Chiffin Native Student Summer School Brings Cheers

This summer 15 Native American students participated in a two-week camp funded by an Oregon Community Foundation grant. Students from the Blackfoot, Lakota, Cree, Mùlk, Chinnook and a few other tribes enjoyed a variety of activities, including learning Chinnook WàWà language, making necklaces and travelling to attend the Siletz Pow Wow.

The OCF grant application was written and submitted by Ronnel Curry, Executive Director of the Springfield Education Foundation; Dawn Malliet, Springfield Public Schools Indian Education Program Coordinator, and Leilani Sabzalian, chair of the Indian Education Parent Committee. The three-year renewable grant will also support mentors, tutors, middle school lunch clubs, and more open hours for the Chiffin Native Youth Center, located at Two Rivers-Dos Ríos Elementary School.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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SEF Grants: Increasing Test Scores and Reinvigorating Teachers

“Last June, the Foundation received evaluation reports from the 2015-16 Innovative Educator Grant recipients. More than 6,300 students were impacted, test scores rose, participation increased and student behavior in the classroom improved. Here are some excerpts from those reports: A 4th-grade student who struggled to follow the morning rules was directed by educators at Two Rivers-Dos Ríos Elementary School to join the "It’s a Fact" math club, which is funded by an SEF grant. By June, the student's behavior had dramatically improved and he developed 100% math fact fluency. He also achieved his math benchmark. Eighty percent of the other club attendees increased their math assessment scores as well!!

Impact in the Classroom
We received feedback from many of our grant recipients expressing their gratitude for the positive changes they experienced with SEF's support. Alyssa Dodds, a teacher at Thurston High School, wrote, "This grant reinvigorated my teaching like never before and gave me an opportunity to have conversations that I would never have had with my students." Marissa Silver, a teacher at Maple Elementary, reported, "Your willingness to fund new projects helps teachers to take initiative and show a spirit of entrepreneurship in the face of challenges. It's a great feeling to get the 'green light' for a project and to see what can be accomplished quickly. I appreciate the culture of trust and support of educators that you have built."

Please Join Us!

• Night of 11,000 Stars!
Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016
Willamalane Center
Annual fundraising gala to benefit the nearly 11,000 students attending Springfield Public Schools.
$80 per person.

• Grant Givers Tour
Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016
Join us for all or part of the day when we award this year’s Innovative Educator Grants.
Call 541-726-3243 for details.
Meet the New Staff

Sandy Beck has joined the Springfield Education Foundation as executive assistant/bookkeeper. Sandy has spent most of her career in bookkeeping with both nonprofit and for-profit companies, including Habitat for Humanity in Bozeman/Missoula, Montana. She lived in the Gallatin Valley (Bozeman) area for 25 years. She also has a degree in Information Technology. Sandy works part-time at SEF taking care of all financial matters.

Jennifer Brown joined SEF at the beginning of September as the part-time associate director of development. Jennifer focuses her attention on fundraising, including direct mail, working with a small portfolio of donors, staffing the alumni subcommittee of the board and managing the Honor Roll Society reception. Jennifer is a Springfield, Oregon native and graduated from Thurston High School. She recently earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Oregon.

SEF Adjusts Strategic Plan to Focus on Student Performance

Last spring, SEF board members set out to improve how SEF tracks impact on student learning. They revised a key goal of the foundation’s 2014–2017 Strategic Plan to read: “Make a meaningful impact on student performance focusing on increasing early literacy, attendance, participation, career and college connections, and excellent teaching, working toward increasing graduation rates.”

For the complete 2014–2017 Strategic Plan to read: springfieldeducationfoundation.org/about. You will find a list of Foundation’s objectives for accomplishing this goal.

Expanded Program for Kindergartners Reaches More Students with Social Innovation Fund Federal Grant

A groundbreaking partnership with United Way of Lane County, Springfield Public Schools (SPS), Corporation for National and Community Service’s Social Innovation Fund program and the Springfield Education Foundation (SEF) is improving kindergarten readiness. Sixty Springfield prekindergarten students and their parents are participating in the Kids in Transition to School program (KITS).

An evidence-based program designed by the Oregon Social Learning Center, KITS helps level the playing field for kindergartners so that they have the best shot at success all the way through high school. The program makes learning exciting, concentrating on early literacy and math skills, social skills, self-regulation and parent support. For information go to kidsintransitiontoschool.org.

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Ronnel Curry, Executive Director

Donor Appreciation Event Includes Alumni and Legacy Awards

At the June Honor Roll Society reception, SPS Superintendent Susan Ruhe-Smith (left) and SEF Executive Director Ronnel Curry (center) present Dennis Shane an SEF Legacy Award for a bequest left to SEF by his late wife, Kate Wallace. Kate was a former SEF board member and advocate of education and human rights.

The Honor Roll Society of the Springfield Education Foundation was created in 2014, 20 years after the Foundation was formed, to recognize community leaders who made outstanding contributions to benefit future generations of Springfield students. It recognizes individuals and businesses who make a significant annual gift of $1,000 or more, a bequest or life income gift, or a $10,000 or more gift to the foundation.

These donors are invited to the Honor Roll Society Reception each year. The hosted event includes student entertainment, wine and appetizers and award presentations. In June, SEF’s alumni committee awarded Philip Carrasco, Thurston High School, class of 1996, with the Outstanding Alumni Award and Ana Pena, Springfield High School, class of 2011, with the Rising Alumni Award. This year’s event was held at Sprout! and sponsored by Karl Brantley, Lincoln Financial Advisors and Banner Bank.

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“One sign of a well-run organization is that they deliberately review their operating environment and plan for their future,” Bob Choquette, a University of Oregon instructor and graduate coordinator of Planning, Public Policy & Management (3PM), said about SEF’s strategic work.

Next spring, the SEF board will define the foundation’s 2018–2020 plan with the assistance of 3PM students.

“I’m excited for my students and the opportunity for them to work with SEF for the third time on a strategic plan,” said Choquette.

Students Find Value and Support in Meeting with Mentors

Agnes Stewart Middler School Principal Jeff Fuller reported to a group of mentors that his staff sees an improvement in students’ attitudes and behaviors after they meet with their students. For the last three years, SEF and volunteers have been supporting mentorship programs at Agnes Stewart and Hamlin Middle Schools.

“I learned if I work hard, my grades will get better.”

Students who have participated in the mentorship program tell us how beneficial it has been for them:

“…I have gained more confidence as I have met with my mentor.” – Jonathan

“Being in the mentorship program was worth it because I liked having someone to talk to.” – Millie

“I am really happy because I got a mentor that said he would be my friend.” – Sam

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Guidance Counselor

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Annual Report FY15-16

The Power of Your Support

Life-changing moments are happening for Springfield students because of generous donors like you. With the power of your support, Springfield Education Foundation has invested $1.3 million into Springfield Public Schools since 1994, enhancing academic resources, creating innovative programs and giving students access to tools that get them excited about learning.

It is through the contribution of dedicated donors like you that SEP is able to provide resources that allow students to explore their interests. You give them more opportunities to explore their abilities and set them toward a successful future.

INNOVATION

Exciting things are taking place inside and outside the classroom through our Innovative Educator Grants that you donated funds. SEP awarded 24 grants last year totaling $49,060—the second highest dollar amount ever invested in one year. One grant funded a key speaker at two Rivers-Dos Rios Elementary School.

“Eighty percent of the students who participated improved their math assessment scores, and 100% of those students showed improvement in their math fluency,” said teaching specialist Kate Lode, who oversees the club. “Students even came to school 20 minutes early because they were so enthusiastic about what they were learning.”

Thanks to your unfailing support of SEP, students are receiving career training and educational opportunities like never before, in areas such as graphic arts, auto mechanics, woodworkings, engineering, medical technology, food service, journalism and teaching.

One example is the Teacher Cadet Program at Springfield High School, which encourages students to consider teaching as a career and to develop future community leaders for public civic education.

This program changed my life,” said Vanessa, a senior in the Teacher Cadet program. “It not only changed my career path, but by helping kids, I know I will succeed.”

INCREASING SUPPORT Five-Year Summary

Invested in Student Programs

<table>
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<th>FY11-12</th>
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<th>FY13-14</th>
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Total Invested $772,287

Thank you for your continued support. It makes a difference in the lives of our students and future graduates!
Thank You to Our Generous FY 2015–16 Donors

The Springfield Education Foundation invested $230,000 in student programs during fiscal year 2015-16. Thank you and our donors for helping our bright and successful students reach their highest potential. (*) Denotes Constant Star donors who give monthly.

**LITERACY**

- Dr. Ken and Kenda Singer
- PacificSource Health Plans
- Community Foundation of Oregon
- Community Foundation of the Willamette Valley
- Cressey Family Charitable Trust
- Recreation District
- Erik and Hilary Vos
- Twin Rivers Rotary
- SELCO Community Credit Union
- Oregon Community Credit Union
- Karen Lewis
- Judy and Joe Leahy
- Kendall Auto Group
- International Paper
- Jake Hoffman, Grocery Outlet
- Rodger Guthrie and Nancy
- Eugene Active 20-30 Club
- Banner Bank
- Personnel Source, Inc
- Fred Meyer Fund
- Oregon Community Foundation
- Donna P. Woolley Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
- Peter DeFazio and Myrnie Daut
- David and Susan D’Avanzo
- Steve and Kelly Christofferson
- Beverly Chadburn
- Café Yumm!

**TECHNOLOGY**

- By helping SEF invest in technology, student attendance, participation and test scores are rising. One example is the GEMS project—girls Engineering in Middle School. The program gives girls the opportunity to attend a 10-week after-school technology class. And through your generous donations, SEF is able to continue that support at the high school level. Last year, SEF awarded the Thurston High School Robotics program $4,300 to help the program grow and accommodate more students, including all girl team whose members include former GEMS students.

- Students who can read at grade level have a much better chance of being successful in school. That’s why SEF is a proud supporter of Oregon Battle of the Books (OBiB), providing books to schools for this quiz-style literary program involving students in grades 3-12. OBiB has achieved incredible success as a reading incentive program in Springfield, with about 1,200 students in nearly all schools participating annually. In addition, SEF again partnered with the 11th annual Gift of Literacy, a community-supported book program for the district’s approximately 850 first-graders.

**MENTORS**

- SEF provides added value to student success by supporting mentoring programs at Highways Galaw, Hamilton and Agnes Stewart Middle Schools. Community volunteers meet with students at least three times each year, helping them gain confidence to stay on track academically and reinforce the idea that any student can go to college.

- Here’s what some students involved in the mentoring program had to say about the experience. “I learned that my grades are important and that if I focus, I can do better,” said Antonia.

- “My mentor taught me that I just need to keep doing what I am doing and then I can become whatever I want,” said Kyle.

**TALENTED AND GIFTED**

- SEF works strategically with the school district to identify underfunded programs to bolster student success. Last year, the foundation awarded $20,000 of your donations to the gifted and talented (G&T) Program to support an underserved student population. This donation nearly doubles the district’s support for the program, engaging students across the district in stimulating and rewarding learning experiences that challenge them in new and exciting ways not offered in daily classroom work. This includes evening workshops for students and their families to engage in project-based learning activities while providing an important setting for peer interaction.

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**Supporter ($100+)**

- Amanda Alter
- Deco Ashbridge
- Nancy and Bob Noonan
- Joyce and Carrell Barbour
- Michelle Bassi
- Nathan Bell
- Oblouca
- Judy Bets
- Frank Brown
- Ron and Connie Bramhall
- Brad Bundman and Sammie
- Lear
- Karen Brie
- Deanna Bosco
- Michael Brown
- Scott Bulkey
- David Canov
- Chinko Winos Casino
- David Collins
- Louise Cawros
- Sandy Cummings
- Jill Curran
- William Daggett
- Bill and Sue Davis
- Travis and Sarah Decker

**Contributor ($250+)

- Cabals
- Bethie Haldeman

**Leader ($500+)

- Larry Alberts
- Nancy Alameda
- Micah Adams*
- Academics

**Supporter ($500+)

- Zane and Mary Beth Wilson
- Scott Williams
- Jim and Debra Hoffman
- Jeff and Marilou Heriot*
- Friends of Terry Beyer
- Steve and Achelle Frichette
- Eugene Emeralds
- Educational Policy

**Supporter ($1,000+)

- John and Sharon Alden
- Invest In Springfield
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- Sid and Debra Leiken
- John and Joanne Halgren
- Travis and Mindy Fribbuck, The Party Team
- Tina DeFusco
- Union and Green Dream
- Bob and Lottie Duany
- Educational Policy
- Improvements
- Eugene Emeralds
- Steve and Achille Frichette
- Friends of Terry Beyer
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- Hang suber
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- Jim and Delia Hoffman
- Chris and Tammy Hanpigh
- Dan and Tammy Hulshier
- Robert and Christina Kever
- Lane Transit District
- Lincoln Financial Foundation
- Ken and Barbara Long
- Jon and Giri Marind
- Branden and Liu Mcan
- National Community Credit Union
- Dubuque Community Credit Union
- Pacific Continental Bank
- Stan and Cathy Paine
- Sanda Perry
- Paul Pilet
- Dwight Purdy
- Kevin and Tara Rosinec*
- Royal Caribbean Cruises
- Schwab Investments
- John and Lorraine Thomas
- Charitable Giving Council of Oregon
- United Way
- Lane United Football
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