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Springfield Education Foundation

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NEW GRANT CYCLE TIMELINE

Annual program shifts to spring

Springfield High science teacher Sonja Ljungdahl is one of 36 educators who received a SEF grant last fall.

The annual Springfield Education Foundation grant program is moving from fall to spring. The foundation is offering three competitive grant programs for Springfield educators, encouraging innovation, promoting physical activity and health education, and facilitating social emotional learning during the upcoming 2019-20 school year.

Since 2004, 333 Innovative Educator Grants have been awarded, creating over 68,608 learning opportunities in nearly every subject and discipline, serving students at all grade levels with all abilities. This critical program is made possible thanks to a number of individuals and community partners, including SELCO Community Credit Union, our Innovative Educator Grants Presenting Sponsor.

"It's no secret that creative projects keep kids in the classroom," said Laura Illig, SELCO's vice president of marketing. "SEF's grants are crucial to bringing our teachers' innovative ideas to life and raising graduation rates, which we've celebrated the last two years."

Did you know? Springfield Education Foundation awarded $60,000 in grants to Springfield schools in 2018-19. Current educators are encouraged to visit SEFLane.org/Grants to learn more and apply for 2019-20 funding.

2018-19 EDUCATOR GRANTS

School | Grant Title | Amount | Lead Educator

A3 | Get Outdoors! | $2,995 | Rebecca Krop

Agnes Stewart Middle | 3D Printer for Engaging Math Remediation | $447 | Sarah Heacox-Jackson

Alt. Education Programs | Preparation to Advance Student Success | $2,240 | Linda Mooney

Alt. Education Programs | Transportation and Security ID Printer | $400 | Chris Beath

Briggs Middle | STEAM Now! | $2,599 | Joe Hass

Briggs Middle | Preparing Informed Critical Thinkers | $2,974 | Jason Ray

Briggs Middle | Young Magicians Club | $602 | Paul Weill

Centennial Elem. | Beyond Clocks and Coins | $540 | Nancy Williams

Chifin Native Youth Center | Cultural Connections Camp | $2,435 | Dawn Malliett

Douglas Gardens Elem. | Flyleaf Literature Library for Learners | $1,950 | Constance Anderson

Guy Lee Elem. | Spanish Resources for Dual Immersion | $3,000 | Yesica Meza

Guy Lee Elem. | Enhancing Social Emotional Learning Through Reading | $486 | Kristen Noor

Hamlin Middle | Project-Based 7th Grade Class | $2,746 | Andrew Hunt

Maple Elem. | Developing Language Skills with LEGOS | $609 | Gail Butler

Maple Elem. | Native Spanish Literacy Project | $450 | Bryan Reed

Maple Elem. | Social Skills for Success | $1,820 | Sara Starlin

Maple Elem. | Growing Strong Hearts | $1,008 | Misty Acker

Mt. Vernon Elem. | Hurray for Handwriting | $1,307 | Annette Peters

Page Elem. | Portable Elementary School Keyboard Lab | $2,974 | Dorian Buttacavoli

Riverbend Elem. | Today's Readers are Tomorrow's Leaders | $1,519 | Carmen De La Cruz

Riverbend Elem. | GoPro When You Video | $399 | Eva La Mar

Springfield High | Speech and Debate Team | $1,000 | Corrie Aljian

Springfield High | Harmony in the Classroom | $2,591 | Jon Bridges

Springfield High | 21st Century Music Technology Suite Project | $1,920 | Jonathan Light

Springfield High | 21st Century Biology Skills | $3,000 | Sonja Ljungdahl

Springfield High | Integrated Outdoor Journalism Program | $3,000 | Ivan Miller

Springfield High | Diverse and Up-To-Date Library Materials | $3,000 | Benni Rose

Thurston Elem. | Engaging the Prefrontal Cortex | $1,400 | Katie Stiles

Thurston High | Forestry Field Equipment | $2,982 | Stacey Tuers

Two Rivers-Dos Rios Elem. | Outdoor School at Sky Camp | $1,000 | Connie Opsal, Mel Dronzek, Mikkel Harshberger

Walterville Elem. | Equity in Education | $313 | Audrey Davids

Willamette Leadership Acad. | Cooking Class Equipment | $1,020 | Maria G. Gutierrez

Willamette Leadership Acad. | Graphing Calculators in the Classroom | $1,184 | Ryan Hovey

Willamette Leadership Acad. | Expanding our Library to Promote Reading | $1,992 | Alicia Willis

Yolanda Elem. | Innovative Classroom Flexible Seating | $991 | Lisa Gibson

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SEF RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

At the Springfield Education Foundation Honor Roll Society Reception each spring, we recognize Springfield's commitment to education through our Alumni Awards. In March, we honored three individuals and one family for their exemplary efforts to make a difference in our community and enhance educational opportunities.

Distinguished Educator Award: Brandi Starck
Brandi Starck (THS Class of '95) fell in love with education as an educational assistant at Thurston Middle School. After holding various teaching and administrative roles throughout the district, Brandi returned to Thurston Middle as principal six years ago. Her dedication to students earned her the honor of 2018 Oregon Middle School Principal of the Year.

Legacy Family Award: The Scherer Family
The Scherer family has made a multi-generational impact in Springfield since Clarence Scherer opened Springfield Buick in 1948, including funding scholarships for Springfield grads to attend the U of O. Clarence and his wife, Dorothy, had five children who graduated from Springfield High School. Today, the Scherer siblings continue to provide scholarships for students in their parents' memory. Their son Robert (SHS Class of '75) and his wife, Terry (SHS Class of '72), now own Springfield Buick.

Rising Alumni Award: Harley Emery
Harley Emery (THS Class of '15) is an advocate for positive social change. As Miss Oregon 2017, Harley raised awareness about issues relating to refugees and immigrants. She is currently a research assistant in the U of O Geography Department, researching sovereign-level disaster risk insurance programs in African nations. Upon graduating this spring, Harley will continue her work building a crowd-sourced mapping app and alert system for use in conflict zones.

Outstanding Alumni Award: Colt Gill
Springfield High School alum Colt Gill (Class of '84) is dedicated to helping students succeed. He's held many positions throughout his career in education, including teacher, principal and superintendent and now serves as Director of the Oregon Department of Education and Deputy Superintendent for the State of Oregon.

GENEROSITY INSPIRES NEW SEF AWARD:

Voorhees honored as Advocates of the Year

Sid and Henrietta "Hank" Voorhees are well known for their willingness to support causes that enhance the lives of the people who live in our community. Their tireless dedication to kids and education makes them the inspiration, namesake and first recipients of a new award recognizing standout supporters of Springfield Education Foundation—the *Voorhees SEF Advocate of the Year Award*.

Sid and Hank met in junior high and started dating their senior year in high school. They were married for 60 years before Hank passed in May 2018. The Voorhees have four children, six grandsons and two great-grandsons.

The Voorhees began their auction business in 1992, but no one in town knew. During a Rotary White Elephant Sale, an auctioneer was needed and Sid volunteered. Afterwards, everyone said, "We didn't know you could do that!"

Sid and Hank put their heart and soul into everything, performing 65+ auctions each year, including SEFs Night of 11,000 Stars Gala—the majority done for free. As advocates for children, this dynamic duo helped raise nearly $1 million for Springfield students.

Top: Sid and Hank Voorhees.

Bottom: Auctioneer Sid Voorhees accepts the inaugural Voorhees SEF Advocate of the Year Award.

FROM THE DESK OF SALLY

Innovative programs help fuel rising graduation rate

Exciting things are happening in Springfield Public Schools, and your support for the Springfield Education Foundation plays a pivotal role. Through your generosity, we are helping to fund innovative programs that are engaging students—and we are seeing results. The graduation rate in Springfield has risen by more than 9 percent in the last two years, which is phenomenal! This increase reflects the focus, hard work and commitment of district staff and volunteers and supporters of the foundation. We are proud to be involved in the process.

In addition, we've shifted our grants program timeline to spring, which better coincides with teachers' busy schedules. Through foundation grants, students are benefiting from:

- GoPro cameras that allow them to learn and create in new ways.
- Relevant and diverse literature in our classrooms and school libraries.
- Seating that is specially designed to positively impact how students with special needs learn.
- Specialized Legos that are helping non-communicative students interact with iPads and learn new words.

With your help, we will continue to support engaging and innovative programs to keep students excited, interested and learning! I invite you to contact me at 541-726-3243 to arrange a classroom visit to see our grants in action.

SEF Executive Director Sally J. Storm, Ph.D.

Students from Two Rivers-Dos Ríos Elem. attend Oregon Battle of the Books tournament.

INSPIRING LEARNING

Your gifts make a difference

Monthly giving

- $10 per month ($120/yr) provides a complete set of books for an Oregon Battle of the Books team.
- $25 per month ($300/yr) buys a complete set of music for a middle school band or orchestra.
- $100 per month ($1,200/yr) enables the purchase of three tablet computers for use by elementary school students.

Shop online with AmazonSmile

When you shop on AmazonSmile, 0.5 percent of the purchase price of eligible products is donated to SEF, and it doesn't cost you a thing! Visit smile.amazon.com to get started.

Link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card

Support SEF by shopping at Fred Meyer using your Rewards Card. Fred Meyer will donate to SEF each time you shop, and you still get your rewards points, fuels points and rebates! Be sure to re-enroll every year!

- Go to FredMeyer.com.
- Under Savings & Rewards, select 'Fred Meyer Community Rewards'.
- Click 'Link your Rewards Card now'.
- Enter 90641 for the organization's name.
- Click 'Springfield Education Foundation'.
- Click 'Enroll'.

Springfield Education Foundation

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION:

Grant provides new books to attract new readers

When Springfield High School librarian Benni Rose wanted to make up-to-date, culturally relevant reading material that represented the diversity of the student body available in the school library, Benni turned to the Springfield Education Foundation.

Knowing that a love of reading develops early on and leads to greater academic success in practically every other subject, Benni applied for and received a 2019 Springfield Education Foundation Innovative Educator Grant, which made it possible for them to purchase over 400 books for students.

"Students now have a more comprehensive selection of fiction and nonfiction books to choose from," Benni says.

The books feature characters, authors and storylines as unique and diverse as the students at Springfield High School, attracting readers and piquing curiosity, leading to better-informed learners, broader student success, and improved literacy rates.

"When students have books readily available to them that they can relate to, they begin to fall in love with reading," Benni says. "And, when students love to read, they can grow in so many ways!"

Springfield High librarian Benni Rose received a SEF Innovative Educator Grant to purchase 400 new books.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar and join us!

Grant Giver's Tour
May 2019
To participate, call the SEF office at 541-726-3243.

SEF's 5th Annual Celebration Party: Back to the '80s
Saturday, June 22, 2019 | 5 pm
$60/per person. Enjoy delicious food and fun entertainment.
Info and tickets: 541-726-3243

Night of 11,000 Stars Gala
Thursday, October 10, 2019
Bob Keefer Center for Sports and Recreation
Details coming soon!

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