | Bison Inc | Koch Companies

Garner Industries | Wells Fargo Foundation
Accelerate Nebraska | Ameritas Charitable Foundation
Nelnet Foundation | Pinnacle Bank

Liberty First Credit Union | Union Bank & Trust | Hy-Vee | Olsson | Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Assurity Life Insurance Company | Kidwell | Anderson Auto Group – Ford | Raising Cane's
Edupoint Educational Systems | Acklie Charitable Foundation

Sysco Lincoln, Inc | Black Hills Energy | Davis Design Inc. | Body Innovations LLC | Spreetail
Don't Panic Labs | The Hampton Family Foundation | Gallup Inc.