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Springfield Education Foundation

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT DURING A CRITICAL TIME

Thank you for your partnership and generosity

No one is left untouched by the current health crisis. Some may be affected in different ways than others, but it's an experience we share and it's something we can get through together – even though we are physically apart.

To understand the strength of our community and commitment to one another, look no further than Springfield Schools. Our district administrators are leading their teams through truly unprecedented challenges. Our teachers are showing incredible flexibility and resolve by learning new teaching methods and technologies to make the transition to distance learning as easy as possible for families. Our students, who are at the heart of it all, are quickly adapting to this new way of learning.

Thanks to the generosity of SEF donors, the foundation is serving as an additional source of stability during these uncertain times. Your contributions provide the support that our educators desperately need to ensure students are still getting an education, even if they can't be at school.

At SEF, we are doing our part by continuing to raise funds. Now more than ever, we need your help and partnership in this important work. The cancellation of our annual Innovation Through Education Breakfast fundraiser has formed a gap in our funding, creating uncertainty for our programs.

If you have capacity to help support students, donations can be made through the SEF website or by mail using the enclosed envelope. If possible, please consider a recurring monthly donation. Sustained support ensures that students will have the tools they need now and when they return to school.

These are challenging times for all, and we understand if you are unable to give financially today. All forms of support for our schools, students, teachers, and staff are welcomed and appreciated. Whether you are making a donation or telling someone about SEF, you're playing an instrumental role in realizing the foundation's vision: To see the exceptional become the expected—in the ways students learn, teachers innovate, and our community unites around them.

With Gratitude,

Christina San Filippo
SEF Interim Director

Micah Adams
SEF Board Chair

SEF EDUCATOR GRANTS UPDATE

Application deadline extended to May 15

Springfield Education Foundation has extended the deadline to submit applications for Innovative Educator Grants, the Frank Sherman Grant and the Social Emotional Learning Fund Grant (SELF).

We support our educators in the outstanding work they are doing to transfer their teaching to distance learning, and we understand that more time is needed to complete grant applications.

Thanks to your gracious donations, SEF is able to continue to award grants to educators during these challenging times.

For more information about SEF grants, visit **SEFLane.org/grants**.

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HONOR ROLL SOCIETY RECEPTION

SEF Recognizes Outstanding Alumni and Volunteers

At the Springfield Education Foundation Honor Roll Society Reception each spring, we recognize Springfield's commitment to education through our Alumni Awards and celebrate volunteerism by announcing the SEF Advocate of the Year. In early March, we honored the following for their exemplary effort to make a difference in our community.

Distinguished Educator Award: Kari Isham
Kari Isham (THS Class of '90) has a passion for supporting students, families and schools that are working toward reducing chronic absenteeism within Springfield Public Schools. After starting her teaching career at Mohawk Elementary and spending 11 years in the classroom at Yolanda Elementary, Kari now serves the district as a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) helping families overcome their struggles with truancy.

Outstanding Alumni Award: Jason Floyd
Jason Floyd (SHS Class of '97) is an advocate for positive change. Having served as a substitute teacher, a student advocate for the Step Up after school program and a counselor at De Paul Youth Rehab and Jasper Mountain/Safe Center, Jason is a Student Success Navigator with the African American/Black Student Success Plan Grant at Lane ESD. Jason has been instrumental in increasing the number of traditionally underrepresented students on track for graduation.

Legacy Family Award: The Fryback Family
After attending their first SEF Night of 11,000 Stars Gala, Travis and Mindy Fryback were inspired by the foundation's mission. They continue to support SEF by hosting its annual BBQ fundraiser. Travis' father and stepmom, Jim and Janet, each taught for 30 years at Springfield High, where they were both successful athletic coaches and Travis' sisters, Jenny and Jamie, are both teachers.

SEF Advocate of the Year: Joe and Judy Leahy
The Springfield Education Foundation is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers, including Joe and Judy Leahy. A former teacher, Judy has served on the SEF board since 2012 and currently chairs the foundation's Development Committee. Joe has been practicing law for 40+ years in the community. Together, the couple raised three sons, have three lovely daughters-in-law and five beautiful grandchildren, and they continue to volunteer their time to give back to the community and support students and educators in Springfield.

Left: SEF intern and UO graduate Thomas Hannu making mocktails at a staff pampering event at Thurston Elementary. Right: SEF intern and Thurston High School graduate Carrie-Anna Estes.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SPRINGFIELD'S SENIORS: Hats off to the Class of 2020

The statewide stay-at-home order and social distancing protocols have changed the end of the school year in ways most of us could never have imagined. Not only has it disbanded our classrooms, it has upended spring sports and activities, class trips, student concerts and events, as well as prom and traditionally scheduled graduation ceremonies for our seniors.

We sympathize with our students during this difficult time and especially with the Class of 2020. We know you must be sad and disappointed to miss so many milestones and memory-making opportunities, but know that we celebrate you and your efforts to reach that finish line. You have worked hard and persevered to accomplish your goals and that cannot be taken away.

The Springfield Education Foundation was fortunate to work with two interns this year who are members of the graduating Class of 2020: Carrie-Anna Estes from Thurston High School and Thomas Hannu from the University of Oregon. Thomas graduates in June with a degree in planning, public policy and management and a minor in international studies. Carrie-Anna will be attending Oregon Institute of Technology in the fall and majoring in embedded systems engineering with a minor in software technology.

Carrie-Anna and Thomas have been wonderful assets to the foundation, helping us plan and organize last fall's Night of 11,000 Stars Gala and our recent Honor Roll Society Reception, as well as assisting with a variety of the foundation's projects.

We thank Carrie-Anna and Thomas for lending us their time and talents throughout the school year. To them and to the entire Class of 2020, we say: Congratulations on your accomplishments. We look forward to seeing where life will take you next!

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE
Sally Storm Retires as SEF Executive Director

After two years at the helm of the Springfield Education Foundation, Dr. Sally Storm retired from her position as executive director in December. During her time of leadership, the foundation awarded $150,000 in grants and created approximately 30,000 learning opportunities for students.

"Sally's top priority was that each and every Springfield student receive the best possible educational experience," says board chair Micah Adams. "We appreciated her dedication to that goal."

Before joining SEF, Sally served as the superintendent of the McKenzie and Fern Ridge School Districts, a role that often involved cutting programs to meet budgets. She found that disheartening, so being able to raise funds to support innovative programs and create engaging opportunities for students through her work with the foundation was beyond rewarding.

"I was honored to work with the wonderful Springfield community that cares so deeply about kids," Sally says. "People are so willing to help in whatever way they can. The needs are great, and I am very proud of the work SEF is doing to meet those needs. The foundation's volunteer board is full of bright, talented and dedicated people who made me look good!"

Dr. Sally Storm surprises Springfield High School science teacher Sonja Ljungdahl with a 2019 SEF Innovative Educator grant.

Thank you, Sally, for your leadership, your dedication to kids and your respect for the value of education in our community. Under your guidance, SEF has continued to advance our mission to support students and educators in Springfield Public Schools.

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION: Students gets hands-on introduction to careers in health care

The Springfield Education Foundation is proud to support the Health Science Professions CTE Program of Study at Springfield High School. The program, led by teacher Leslie Watson, provides opportunities for students interested in health care to explore different career paths. The school also offers a Certified Nursing Assistant program (CNA) and a Medical Assistant program (NCMA), where in addition to classroom work, students receive 75 hours of clinical experience at local health care facilities.

"Quality health care in our community is now more important than ever in the context of COVID-19," Leslie says. "I am so proud of my students who decide to follow their dreams and help out their community by starting on their career path in high school. They dedicate extra time and energy into developing skills and knowledge that will lead them to success."

Students have access to a clinical simulation room within the high school that allows students to practice a variety of situations using patient simulators, such as "Nursing Anne," a robot that speaks and responds just as a real patient might given a variety of circumstances, from illness to injury.

Students provide care to "Nursing Anne," a robotic patient in the clinical simulation room at Springfield High School.

Earlier this year, Springfield High's HOSA Chapter for Future Health Professionals had its best showing competing at the state level in the areas of Health Education, Nursing Assisting, Medical Assisting, Medical Spelling, Sports Medicine and Vet Science. Eight students qualified for the 2020 HOSA International Conference that is now, due to the current health crisis, scheduled to be held virtually in June.

Congratulations to these future health professionals!

Watch a video about the Health Science Professions program at SEFLane.org/grants.

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For more information:
SpringfieldEducationFoundation.org