



Press Release

Media Contact: Jeff DeFranco
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Media Advisory:
March 31, 2009

Springfield Education Foundation Announces Expanded Board

SPRINGFIELD, OR — As a result of a recent effort to expand its impact on Springfield students, the Springfield Education Foundation (SEF) has announced that its mission and vision have been refined and its Board of Directors expanded to a slate of 29 members.

“Schools need grant funding more than ever in the current economic climate,” says Bill Spiry, SEF board chair. “After researching best practices for similar educational foundations across the country, we realized that we needed to make some changes to be able to meet the needs of our schools.”

The new board provides broad community representation, encompassing community leaders, corporate representatives, and parents. Board members will divide their efforts into four committees: Development (including Annual Campaigns, Employee Giving, etc.), Programs (including Grants and Scholarships), Marketing and Events, and Finance & Governance. An Executive Committee of eight members will oversee the Board’s overall operations.

“These structural changes are going to help us be more efficient about what we do,” says Spiry.

Even with limited membership last year, the SEF was able to give more than \$10,000 in mini-grants to 17 teachers throughout the district for items such as musical instruments, dictionaries and innovative classroom technology. In addition to funds received via donations and employee giving, SEF also actively solicits and coordinates donations from various organizations for distribution to specific Springfield Public Schools projects. For example, last year, SEF coordinated \$20,000 in grants to help fund the recent A3 guest artist program, as well as \$15,000 in grants for district literacy programs, including the Gift of Literacy, Battle of the Books and Literacy Partners. As a 501(c)(3) organization, the foundation also serves as a pass-through for tax-deductible donations to the district.

“The newly energized Board of Directors is packed with people who are dedicated to our community and educational excellence,” says Spiry. “I’m proud to serve with them to provide even more opportunities for our district.”

A list of the new Board members and their affiliations is attached.

Media Opportunity: The next meeting of the foundation will take place on Tuesday, March 31, at 5:30 p.m. in the Admin. Building Board Room, 525 Mill Street. For more information or to schedule interviews with SEF members, contact Jeff DeFranco at 726-3204.

[more]



PO Box 663, Springfield, OR 97477

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Executive Committee

Matthew Backer – Vice Chair, Development

Allstate Insurance Agent; Springfield Chamber of Commerce Education Committee;
Springfield Chamber of Commerce – Greeters

Dave Gault – Vice Chair, Finance and Governance

CPA with Jones & Roth, PC

Nancy Golden – Superintendent of Springfield Public Schools; Springfield Rotary

Lance LeFever – Secretary

Attorney with Thorp, Purdy, et al Law Offices

Joan Schryvers – Vice Chair, Marketing and Events

THS parent; publicity director of “Sideliners,” a THS athletic communication

Bill Spiry – Chair

Director of Human Resources for the City of Springfield; Springfield Rotary

Lisa Zenev – Vice Chair, Programs

Vice President of Business Development and Planning for PacificSource Health Plans

Member-at-large – To be determined

Other Members

Larry Alberts – Realtor with Keller Williams Realty

John Alden – Local businessman; Gift of Literacy Committee

Ed Baker – Campaign Division Director of United Way of Lane County; Gift of Literacy Committee

Nancy Bigley – School Board Chair for Springfield Public Schools, co-owner of Outback Restaurant

Stan Bowers – Regional Manager of First Tech Credit Union; member of the Gift of Literacy Committee

Sandra Boyst – SPS parent

Ron Barnhall – University of Oregon Instructor of Leadership and Communication – Lundquist College of Business University of Oregon

Jeanne Coe – Assistant Director of Undergraduate Programs for the University of Oregon

RoseAnn Coe – Teacher at Brattain Elementary School

Julie Collins – Principal at Yolanda Elementary School

Bob Duey – Finance Director for the City of Springfield

Jim Eckman – Retired high school teacher, athletic director and track coach

Jason Genck – Deputy Superintendent with Willamalane Park and Recreation Department

Jill Hoggard-Greene – Chief Operating Officer for PeaceHealth’s Oregon region

Bob Linahan – General Manager of Springfield Utility Board

Barbara Long – Retired middle school teacher

Mark Molina – Local businessman

Robert Scherer – SPS parent; owner of Springfield Buick

Jenny Ulum – Founder of The Ulum Group, Public Relations Dir. at Sacred Heart Riverbend Hospital

Kate Wallace – Community volunteer

Andrea Wiggins – Director of Development, College of Education at University of Oregon

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