Volume 10 • SPRING 2017

The Focus on Springfield Education Foundation

Investing in Successful Students

Generous Community Support Makes Graphics Lab a Reality

Students learn the graphics program Adobe Illustrator in the state-of-the-art classroom at SHS. It was created with a generous donation, bond funds, contributions from dozens of vendors and with the ingenuity of SPS facilities personnel.

Last summer, a state-of-the-art graphics design studio replaced an underutilized room at Springfield High School (SHS). Now 150 students are enrolled in glass and graphics, graphic design and yearbook classes.

The studio was the dream of Principal José da Silva and made possible with a generous donation from Dr. Ken and Kenda Singer, donations from the business community, technology funded through a bond measure and the visionary work of Springfield Public Schools facility staff led by Terry Rutledge and Jason Pickett.

Principal da Silva is working to increase the number of career skills available to the 1,441 SHS students. Research shows that when students take at least one career and technical class, it increases the likelihood that they will graduate. As more funds become available for teachers, classes in web and production design will also be offered.

"We are pleased beyond measure with the final product of the graphic design studio project, and thank Springfield High, the community contributors and the Foundation for turning this vision into reality," Kenda Singer said.

A special thanks to these contributing businesses: Altech Finishes, Big Ass Fans, Camp Creek Electric, Cree Lighting/The Lighting Project, Graybar, Hydro-Temp Mechanical, I-5 Glass, Masons Supply Company, Paradigm Engineering - James Krumsick PE, Robertson | Sherwood Architects | PC, Rubenstein's Contract Carpet, RV Lights, Sherwin-Williams Springfield, Stedman Sheetmetal Inc. and Sunset Electric.

Upcoming Events!

- **Honor Roll Society Reception**
  Thursday, March 16, 2017
  at Along Came Trudy
  Donor appreciation event and alumni awards. Honor Roll Society members contribute $1,000 annually or more.

- **Gift of Literacy**
  Thursday, May 4, 2017
  Lane Community College

- **Plank Town Brewing Company Fundraiser**
  Tuesday, May 16, 2017
  5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

- **Night of 11,000 Stars!**
  Thursday, October 19, 2017
  Details to be announced.

Springfield Education Foundation

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The Focus *is published twice a year for donors, parents, Springfield Public Schools employees, educators, alumni and volunteers—supporters of Springfield Public Schools. To obtain an electronic version, please email ronnel@springfieldeducationfoundation.org.*

Unique Tutoring Center at THS Helps Students Make the Grade

Tutors at Thurston High School such as Alexa Gardner, Sharon Rodgers, Judy Akers, Ken Raymen and Noland Peebles (pictured above from left) are having a positive impact on students' academic performance.

By Kelli Warner, SEF Board Member

Each week, approximately 20 to 40 students stop by the Thurston High School (THS) Tutoring Center to get help with homework, test preparation, essays and scholarship applications. Located in the school's library, the center is unique because it is staffed entirely by community volunteers.

Principal Chad Towe says contributions from the Springfield Education Foundation have allowed the tutoring center to develop and expand.

"I love being around the students, it keeps me young," says Ken Raymen, a retired accountant who volunteers daily.

"Teachers are overloaded and have very little time to get done what they need to do," says Sharon Rodgers, a retired science teacher. "We can help by offering one-on-one time when students need it."

Alexa Gardner is the youngest volunteer. She is a 2014 THS graduate and University of Oregon senior who is studying to be a teacher. "This center is so valuable for the students to help them understand what they're learning," she says.

"As volunteers, we start to see some of the same students on a regular basis," says volunteer Judy Akers. "And even if they don't need help, they'll often stop in to tell us how they're doing."

Noland Peebles, a retired THS teacher, started the center last year.

"Kids are finding this a place where they are comfortable and connected," he says. "When students are connected to an adult or an activity, they are more likely to stay in school and graduate."

If you have skills that could benefit students call Ronnel Curry at 541-726-3243 or email Noland Peebles at noland.peebles@springfield.k12.or.us.

Proceeds from Night of 11,000 Stars Directly Inspire learning

SEF held it's 7th annual gala fundraiser, the Night of 11,000 Stars on October 15, 2016. Nearly 500 supporters of Springfield schools gathered to raise money for literacy, innovation and other academic programs that inspire learning. These include Innovative Educator Grants, the Talented and Gifted Program, Oregon Battle of the Books, Gift of Literacy, Belly Full, middle school mentorships, Lane Arts Apprenticeships and more!

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2016-17 Innovative Educator Grants Focus on Improving Student Performance

Mt. Vernon Elementary School kindergarten teachers were awarded a grant to enchance early literacy and encourage home reading involvement.

This year's Innovative Educator Grants focus on early literacy, career and college connections, as well as increasing participation. Twenty-two grants totaling $51,375 were presented at 10 schools, providing 17,150 learning opportunities. See the list below.

Students are directly impacted by these grants. For example, we received a handmade Thank You card from three A3 students who participated in the Blacksmithing and Sculpture class.

They wrote, "You constantly help our district learn new and exciting things that we can store in our memories for years to come. By doing this, you are teaching us how to go beyond our boundaries and do things that we never thought we could. You are making each one of the students in this district exceed our abilities. Thank you for helping us."

"You are making each one of the students in this district exceed our abilities."

School	Grant Title	Amount	Lead Educator	# Students Impacted
A3	Blacksmithing and Sculpture	$4,456	Andrew Hunt, District Science and Art Teacher	24
Brattain House	Conversation and Culture Club	$1,602	Monica Tapia, District Welcome Center Coordinator	20
District-Wide	Promoting Student Emotional Health	$2,800	Sue Teutschel, District Mental Health Teacher	11,000
District-Wide	Food for Thought	$750	Linda Mooney, Teacher	150
Gateways High	Finding and Recording Our Creative Voice	$1,088	Janet Nelson, Teacher	100
Guy Lee Elementary	Listening to Learn	$510	Heidi Van Brunt, 4th Grade Teacher	500
Hamlin Middle	Teaching Medieval History through Chess	$300	Colin Lyons, 7th Language Arts/Social Studies	240
Hamlin Middle	First Year STEAM Projects	$1,105	Ron Pottorf, STEAM Teacher	200
Maple Elementary	Spanish Literacy with Family Engagement	$4,476	Zehra Greenleaf, ELD Teacher	30
Mt. Vernon Elementary	Literacy & Leveled Readers Everywhere!	$2,668	Celina Ziolkowski, Kindergarten Teacher	80
Page Elementary	Can You Hear Me Now?	$792	Jennifer Guiley, 2nd Grade Teacher	75
Springfield High	Partnership to Promote Student Safety	$3,000	Nikki Danner, Health Educator	1,000
Springfield High	Clay Anatomy: Awakens Kinesthetic IQ	$4,967	Leslie Watson, Health Science Program Coordinator	200
Springfield High	Dem Bones, Dem Exciting Bones	$2,000	Leslie Watson, Science Teacher	100
Springfield High	Next Generation of Lifesavers	$3,000	Leslie Watson, Health Professionals Advisor	250
Springfield High	Toys for Teens: Bringing Physics to Life	$4,776	Amanda Greene-Chacon, Science Teacher	350
Springfield High	Calculators for All!	$351	Amanda Greene-Chacon, Science Teacher	350
Springfield High	Improving High School Students' Writing	$2,995	Marilyn Williams, Assistant Principal	200
Thurston Elementary	Digital Differentiating for All Students	$4,922	Apryl Smith, Teacher/Computer Coordinator	476
Thurston High	Literacy Bags for SPS Preschool	$351	Susan Reeder, FACS Teacher	110
Thurston High	Lighting a Fire with the Plasma Cutter	$1,165	Polly Kohl, Teacher	160
Thurston High	Expanding Learning Opportunities	$3,302	Amy Stranieri, Counselor and Teacher	1,385

Four Easy Ways You Can Support the Springfield Education Foundation

1. Become a Monthly Donor

It's easy on the pocketbook to give monthly, and it provides a steady source of income and keeps fundraising costs low for SEF. Give from your bank account, through United Way, or if you are employed at Springfield Public Schools, through payroll. Call today to get started or use the enclosed envelope.

2. Volunteer

Help forward our mission by volunteering! Spend time directly helping students by becoming a mentor or tutor. Or, join an SEF committee. We can also help match your time and expertise to best help our organization or students.

3. Use Amazon Smile

Link to this bookmark, https://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-1147979 so all your eligible shopping will benefit SEF. It doesn't cost you a thing!

Thank You!

4. Connect with Fred Meyer Rewards

1. Go to www.fredmeyer.com, then click Fred Meyer community rewards.
2. Sign-in with email and password.
3. Enter 90641 for the number in the organization section.
4. Click the 'Springfield Education Foundation' then click 'enroll'.
5. You are all set up! Fred Meyer will now donate to SEF each time you shop. It doesn't cost you a thing!

Innovative Educator Grants Provide Tools to Inspire Learning

Hamlin Middle School students hold one of the many projects made possible through SEF funds.

Hamlin STEAM teacher Ron Pottorf and shop teacher Paul Cesmat are partnering to teach science, technology, engingeering and math skills to students. A 2016 Springfield Education Foundation Innovative Educator Grant (list of 2016 grants inside) helped them purchase supplies and materials for a number of STEAM-based projects. 6th-graders will work on mousetrap cars and build model houses, including using LEDs, resistors, batteries and circuits to wire the houses. 7th-graders will build kites, piñatas and hill-climbing car, and 8th-graders will build wind turbines and solar art cars that will compete in the county-wide EWEB Solar Challenge.

"Our goal is to keep students engaged in learning through fun, interactive hands-on activities." - Ron Pottorf, Hamlin Middle School STEAM Teacher

The projects all incorporate STEAM skills along with an opportunity for students to explore their artistic and creative abilities. By approaching teaching and learning through project-based collaborative problem-solving, students gain a deeper understanding of scientific practices and the importance of teamwork.

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Springfield Education Foundation

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