



Inspiring Possibilities

Help us give new opportunities to Lincoln students.

Step-Up Survey

NATIONAL RANKING OF #7



Did you know that the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools was ranked as the seventh best K-12 educational foundation in the nation this year? Moving up from number 13 last year, the Foundation reached the Top 10 for the first time in the four-year history of the report. Nearly 200 school foundations were reviewed. Caruthers' "Stepping Up" report looks at eight key performance categories to determine the ranking: annual revenues, revenues per student, total assets, assets per student, investment income, total program expenses, expenses per student, and human capital (volunteers).

Thank you to our generous donors and many community partners who make our Foundation — and our community — strong.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2IDVPp5>

By the Numbers: Our Year in Review

In case you haven't seen our Annual Report, here is a quick snapshot of the impact Foundation donors had on schools in 2016-17.

Distributed over
\$994,000

Over
400 funds

3,431 Gifts
from our generous donors



FUND A NEED

- 121 classroom needs met
- 44 schools served
- \$117,830 raised to support classroom needs



STRONG, STABLE FAMILIES

- \$39,286 provided for emergency needs
- 217 Families supported in times of crisis
- 201 families helped through 2Gen Program
- \$34,502 provided for 2Gen Program



NEXT LEVEL LEARNING

- \$9,742 library, books, media funds
- \$9,041 arts funds
- \$3,274 science funds



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

- \$38,027 distributed to music programs
- \$4,399 distributed to athletic funds



COLLEGE AND CAREER

- 105 scholarships**
- \$330,778 awarded
- 84 students
- The Career Academy**
- 49 tuition reimbursements awarded
- \$11,806 distributed to scholarships
- \$137,641 distributed to TCA student experiences

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Next-Level Learning

BUILDING THE PERFECT PITCH: AN OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME FOR LINCOLN STUDENTS



It takes a certain set of talents and skills to become a builder of ideas, businesses and communities. Gallup's new BP 10 (Builder's Profile) assessment helps reveal just that. If you take "Gallup's StrengthsFinder for Entrepreneurs," you will quickly understand the core foundation in Lincoln's **Future Builders Challenge**.

"As a society, we've become pretty good at identifying students with athletic, musical or academic talents at a very early age," said Prosper Lincoln developer and FLPS Trustee co-chair, Rich Claussen. "Why don't we do the same thing for students with 'builder talents' — those students who will be building the communities and businesses of the future." Claussen came to the Foundation for LPS with this idea, and the rest is history — in the making.

In February, more than 3,000 ninth graders and upperclassmen interested in business from all Lincoln public and private schools took Gallup's BP 10 assessment to reveal their strengths as builders of businesses and ideas. Approximately 500 students who showed the highest levels of strengths in business and entrepreneurship (what Gallup calls "Builders") were selected to participate in additional activities.

Those activities include an Inspiration Rally and boot camps meant to inspire and teach students to understand and use their Builder Strengths in their career development. Identified students competed in a Pitch Competition that challenged students to use business ideas to solve community issues. Winning students have the opportunity to participate in the Clifton Strengths Institute's month-long internship over the summer.

Philanthropy fueled the project with broad community support from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Gallup, Ameritas, Spreetail, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, Assurity, Don't Panic Labs, The Lincoln Community Foundation, Foundation for LPS as well as several individual contributors.

"Student potential is at the heart of this project and the heart of our mission," says Wendy Van, FLPS President. "We are helping these great partners work with our schools to provide an exceptional opportunity for kids. It is a perfect use of our public school foundation. Working in partnership, and building on the unique contributions each entity brings, we can produce so much more together than we ever could as individuals — and it is apparent in the Future Builder's Challenge."

Strong, Stable Families

BEHAVIOR SCHOOLS NEED YOUR HELP!



Student dress code is the first step to success for students turning around their school behavior. Dress code creates an environment where students are part of a group that works together to succeed, giving them a more even playing field. Students earn status as they make good choices, support their peers, and show sensitivity and respect. They begin to stand out based on their positive behavior, not on their attire.

Cost for the average student ranges from \$15 - \$40 per student, depending upon the size of the uniform. Students receive one set to wear when they arrive, and many families struggle to afford additional items.

Meeting the basic needs of behavior students is vital to their development and success. In general, they work harder than the average student to get back on track and have the opportunity to reach graduation. Additional funding helps meet students' basic needs and provides access to other opportunities that allow them to become contributing members of society. Schools represented are Nuernberger, Yankee Hill, and Donald D. Sherrill. If you are interested in helping, please go to <http://bit.ly/behavior-dresscode>

Beyond the Classroom

DAWES MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADS THE WAY

The first time Dawes Middle School Principal Angie Plugge heard about a possibility for the national engineering program "Project Lead The Way" to find a home at Dawes Middle School, she knew she would fight to make it happen. "Programs like these change the lives of students," said Plugge. "Students are not only hearing, 'Yes you can do this,' they are gaining the experience to be confident in their abilities, knowledge, and skills. They have opportunities to see how to use these skills in the real world."

Dawes is the first middle school in Lincoln Public Schools to offer Lead The Way.

The project came about because of a conversation between Foundation President Wendy Van and Dr. Ken Jones, an engineer and the donor who started Northeast High School's Project Lead The Way program.

"This is the part of my job that I love the most," Van says, "matching donors' philanthropic passions to real projects."

None of this could happen without the donor and an idea."

The well established CLC and extended-day program at Dawes serves around 130 students each night which made it the perfect place to house the new curriculum. CLC Director Myeisha Essex and Industrial Technology teacher Kristin Page attest that both parents and students are excited.

"[They] love the program," said Essex. "Students are excited about designing, modeling, and presenting their hard work to peers and adults. Parents have been excited about the engineering opportunity for their students."

Having resources through gifts or time, "is invaluable to changing the outlook and hope for a student's future" says Page. "I'm passionate about connecting students to the world around them through technology and giving them opportunities they might not get outside of school."



Students love the design process and their faces light up when they see their 3-D designs on a computer modeling program turn into a physical model from the 3-D printer. Learning the math, science, and technology behind their designs is also a favorite activity.

Plugge is grateful. "There are a lot of factors involved in creating a program of this size in the schools, and the Foundation navigated all of this for us," she said. She is positive this program will make students, schools, and the community even better.

College and Career

DID YOU KNOW?



In 2018, The Career Academy is opening more pathways for students who have expressed interest in careers not yet supported at TCA. The two that start next fall are Criminal Justice (at The Career Academy) and Automotive Tech (at Lincoln High & Northeast). There is considerable interest for both pathways with 64 signing up for Criminal Justice and 19 for Automotive Tech so far. As with all Career Academy pathways, students will be able to earn dual credit with discounted tuition through Southeast Community College and can qualify for certification.

The Criminal Justice pathway courses include Intro to Criminal Justice, Police, Courts & Judicial Systems, and Criminal Law, among other offerings. Community partners include law enforcement and corrections so that students have opportunities to experience the pathway fully.

The Automotive Tech pathway will include General Maintenance, Engines, Brakes, and Electrical systems. These advanced classes reach beyond what LPS currently offers.

Donor funds have enabled students to take field trips, fund capstone projects, and compete in local, state, and national student competitions.

"The total of these experiences allow students to go more deeply into their pathway and determine if their perception of the path is in fact reality," said Dan Hohensee, director of the academy. He

points out that many students find their "fit" and also gain confidence from the variety of experiences offered at TCA. "This is only possible through the funding of our generous donors," he said. "Those funds truly help build and support the future talent pipeline."

"Our community sponsors are a big part of this educational experience. Their engagement and funding assists in creating a robust learning environment," said Wendy Van, president of the Foundation. "We are very grateful to all of our sponsors and donors." The advantage of The Career Academy is that it creates real opportunities to enhance students' personal and academic success, helping them to reach their full potential.

"Students find their fit in the world and gain confidence that they are capable of whatever they set their minds to," Hohensee said.

News

2018 EDUCATOR AWARDS PRESENTED TO-DATE:

AWARD NAME	WINNER	SCHOOL
Florence J. Clark Middle School Award	Amanda Mueller	Mickle Middle School
Helen Krieger Outstanding Healthcare Provider Award	Patty Baker	Elliott Elementary
John Prasch Health and Physical Fitness	Denyse Hunnsaker	Zeman Elementary
Marie Bourke Leadership Award	Tim Muggy	Roper Elementary
Myrtle Clark Educator Award	Pat Janike	Lincoln High
Nancy Muehlhausen Counseling Award	Lucas Varley	Lincoln High
R.L. Fredstrom Award	Nancy Bare	LPSDO & Prescott Elementary
Sawin 'Soul Work' Award	Ross Dirks	Pound Middle School
Union Bank & Trust Award	Nina Schelle Diane Slaby Bryan Wandzilak	Elliott Elementary Lux Middle School North Star High School
Victor Vaughan Memorial Award	Rachele Brown Jennifer Marvin Steinheider Elizabeth Thomsen	Bryan Community Elliott Elementary Yankee Hill Program

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A big thank you to our board for their support and hard work helping all LPS students to reach their full potential.

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Mark Your Calendars



Scholarships

April
Scholarships announced at the end of April



Learn for Tomorrow A Community Discussion

April 23
Nebraska Innovation Campus
4 pm - 8 pm



Spark Summer Learning (K-5th grade)

May 29 - Aug 3
Check us out at www.sparksummer.org



Give to Lincoln Day

May 31



Foundation Coffee showcasing Irving's choral music camp

June 6
Irving Middle School
9 am - 10:30 am

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5905 O Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68510
402.436.1612
foundation@lps.org