inspirED

Springfield Education Foundation
VOLUME 18 | SPRING 2021

EDUCATION REIMAGINED

Celebrating successes during uncertain times

Spring is here, marking a full year since educators were required to reshape how they connect with their students. Throughout this challenging year, teachers, administrators, staff and students of Springfield Public Schools have shown incredible perseverance, patience, creativity, flexibility and strength. Distance learning altered the needs of our teachers and students in 2020 and we were able to fund grant requests totaling over $20,000. Innovative educators found ways to implement their SEF grant funded projects from spring 2020 for music, science, literacy and social-emotional learning.

SPS students will return to on-site learning two days a week in April

Springfield Education Foundation is ready and excited to support our students as they transition back to in-person learning and we expect to fund this year's grants at pre-pandemic levels.

As we begin to see light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the many successes over the past year:

- SEF supported the Springfield Public Schools Care and Connection team to meet the basic needs of families affected by the pandemic and wildfires.
- The Chifin Native Youth Center provided coats and holiday food to local families in the Indian Education Program.
- The Social Emotional Learning Fund reached the endowment goal of $25,000.
- SEF created a new fund to provide science materials for classroom experiments.
- The Virtual Night of 11,000 Stars event in October raised over $100,000 to support Springfield students.
- SEF honored our generous donors and celebrated Springfield Public Schools Alumni at the 2021 Honor Roll Society and Alumni Awards virtual event in March.
- Donors like you gave generously through monthly contributions, Giving Tuesday, our End of Year Appeal, annual gifts, online donations, paddle raise pledges, sponsorships and event participation.

We are honored to share these successes with our generous supporters. Our vision is to see the exceptional become the expected – in the ways students learn, teachers innovate, and our community unites around them. That would not be possible without your generosity and support. We sincerely thank you for supporting Springfield students and look forward to celebrating more successes in 2021.

With Gratitude,
Christina San Filippo, SEF Executive Director Michelle Webber, SEF Board Chair

SEF EDUCATOR GRANTS NOW OPEN

Apply by April 26!

The Springfield Education Foundation 2021 Innovative Educator Grants, the Frank Sherman Grant and the Social Emotional Learning Grant (SELF) are now open. Applications are due by Monday, April 26th. Grant award selections will be made by the end of May and funds granted to educators in June for the 21-22 academic year!

We support our educators in the amazing work they have done this year to transition their teaching to distance learning and now back to hybrid in-person instruction.

Thanks to your gracious donations, SEF will be able to award Innovative Educator grants at pre-pandemic levels. Please encourage your SPS educator friends to apply for a grant!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: Help power student success through monthly support

Community support is key to helping students in Springfield unlock their potential. By becoming a sustaining supporter of Springfield Education Foundation, you provide opportunities for students to learn, grow and succeed.

Giving monthly, in an impactful and easy way, ensures our students have the continued resources they need to be engaged and to explore what's possible. It also provides a steady source of revenue for the foundation while keeping fundraising costs low.

Sign-up today to become a sustaining supporter of Springfield students with the enclosed giving envelope, or on our website. You can also call the SEF office or email for more options.

SEFLane.org 541-726-3243
Info@SpringfieldEducationFoundation.org

Empowering student success through community engagement.

2021 ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY AWARDS

SEF Recognizes Outstanding Alumni and Volunteers at the Honor Roll Society Reception

SEF Advocate of the Year Award
Brenda Hansen, THS, Class of 1986

Brenda Hansen served on the SEF Board for five years and is a Past Board Chair. She has been an active volunteer with Springfield for many years, spending a substantial amount of time in local schools supporting staff. Brenda is the owner/agent of Hansen Insurance Agency, representing Horace Mann Insurance. She also serves on the board of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and volunteers on the Education Committee.

Brenda's family moved to Springfield in 1977 and she and her husband Dale and son moved back to Springfield in 2001. She graduated from Thurston High School in 1986, and her son graduated from THS in 2017. When she isn't working or volunteering, you can find her gardening, cooking, baking, and crafting. She and her family enjoy our great outdoors by whitewater rafting, camping and riding motorcycles.

Outstanding Alumni Award
Rich Hickman, THS, Class of 1978

Rich Hickman has been the proud owner of Prime Time Sports Bar and Grill, Lane County's premier sports bar for the past 25 years. In that time he has dedicated himself and his company to supporting the local community. Rich is always willing to help where help is needed and particularly enjoys donating to all our local schools and local organizations here in the Springfield and Eugene area. When talking to Rich, it is very clear how important our community is to him, and how dedicated he is to serving it. GO DUCKS!

Legacy Family Award
The Paine Family

Stan and Cathy Paine were both long-time administrators in the Springfield School District. Stan served as principal of three schools (Maple, Centennial and Ridgeview) with a focus on increasing student achievement and developing positive school cultures. In 1997, he was named Oregon Elementary School Principal of the Year and a National Distinguished Principal.

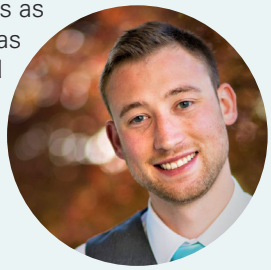
Cathy served as a school psychologist and special education coordinator in Springfield; is a local and national leader in school safety and crisis response. She has proudly represented the work of Springfield for a Congressional committee and a White House Conference on School Safety. Cathy continues her work in training and consultation on matters related to school safety through the National Association of School Psychologists.

Stan and Cathy started the SEF's Social-Emotional Learning Fund with an initial gift in 2017. The focus of this fund represents their common interest and passion in children's positive social development, physical safety and emotional well-being in school settings. In December 2020, thanks to their contributions and generous gifts from many SEF donors, the fund met its initial goal of $25,000. It has now become a perpetual fund within the Springfield Education Foundation, providing annual grants to schools to promote positive social development among students.

Today, two of their grandsons attend Centennial Elementary School, representing the third generation of family involvement in Springfield schools. Stan and Cathy continue to serve as school volunteers or mentors when opportunities arise.

WELCOME TO SPRINGFIELD EDUCATION FOUNDATION!

New Foundation Coordinator - Devin Lewis



We are excited to introduce Devin Lewis as our new Foundation Coordinator! He was raised here in Springfield and graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in General Social Science and a minor in Planning, Public Policy and Management. He joined SEF to help improve education in our community.

Devin is married to Torae, who works as a teacher for the Early Education Program. When he isn't working, he enjoys spending his time with his wife and their cat Bonnie, hiking local trails and reading fantasy novels.

New Board Member - Justin Martin

Justin is an Associate Vice President and Portfolio Manager for the National Healthcare team at Columbia Bank. He is married to Malia and they have two girls who attend Springfield Public Schools. Justin graduated from Western Oregon University and Pleasant Hill High School. In his free time Justin enjoys hiking, fishing and general outdoor activities with his family. He is also an avid Ducks fan. Justin joined SEF to promote learning and encourage enrichment activities for the youth in our community.

Distinguished Educator Award
Rachel Overall, THS, Class of 2000

Rachael Overall grew up in Springfield and attended Maple and Ridgeview Elementary, Thurston Middle and Thurston High School (Class of '00). She was very active in Health Occupations classes and extracurricular activities. She ran the yearly Make-A-Wish fundraiser for three years, and became a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) her sophomore year in high school.

Rachael went to George Fox University and graduated in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work. After moving back to Springfield, she was hired as an Educational Assistant at Douglas Gardens Elementary and worked in Title I, Reading and Special Ed. A teacher who Rachael worked with told her, "You need to go into teaching. You've got it!"

She then enrolled in George Fox's teaching program, and graduated one year later with a Master of Arts in Teaching in 2007. Rachael feels so lucky to have come back to her home school of Douglas Gardens for the last 14 years to teach second grade.

Rising Alumni Award
Marshall Curry, SHS, Class of 2009

Marshall Curry joined EPIC-N in September 2017. He manages day-to-day operations, provides support to member programs, board members, and lives in his hometown of Springfield. He received a MPA and MS in Educational Leadership from the University of Oregon in 2018 and received his BA in Sociology from Willamette University in 2013. During graduate school he worked for the Sustainable Cities Institute and Inflexion, managing programs and assisting executives addressing different aspects of career readiness in higher education and public schools respectively.

Prior to graduate school, he managed workforce development programs and volunteer operations at Marion Polk Food Share. His experience supporting nonprofit associations includes: serving on the Ford Scholar Alumni Association (2013-2018) board of directors as Vice President and Member-at-Large, preparing a diversity and inclusion report for the American Society of Association Executives, and volunteering with the alumni association for his alma mater.

Congratulations to all our outstanding alumni & volunteer award winners! You inspire us!

PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR SENIORS:
Hats off to the Class of 2021

Springfield Education Foundation is interested to learn how our 2021 Seniors are doing with the continued effects of the pandemic, so we spoke with Ella Adams of Thurston High. She shared that her senior year has been very disappointing. Ella had worked very hard to get her required credits so that she could enjoy her senior year and all of the fun activities. With college and work ahead of her, this was supposed to be the last fun moments of her childhood, doing "teenager things". She was looking forward to band, choir, dance and the prom. Ella lettered last year in track and was anxious to better her distances at long jump, triple jump and javelin.

When asked if there have been any positives, she shared that all of the down time has allowed her to learn more about herself, both emotionally and mentally. Ella also mentioned how she and her study partner, Jessie her Labradoodle, have had lots of time to be with each other.

Ella is planning on going to Lane CC and UO in order to become a lawyer. Another challenge has been the difficulty in getting help from counselors since you can't just walk in to see them. The home schooling has also impacted the breadth and depth of her friendships. She really misses sleepovers with her best friend.

Ella really wanted to ask that parents and teachers check in on their kids and listen to how they are feeling. Sitting in front of a computer screen for five hours a day and not having social interaction with other teens is hard. A little empathy will go a long way!

STUDENT IMPACT: YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

SEF creates new Science Fund to support hands-on learning

Springfield High School students learn new skills

"Science is about exploring, asking questions, failing, having curiosity, knowing its ok to fail and revising and retrying every single time until you come to a solution that works or a solution nobody has ever thought of." – Stephanie Lovdokken, 5th grade teacher at Ridgeview Elementary and SEF Volunteer.

At the Honor Roll Society virtual event in March, SEF launched a new fund to support the purchase of supplies and science experiment materials for the Mystery Science Program and other similar lessons. Mystery Science is a web-based science curriculum that is Common Core aligned. It offers exciting lessons to keep K-5 students engaged in learning. The cost of supplies often falls on the teacher, so SEF is offering reimbursement for materials purchased to support science in the classroom. Your generous donations are the reason this type of support is possible. Thank you for your continued support of Springfield students!

VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Micah Adams
Summit Bank

Lisa Barrager
Springfield Public Sch.

Maddie Berney
Retired Educator

Terry Beyer
Retired

Matt Dahlstrom
Leahy Cox, LLP

Mary Farrington
University of Oregon

Melaney Grenz
Springfield Public Sch.

Todd Hamilton
Superintendent
Springfield Public Sch.

Travis Joseph
American Forest Resource Council

Judy Leahy
Retired Educator

Justin Martin
Columbia Bank

Terry Scherer
Retired Educator

Erik Vos
Timber Products

Kelli Warner
Turell Group

Bruce Webber
Retired Banker

Michelle Webber
Columbia Bank

Cindy Whittington
McDonalds

Michelle Winetrout
International Paper

Devin Lewis
Foundation Coordinator

Christina San Filippo
Executive Director

Springfield Education Foundation
541-726-3243 | PO Box 663, Springfield, OR 97477

For more information:
SpringfieldEducationFoundation.org