celebrating
students
teachers
donors
community
excellence
30 years

LAWRENCE SCHOOLS FOUNDATION | LEAP 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
everybody benefits from great public schools
It was a year to celebrate!

With school back in full swing, it is a great time to reflect on the past year. The 2015-16 school year certainly is one to remember and celebrate, full of opportunities to commend our students on their amazing and inspiring accomplishments. We are extremely proud of our students and educators, and enjoy celebrating their successes during their journey with us and beyond. Generous donations made through the foundation continue to support children and families in the crucial effort to allow students to come to school each day equipped and ready to learn.

We are fortunate to have developed strong relationships with committed community partners who provide not only financial and material assistance, but volunteer support to our students and schools. We celebrate our continuing partnerships with these individuals, businesses, and foundations that provide resources to support the basic needs and futures of our students. We celebrate the foundation and community efforts that have supported dozens of classroom grants, fellowships for teachers, and classroom and program initiatives.

With a personal stake in the community, our board is more committed than ever to exploring new ways to make a measurable difference in our children’s education. “It’s not about what it is. It’s about what it can become.” —Dr. Suess

Dena Johnston, Executive Director

We have much to celebrate at Lawrence Schools Foundation. We are proud of our LEAP program and all of our generous business partners that participate to make our schools stronger. Our dedicated educators should certainly be celebrated. Some of our most exciting moments are the days we are able to honor our teachers with a special award or an innovative teaching grant. There would be no celebration without our donors. We are fortunate to have many like-minded people in our community who value education and all of the empowerment that it brings to our children. Last but certainly not least we celebrate our students. From the preschoolers in our early childhood education program to the senior scholarship recipients, I am constantly inspired by the accomplishments of our young people.

Our future is bright here in River City. Let’s celebrate!

Gail Vick, Board President

Our work is to bolster student achievement and teaching excellence in Lawrence Public Schools. Your support is instrumental in changing young lives at a time when our schools need us now more than ever. Please include the Foundation in your charitable giving. It’s easy to give, and every amount is welcome!
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

SCHOLARSHIPS
In 2015, a total of more than $51,000 was awarded to 43 graduating seniors in recognition of their achievement and to assist with post-secondary tuition. These scholarships are made possible by individuals, families and organizations, often in honor or remembrance of someone special and/or to encourage young scholars to pursue a particular field of study.

SCHOOL ASSISTANCE GRANTS
The School Assistance Grants is a program established by the Lawrence Schools Foundation to provide funding for defined areas of use in the Lawrence Public Schools for needs that are not being met with state or federal monies. All schools in the district are encouraged to apply for funds currently available and selections will be based on equity and merit as determined by a review committee. In 2015, $3,416.94 was used to create a makerspace and ideation lab at South Middle School. The school was able to repurpose the library classroom and a previous office area to provide space for self-directed learning. The makerspace lab is available to all 590 students at South, as well as the school staff.

STUDENT CHAMPIONS
Hunter Goode and Claire Sanner in the 2016 graduating class at Lawrence Free State High School, and Amani Bledsoe and Kyleigh Severa in the 2016 graduating class at Lawrence High School were celebrated as student champions at the 2015 Community Education Breakfast. Students are selected each year for this special recognition by their counselors on the basis of scholarship and leadership, and also in 2015 on the basis of their athletic achievement.

OTHER CELEBRATIONS

COMMUNITY EDUCATION BREAKFAST
More than 500 guests joined us in September 2015 for the annual Community Education Breakfast. In his keynote presentation, Clint Bowen, University of Kansas assistant head football coach and 1990 graduate of Lawrence High School, entertained with stories of growing up in Lawrence and how his experiences as a young student shaped his adult life.

TGIFOLLIES!
For more than 25 years, the annual Foundation Follies has raised money for the Foundation’s Innovative Teaching Grants and School Assistance Grants. Each year, nearly 150 talented teachers, staff and administrators put on a fabulous show and enjoy the opportunity to unwind in May as the school year draws to a close.
TEACHER EXCELLENCE

EDUCATOR AWARDS
Lawrence has fabulous teachers, and we want to make sure they know how much their talents and dedication are valued. More than $18,000 was awarded to outstanding teachers in 2015.

- Dedication To Education Award ($5,000): Cara McNorton, 5th grade teacher at Kennedy Elementary
- Allen Press Distinguished Teacher Award ($500): Jo Huntsinger, biology teacher at Lawrence High School
- Excellence In Teaching/Bobs Award ($10,000): Mike Jones, band director at Lawrence High School, and Rachel Dirks, orchestra director at Lawrence High School
- Educators of the Year/ Golden Apple Awards ($1,500 each): Debra Williams, special education teacher at Sunset Hill Elementary, and Shakiyya Bland, math teacher at Liberty Memorial Central Middle School
- Barbara Hodgson Dream To Achieve Award ($100): Linda Kucza, 4th grade and Title 1 math teacher at New York Elementary School who retired after the 2015-2016 school year

INNOVATIVE TEACHING GRANTS
Innovative Teaching Grants are awarded each year to teachers or groups of teachers who implement innovative and unique projects for their students to enrich learning, enhance student achievement, and engage students in critical thinking and problem solving. In 2015, a total of $16,557.23 was awarded for nine separate projects at elementary schools, middle schools and high schools. These projects are evaluated at the end of the funding cycle and can serve as pilots for other schools in the district.

DONOR-INSPIRED FUNDS
There’s more! More than $31,000 was allotted in 2015 for special programs such as Homegrown Lawrence, Outside for a Better Inside, the Tilson Heacock LHS Band Fund, the Tilson Heacock LHS Choir Fund, and Truity Education Fund Educator Awards.

celebrating
INNOVATIVE TEACHING GRANTS

Keep on Reading in the Summertime

Sunset Hill special education teacher Debra Williams knows that some elementary students are at risk to have their achievement test scores decline after summer vacation, so she applied for a Lawrence Schools Foundation grant, which put three appropriately-leveled books into the hands of 35 targeted students during June, July and August of 2015.

The goal to reduce the loss of reading skills and prevent the development or widening of an achievement gap was met when the students returned in the fall. “The students who participated in the summer reading program in grades K-3 appeared to maintain scores from spring to fall and did not appear to lose any ground,” Williams said.

“With the help of the Lawrence Schools Foundation, The Keep on Reading Summer Reading Project provided high-interest leveled readers to a targeted group of students, along with continued teacher communication and encouragement over the summer months,” Williams said. “Thank you, Lawrence Schools Foundation, for helping students close the summer achievement gap.”
Business and Community at Work for Our Schools

For more than 23 years, the mission of the Lawrence Education Achievement Partners (LEAP) has been to create and build community partnerships that support and enhance student achievement and success in the Lawrence Public Schools. Each one of our schools, including the Lawrence College and Career Center, has LEAP partners. Some businesses and community organizations are districtwide LEAP partners, which means that any school in the district may call on them for assistance. LEAP partners may focus on scholastic enrichment, such as reading to kids in class, tutoring or donating classroom supplies. Others volunteer to help at school events or make monetary or in-kind donations to support these events. Many of our LEAP partners sponsor Lawrence Schools Foundation signature events and purchase tables or donate goods and services to make the Foundation Follies and the Community Education Breakfast successful. Our LEAP partners enjoy being involved with the schools and learning from the students or teachers. The Lawrence College and Career Center offers new opportunities for LEAP partners to mentor and train students.

LEAP TOTALS (2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>School Partners</th>
<th>Districtwide Partners</th>
<th>All Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash Donations</td>
<td>$ 10,205.84</td>
<td>$ 21,761.54</td>
<td>$ 31,967.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-kind Gifts</td>
<td>46,936.71</td>
<td>59,689.00</td>
<td>106,625.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Value</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Hours</td>
<td>1,827</td>
<td>4,894.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value ($23.56/Hour)</td>
<td>43,044.12</td>
<td>115,314.42</td>
<td>158,358.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$ 100,186.67</td>
<td>$ 196,764.96</td>
<td>$ 296,951.63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our LEAP Superstars

While we consider every single person who volunteers to support our schools a superstar, some organizations stand out because their combined support totals $10,000 or more in a school year for their partner school, the district or the Lawrence Schools Foundation. Thank you to the following 2015-2016 Master LEAP partners:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters—districtwide partner
- Kansas Athletics, Inc.—districtwide partner
- Lawrence Hy-Vee Stores—partners with Deerfield Elementary, Langston Hughes Elementary, Quail Run Elementary, Sunflower Elementary, Southwest Middle School, Lawrence Free State High School and Lawrence High School
- Lawrence Memorial Hospital—partners with Pinckney Elementary and Project Search
- Lied Center of Kansas and US Bank “Adventures in Imagination”—districtwide partners
- Pelathe District, Heart of America Council, Boy Scouts of America—districtwide partner
- The Merc Co-op—partners with Hillcrest Elementary, Sunset Hill Elementary and West Middle School
- Truity Credit Union & Truity Education Foundation—partners with Langston Hughes Elementary, Prairie Park Elementary, Lawrence Free State High School, Lawrence High School and districtwide

A Champion for the Cause

With a 4.0 grade-point average, letters in basketball and track and an extensive list of extracurricular activities and volunteer work, Brittany Ray was recognized as a student champion at the Foundation’s annual Community Education Breakfast in 2010.

“I was very honored to be recognized,” Ray said. “It was a special moment because all of my teachers from preschool through the Lawrence Public Schools were so inspiring. The teachers in the district go above and beyond and have the students’ best interest in mind. They want to see you succeed. I had that in all of my teachers.”

When Ray was graduating from Northwestern University she nominated LHS social studies teacher, Valerie Schrag for the University’s Distinguished Secondary Teacher Award — which honors high school teachers who had “transformative effects” on the lives of graduating seniors they once taught. Schrag was one of five teachers across the country to receive the award and was honored at the University’s graduation.

“I nominated Ms. Schrag, but there were countless other teachers I could have nominated,” Ray said.
2015-2016 LEAP PARTNERS

Broken Arrow
Central National Bank
Checkers
Pet World
Premier Martial Arts
Raising Cane’s

Cordley
Capital City Bank
Cottin’s Hardware & Rental
Dillons Stores–Mass. Street
Lawrence Noon Rotary Club

Deerfield
Hy-Vee–6th St.

Hillcrest
Body Boutique
Commerce Bank–Iowa Street
Freddy’s Frozen Custard & Steakburgers
Noodles & Company
Premier Martial Arts
The Merc Co-op
Wal-Mart–Iowa Street

Kennedy
Dr. John H. Hay, D.D.S., Inc.
Independence, Inc.
United Way of Douglas County

Langston Hughes
Dillons Stores–6th & Wakarusa
Hy-Vee–Clinton Parkway
J&S Coffee
Truity Credit Union
University National Bank

New York
Altrusa
Cottin’s Hardware & Rental
Emprise Bank
Kiwanis Club
Lawrence Breakfast Optimist Club
Lawrence Wesleyan Church
Stevens & Brand, L.L.P.
Western Star #1 Masonic Lodge

Pinckney
Big Heart Pet Brands
Gould Evans Associates
Lawrence Memorial Hospital

Prairie Park
Capitol Federal Savings
Hy-Vee–Clinton Parkway
Peoples Bank–Harper Street
Truity Credit Union

Quail Run
Berry Plastics
Hy-Vee–6th Street
Legends Dental Center
Pioneer Ridge
Premier Martial Arts

Schwegler
Dairy Queen–Iowa Street
Premier Martial Arts
Raising Cane’s
Runza
Schlumberger

Sunflower
Central National Bank
Freddy’s Frozen Custard & Steakburgers
Hy-Vee–Clinton Pkwy
Premier Martial Arts

Sunset Hill
Meritrust Credit Union
Stephens Real Estate
The Merc Co-op

Woodlawn
Bowersock Mills & Power Company
First State Bank & Trust
ICL Performance Products
Noodles & Company

Liberty Memorial Central Middle School
Cottin’s Hardware & Rental
KU Natural History Museum
Lawrence Arts Center
Rodrock Chiropractic & Acupuncture
The Summit
Wakarusa Valley Credit Union

South Middle School
Mainstreet Credit Union
McDonald’s of Lawrence
Thruway Credit Union

Southwest Middle School
Bartlett & West Engineers, Inc.
Hy-Vee–Clinton Parkway
McDonald’s of Lawrence
The Merc Co-op

Lawrence College and Career Center
Amarr Entrematic

Lawrence Free State High
Amarr Entrematic
Capital City Bank
Central Bank of the Midwest
Commerce Bank–Wakarusa Street
Eileen’s Colossal Cookies
Go Driving School
Hy-Vee–6th Street
McDonald’s of Lawrence
The Merc Co-op

Lawrence High
Amarr Entrematic
Capital City Bank
Central Bank of the Midwest
Commerce Bank–Wakarusa Street
Eileen’s Colossal Cookies
Go Driving School
Hy-Vee–6th Street
McDonald’s of Lawrence
The Merc Co-op

Districtwide–Community Connections/C-Tran
Applebee’s–Iowa Street

Districtwide–Project Search
Lawrence Memorial Hospital
KU Dept. of Human Resources
Joblink, a Division of Cottonwood
United Way of Douglas County

Districtwide
Applebee’s–Iowa Street
Best Western Lawrence
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence
Briggs Auto.com
Chili’s
Cici’s Pizza
Douglas County Fire & Medical
Eileen’s Colossal Cookies
Epic Fun, LLC
First Student
Hastings
Hot Box Cookies
Kansas Athletics, Inc.
Lawrence Habitat for Humanity
Lawrence Police Department
Lawrence Public Library
McAlister’s Deli
Minuteman Press
Montana Mike’s
Office Depot
Pelathe District, Heart of America Council, Boy Scouts of America
Pet World
Printing Solutions
Royal Crest Lanes
Super Target
The World Company
Truity Credit Union
23rd Street Brewery
UNI Computers
Wal-Mart
Watkins Museum of History
Zarco USA, Inc.

Districtwide–Early Childhood
Dr. James Otten, D.D.S.
Dr. Sharon Michel Green, O.D.
Jayhawk Breakfast Rotary

Districtwide–Fine Arts
KU Theater
Lied Center of Kansas
Theatre Lawrence
US Bank
2015 FOUNDATION FINANCES

Donated:
- Via Campaigns and Events: $151,598
- For Specific District Betterment Programs: $218,862

Granted:
- To District for Programs and Support: $261,039

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2015

ASSETS
- Cash & Equivalents: $221,743
- Investments at Fair Value: $1,593,315

TOTAL ASSETS: $1,815,058

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
- Current Liabilities: $55,692

Net Assets
- Endowed Funds: $497,584
- Temporarily Restricted Funds: $720,790
- Unrestricted Funds: $540,992

TOTAL NET ASSETS: $1,759,366

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS: $1,815,058
2015 FOUNDATION DONORS

MASTERS ($100,000 and Above)
Brown, Larry
Dann, William
Davidson III, John and Shirley Scheffer
Douglas County Community Foundation
Ethel and Raymond Rice Foundation
Lawrence Public Schools
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

SCHOLARS ($5,000 to $9,999)
Advancio, Inc.
Gray, Captain and Katherine
Hillcrest PTO
Truity Credit Union
Yellow Chair Foundation
Aetna, Inc.

HONOR SOCIETY ($1,000 to $4,999)
Becker, Frank
Benz, Bob
Bill Self's Assist Foundation
Billings, Beverly Smith
Buhler, Mark and Marsha
Capitol Federal Foundation
CEK Insurance
Dannevik, Robert
CEK Insurance
Denning, Dale
Dobek, Tom and Marilyn
Dole, Robert J.
Douglas Co. CASA Program,
Dobski, Tom and Marilyn
Dobson, Jane
Dunn, William
Brown, Larry

LEADERS ($500 to $999)
Aldridge, Allison
Alexander Open Systems, Inc.
Allen Press, Inc.
American Fidelity Assurance Company
Anderson, Christopher
Auto Exchange
BS Consultants, Inc.
Bureau of Licenses Inc
Capital City Bank
Cardmody, Tom, Kay, Tyler and Jeff
Central Bank of the Midwest
Central National Bank
Commerce Bank
Dehart, Wilma and Frank
Doll, Richard
Empire Bank
Farnbrough, Preston
First State Bank & Trust
Fridel, Jeanne and Max
Gaut, Sandra
Hallmark Cards, Inc.
Henderson Engineers
Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc.
Hollis and Miller Architects
Jayhawk Power Systems, Inc.
KU School of Business
KU School of Education
KU School of Engineering
Laird Noller Automotive
Lopes, Steve and Lois
Meadowsbrook Investors, LLC
Meritrust Credit Union
Midwest Exterminators, Inc.
Mike House & Company, PA
Momenta, PA
Paley Properties
Professional Engineering Consultants
Ross, Mary
Schworb, Richard (Marc)
and Apprentice
Shanmugam, Kannan K
and Victoria K.
Shirk, David and Karen
Sriniwasi, Saroja
Stephens Real Estate
Stevens, Keith
Starr, Christopher and Amanda
Wertzberger, Ken and Annette
Westar Energy, Inc.

BENEFICIARIES ($100 to $999)
Alleenbrand, Shirley
Amor, Angela
Anderson, Brian and Vickie
Anderson, Nancy
Armitage, Kenneth and Katie
Atchley, Paul
Atchley, Ruthann
AUL Appraisal Services
Baker, Phillip and Betty
Bakerink, Larry
Baloga, David and Andrea
Barr, Paul
Barron, Antonio
Bartscher, William
and Beverly

Baska, Lila
Bayar, Margaret
Bender, Charles and Katherine
Bender, Tammy
Bennett, Bonnie and Robert
Bert, Margaret
Blaker, Charles and Deborah
Bodle, Lawrence and Lynne
Bonner, Sari
Boon, Jean Pierre
Bowen, Kathleen
Brunet, Kathy and Steve
Buchanan, Rex
Buck, Lindsay
Busby, Anna and William H.
Butler, Kate
Campbell, Patricia
Carter, Wayne and Julie
Catlin, Jereem
Cigler, Allan and Beth
Clark, Valerie
Cohen, Michael
Colliers International
Comstock, Laurie
Conyers, Carladey Knox
Craft, Lucinda
DaCoff, Margaret
Darst, Rebecca
Deboer, Lysette and Jeremy
Deerfield Elementary PTO
Deser, Jay
Delta Zeta Alumnae
Dolph Simons Family Fund
Dunn, JE.
Dunn, Janice
Educational Credit Union
Esa, Susan and John
Farley, Emily
Furvy, Dr. Chris and Jane
Fincher, Jill
Folsom, Laurie
Friesen, Dale and Connie
Fulbright, Thomas and Mary
Gadt, Larry
Gage, Martha
Gavost, Estella
Golf Course Superintendents Association
Glendening, Dan
Green, Patrick
Hall, Arthur and Susan
Hampton, Carol
Harkin, Jeff
Harrison, Jonathan
Hatesohl, Brenda and Kent
Heeb, Karen L.
Heffeman, Steve and Shirley
Heiker, Mark and Valerie
Helmstadler, Nancy
Henderson, Mark and Susan
Henry, Rick
Herron, Don and Jene
Hibert, Gunda
Hoey, Alne
Hoof Hearted
Investments LLC
Howell, Mark and Lori
Huber, Julia and Michael
ICL Performance Products LP
Immel, Sheila and John
Ingram, Rick and
Nancy Hamilton
Jack Ellenia Holland
Jacobs, Sheryl and Robert
James, Mindy
Jewell, James and Carleen
Jewell, Kristi
Johnson, David E.
Johnson, Daniel E.
Johnson, Jeanne
Johnson, Thomas H.
Joy, O Maurice
Kabley, Wes
Kauffman Foundation
Matching Gifts Program
Keller & Associates
Kelly, Patrick and Amy
Ketel, Lesley T.
Kiefer, John and Helen
Kimball, William
Kirk, Tom and Michelle
Kline, Tim
Knauss, Brad
Kobler, Angelique
Krecker, Kim and Avia Jones
Kreder, James
Kumar, Sanjeev
Kwan, Derek
Kwan, Peter and Jenny
Landplan Engineering
Lattin, Dana and Thomas Waechter
Law, Brian
Lawrence Chamber of Commerce
Lockmann, Hunter
Locke, Sammie and Carl
LPRE LLC
Luckey, Peter and Linda
Lungstrum, John and Linda
Mandigo, Jim and Carrie
Mango, Sue
Marsky, Douglas and Martha
Maxey, Linda
McAbon, Ryan
McBride, Matthew and Gina
McCaffrey, Brian
McElwain, Larry and Susan
McGrew, Terry
McGreer Real Estate Inc
Meadowlark Garden Club
Melton, Myron and Lisa
Midwest Concrete Materials
Midwest Regional Credit Union
Miller, Paula and Cameron
Mock, Tim
Montgomery, James
Moore, Robert
Morgan Quisto Corporation
Morgan, Scott and Kathleen
Morse, Adina
Motoyama, Yasuyuki
Newton, Eliston, Leslie
Nitz, Barbara
Nossaman, Cara
Oelschliager, Marcia
Ober, Kenneth and Anna
Olson, Gary and Mary
Orive, Maria
Orozco, Michael
Paine, Kay and Roger
Pasik-Duncan, Bozena
Peggy Johnson and Associates
Pennybaker, Kent and Janet
Peoples Bank
Pepin, Paula
Petrone, Robert
and Margaret
Pines International, Inc
Planet Aid Inc
Praeger, Mark and Sandra
Preut, Mark
Pritchard, Shea
Pyle, Margaret
Reber, Richard and Gail
Reeb, DP and RM
Renwood, Angela
Riggin, Stacy and Bill
Robinson, Jason
Robinson, Linda and Scott
Robinson, Mark
Rock, Jane
Roper, John and Valerie
Rute, Larry
Sanetti, Maren
Scheibler, Ty
Schmidt, Gregory and Eva

TEACHER RECOGNITION

Instilling the importance of a lifetime of learning into the fifth-graders at Kennedy Elementary made Cara McNorton (pictured above, second from left), an excellent choice as the recipient of the Foundation’s annual Dedication to Education Award in 2015.

“My goal is to teach kids to be independent of me and to continue their learning even when I am not with them,” McNorton said. “My hope for them is they always know I believe in them, because sometimes knowing that someone believes in you is just what you need to take the next best step.”

McNorton has taken extra steps to prepare her students for their futures by creating a College Bound Program, which includes researching schools and visiting Johnson County Community College, creating a scholarship through the Foundation for Kennedy alumni and starting a Kennedy alumni group.

“The support of the Foundation makes dreams happen through a wide variety of programs designed to enrich education for Lawrence students,” she said.
When Jamison Montes de Oca received the Stan Roth Science Scholarship administered by the Lawrence Schools Foundation in his senior year of high school, he admitted he may not have appreciated the gift at the time.

“I didn’t fully understand what it would mean to getting to where I am now,” Montes de Oca said. “I probably took it for granted at the beginning, but the scholarships have gone a long way and helped make me who I am today.”

This past spring Montes de Oca graduated from Baker University with a degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. He is currently in the University of Kansas Pharmacy School and en route to fulfilling his dream of helping others by serving in the health care field.

“Scholarships are not only an investment into students’ lives, but a long-term investment as students use the scholarships to learn and transform society for the better,” he said.
All efforts have been made to make this report as accurate as possible. If you find an error or omission, please accept our apology and notify us at 785-330-1941.