

The Foundation Files



THE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2021-2022)

- Ben Baratto, **** Retired Education Rep.**
- Julie Boelter
- Dan Bucknam
- Judy Davis, *** Vice President**
- Nathaniel Dennis, **Student Rep.**
- Nancy Denzer, ***** School Board Rep.**
- Annette Freiheit, ***** Superintendent**
- Katherine Gilmer
- Lisa Hawkinson
- LaDawn Kovala
- Kris Lynch, *** Secretary**
- Stacey Matthees, *** Co-Treasurer**
- Luke Merchlewitz, **** WEA/Faculty Rep./* President**
- Gay Mortensen, **Alumni Chair**
- Erica Ping
- Steve Ringlien, **Grants Chair**
- Tina Smeby
- Robin Trombetta, ***Co-Treasurer**
- * Executive Committee**
- ** Ex-Officio; Voting**
- *** Ex-Officio; Non-Voting**
- Shelley Milek, **Executive Director**

September 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021

FOUNDATION
for Winona Area Public Schools

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Executive Director,
Shelley Milek

September finds us all more hopeful for normal times once again. As all of us changed our way of life in the last year with COVID-19, we became accustomed to the new practices that kept us safe, working and learning, and the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools was no different. Instead of in-person meetings, we met online and although work continued for me and many of us from home offices, we found the best ways to seamlessly continue to serve.

Also for many of us both personally and in our community, public functions and gatherings had to be cancelled. The Foundation's fundraising event set for last October, and also rescheduled for February, was no different as both had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. We are hoping the third time will be the charm with our fundraising event set once again for Saturday, October 9, 2021.

We saw resilient students become accustomed to another school year and all that comes with distance learning. They found new ways to thrive during challenging times by socializing with distance. Students participated in extra-curricular activities all with masks in tow and limited fans in the stands. Teachers connected with students for instruction using Google Meets, Google Teams or ZOOM. Everyone did what was necessary to make it work.

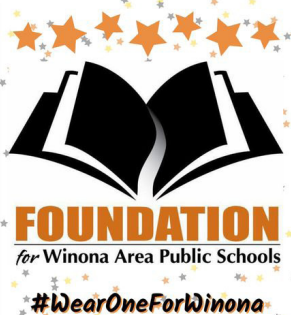
Our annual \$5000 Dare to Dream grant this year was offered and awarded as usual. The Dare to Dream grant award went to Barry Schank for The Purpose Project. Ms. Schank wrote a grant request for materials to help students with what they were experiencing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We were fortunate to award 25 scholarships to deserving students who will be continuing their higher education. Funds are held at the Foundation to provide scholarships in memory and honor of people, as well as, multiple organizations who want to give back to students.

The annual Haake Poetry Prize Competition awarded 10 prizes to students who were blindly selected by an esteemed panel of judges. With students getting back in the classroom this past spring, we had an opportunity for a more normal process for the Haake Poetry Prize Competition.

Because students were in distance learning for most of the school year, normal grant requests and field trip requests were down. With that said, other needs were abundant and requests to assist with distance learning challenges came into the Foundation and we were there quickly to assist as needed.

As this newsletter comes to print, we find ourselves completing another spring with COVID-19. We have learned better ways to communicate, serve and educate with distance learning. Nothing can compare to in person learning, but the Foundation was happy to assist our schools as needs came to light. Strong schools make strong communities! We are so appreciative we could continue to serve and we could not provide the assistance we do without you and the continued support of donations we receive. **Thank you!**



EARLY CHILDHOOD EVENT PURCHASES



Meet the FOUNDATION FOR WAPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Foundation is so fortunate to have Board of Directors that not only give back by volunteering countless hours to create enriching educational opportunities for our students, but they also come to the table with unique skills that help us to make the decisions to best get the benefits into our student's hands. We talked to the Board about how they feel the Foundation contributes to the educational success of our students and schools. Below are some of their replies.



LUKE MERCHLEWITZ
**WEA Faculty Representative,
Board President & Event Committee Chair**

Luke states, "Being a Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools board member is one of the best things I have ever done! It allows me to be a positive PR voice for this amazing district and all the work that is being done by

both staff and students while inviting and engaging local community members to be included and involved."



JUDY DAVIS
Vice President & Grants Committee

Judy will be serving as Vice President on the Board for the 2021/22 school year and is currently on the Grants Committee. Judy said, "I feel that the Foundation serves as an on-going communication link between Winona Area Public Schools and the community at large in

facilitating additional programs and opportunities for students beyond the general funding allocations of the District."



STACEY MATTHEES
**Co-Treasurer, Investment Committee
& Event Cashier**

Stacey will be once again serving as a Co-Treasurer for the Foundation and is part of the Investment Committee. Stacey adds, "I feel like the Foundation for WAPS board supports and contributes to the success of our students

and schools by providing tremendous financial stability."



ROBIN TROMBETTA
**Co-Treasurer, Investment Committee
& Event Cashier**

Robin will also once again be serving as Co-Treasurer for the Foundation and is part of the Investment Committee. Robin thinks, "The WAPS Foundation helps support the students in the district by providing funding for additional educational/learning activities in and out of the classroom that is not

covered in the teacher/school budget."



KRIS LYNCH
Secretary & Grants Committee

Kris is the Secretary of the Board and also serves on the Grants Committee. Kris adds, "I believe the Foundation supports students by providing items and opportunities that enhance the learning experience that would otherwise not be available to them. It is important to me that

the Foundation supports the needs of all students, and I believe that the Foundation does a great job with this."



STEVE RINGLIEN
Grants Committee Chair & Event Cashier

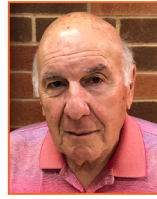
Steve is on the Grants Committee and serves as the Grants Chair. Steve feels, "As the Grants Chair for 2 years, I look forward to the chance to support our teachers and enhance our students' experiences."



GAY MORTENSEN
**Alumni Committee Chair & Events Auction
Committee Co-Chair**

Gay serves on the Board of Directors as the Alumni Chair and is also the Co-Chair of the Event Auction Committee. Gay stated, "As the Chair of the Alumni Committee, I use the email database gathered from the Foundation's effort

to update the alumni directory, to reach out to alumni through a newsletter to let them know of the work of the Foundation and Winhawk highlights."



BEN BARATTO
**Retired Teachers Representative
& Grants Committee**

Ben serves as the Retired Teachers Representative. Ben added, "I am no longer in the classroom but while being on the Grants Committee of the Foundation I can still help provide our students with educational experiences that the school district can no longer afford."



ANNETTE FREIHEIT
Superintendent of Schools Representative

Annette said, "As the Superintendent of WAPS, I contribute to the Board by keeping them informed of events and news of the District. The Foundation does a wonderful job of supporting the District and staff through grants that offer our students wonderful opportunities for learning.

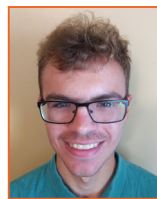
These opportunities expand the learning and experiences of our students."



NANCY DENZER
School Board Representative

Nancy serves on the Foundation for WAPS as the School Board Representative. Nancy stated, "The WAPS Foundation is a mighty force in providing multiple opportunities for students in the public school. This important resource goes above and beyond daily for each student.

The organization is singularly focused on education and I'm proud to be a part of this group of servant leaders in the Winona community!"



NATHANIEL DENNIS
Student Representative

Nathaniel will serve as the Foundation for WAPS Student Representative for the next two years. Nathaniel added, "What interested me about the Foundation Board was being able to help bring additional academics and the arts back into the WAPS District."



KATHERINE GILMER
Past President & Vice President

Katherine has been on the Foundation for WAPS Board of Directors for five years. She has served both as President and Vice President and provides great insight into the needs of our students. Katherine states, "WAPS teachers and staff work incredibly hard to enhance the

learning of WAPS students and I am so grateful to be a part of the board that get to fund their creative ideas."



TINA SMEBY
Past President, Vice President, Secretary & Grants Committee

Tina has served in the past as Secretary, on the Grants Committee, President and Vice President. Tina adds, "It is an honor to serve on a board whose primary purpose is enhancing education of our local public school students.

The Foundation supports our students by awarding much appreciated grants for multiple supplemental educational experiences every year, in every school, and for every age level. PreK through 12th grade."



ERICA PING
Grants Committee

Erica is on the Grants Committee. She stated, "I appreciate the opportunity to be part of the Foundation's Grants Committee as I feel it is a great way to support our kids' educations above and beyond what the district funding allows. These are experiences and memories that I hope

start our WAPS students on the path to success, not only in their school years, but in their futures as well."



DANIEL BUCKNAM
Grants Committee

Daniel serves on the Foundation for WAPS Grants Committee. As an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Saint Mary's University, he provides a great insight into the educational needs of our students and some of the up and coming trends. In general, Daniel is a great advocate

for education and helps us with the decisions we need to make to support our students.



LISA HAWKINSON
Event Auction Committee

Lisa is on the Events Committee and adds, "The Foundation provides funding for students and staff for projects and events they wouldn't normally have the opportunity to do. With the Foundation helping fund technology advanced projects, special trips, classroom

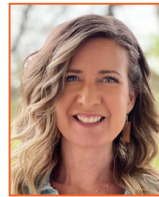
enhancing devices and programs which all contributes in helping build the leaders we have in our WAPS graduates."



JULIE BOELTER
Grants Committee & Event Cashier

Julie serves on the Foundation for WAPS Grants Committee and as an Event Cashier. Julie said, "As a member of the Winona Area Public Schools Foundation, I also participate in the Grants Committee which is very rewarding to see all of the exciting things teachers are

doing in their classroom and as a member of the board, get to directly help those things happen."



LADAWN KOVALA
Events Committee & Raffle Committee Chair

LaDawn Kovala serves on the Events Committee and is the Raffle Committee Chair. LaDawn said, "I have been on the Board for a little over a year and I am excited to be a new member of the Event Committee! As a former art teacher in the Winona schools, I applied for grants

from the Foundation and was able to experience firsthand the support for students that the Foundation provides."

THE PANDEMIC AND OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

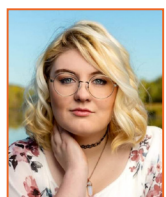
As we continue to talk about how this crazy pandemic year has affected all of us, we take a moment to reflect on some of our graduating students and their perspective of how it changed their senior year.



Paige Hawkinson

Paige shared how distance learning looked for her senior year. She said, "Although school and activities looked different during our burst of COVID-19, I spent a lot of time

outside with friends in the spring and the winter. A few things that helped me adjust to distant learning was keeping a schedule along with talking to teachers!" She concluded with, "Thank gosh for technology. I did a lot of Facetimeing." Paige will be attending Minnesota South East Tech. She will be studying cosmetology. Good luck Paige!



Ava Ringlien

We also asked Ava how she adjusted to distance learning. She said, "Distance learning was hard. Since you only had to be online around 3 hours, I got into the habit of taking a nap every day after "school". Anyways, distance learning was very hard to focus on, and the materials given to us were scarce and hard to follow (at least for me)."

Daniel Florness



Daniel Florness Jr. was the Foundation for WAPS Student Representative for two years and will be leaving as he too is a graduating senior. During the difficult COVID-19, Daniel said, "My friends and I hung out a lot outside, even if we were just talking. Adjusting to distance learning was tough, but a great time to hone some important skills: time management, surviving independently, etc. But, we students realize that it is much harder to teach online than it is to learn, so we greatly thank all the teachers that taught us online." Daniel will be attending Purdue University to study engineering and applied mathematics. Daniel shared a photo op of pre-prom and were happy to have prom in person this year. Boiler Up Daniel!!



Phoenix Matthees

Phoenix Matthees said, "I am not a fan of distance learning. The (WiFi) connection was not always the greatest and it was hard to hear the teachers clearly speak." When asked how she stayed connected with friends, she stated,

"We did a lot more things on social media and one in particular was to hold "lives" where they would sell items we had and no longer wore so staying connected and making money."

Phoenix obtained her CNA license and obtained a job at Lake Winona Manor. After high school, she plans to attend college and pursue a career in nursing. Congrats and good luck, Phoenix!!

CLASS OF 2021

One thing is for sure, whether it is brushing up on time management skills or learning a new way to use technology to learn, our students are resilient, made it through the year and will prevail. We are so excited to hear about the great things to come for these Winhawks! Congrats to each of you!

NOSH IN NASHVILLE

Third Time is the Charm!

The planned annual fundraising event the Foundation holds to celebrate education and to raise funds for our schools, has been cancelled twice due to COVID-19. We can only hope that the third time is the charm as this year's *Nosh in Nashville* event has been rescheduled for October 9, 2021 to be held at Visions Event Center.

We are so thankful for our steadfast Event Committee who has remained committed to providing you the annual event you have grown accustomed to. This year's theme, a trendy Nashville vibe, will be filled with an abundance of soul food with its roots giving a nod to the South. Background video music will showcase some of the deep history of classic country stars or make you feel like you are in a Honky Tonk listening to a stripped-back live gig version of one of the huge country stars of today.

Needs for our schools are greater than ever, so our Auction Committee has been pounding the streets obtaining donations from generous donors all to provide great and fun items for you to bid on to raise money for our schools.

New this year is a raffle for an opportunity to win a \$1000 trip. Luke and Brenda Merchlewitz donated two \$500 Visa Gift Cards with an opportunity to purchase a plane ticket and hotel stay for Nashville or anywhere else you might like to go or for whatever you would like to purchase. Each raffle ticket will go for the bargain price of \$20. Tickets will be sold in advance and at the event and you need not be present to win. The winner will be chosen at the event.

As with any trendy club in Nashville there is always a VIP area. Two groups of 8 with the highest bid, will claim the VIP area and have an opportunity to relish in a space filled with appetizers, desserts, beer and wine, up front seats, and a complimentary raffle ticket per person in their group. Tickets will be sold in advance and VIP bid winners will be escorted to the VIP area as you arrive.

For an evening, take part in a little bit of Nashville history, soak up some of the legendary vintage culture, enjoy piped in iconic cool vinyl music and help out the kids.

We hope to see you there!!



Hey Y'all!

Please join us to celebrate public education in Winona

- Saturday, October 9, 2021 • 6-10 pm
- Visions Event Center, 22852 County Road 17, Winona, MN 55987
- Semi-casual attire; western wear & jeans are welcome
- Buffet & Silent Auction opens at 6 pm • Live Auction at 8 pm
- \$50 ticket includes welcome drink, appetizers & buffet
- **NEW!** Ultimate Backstage VIP Experience available for bid; place your bid online by September 20, 2021

Purchase tickets & bid online at www.foundationwaps.org or return the enclosed RSVP card & payment to: Foundation for WAPS, 1570 Homer Rd., Winona, MN 55987. All proceeds will benefit Winhawks Academics, Arts, Athletics & Activities.



2020-2021 GRANT AWARDS

- Project Core
- Elementary Student Rhythm Sticks- WK
- Elementary Student Rhythm Sticks- Jefferson
- Elementary Student Rhythm Sticks- Goodview
- Brainpop Plan- Jefferson
- LEO PayDay Rewards-WSHS
- Payroll Deduction Grant- Courtney Anderson
- Payroll Deduction Grant- Bill Jacobs
- Kindergarten Distance Learning Support
- Dare to Dream-The Purpose Project
- WALC Positive Behavior Support Incentive Program
- Kindergarten Flexible Seating
- Sensory Steamroller
- Resilient Winona County-Trauma Informed Educators Project
- Tree Timber Sets & Timers
- Magnetic Dry Erase Boards
- Dry Erase Cloths w/Magnets & Dry Erase Markers
- WALC Aerospace Young Astronauts Rocket Project
- Title I Student Parent Summer Engagement 2021
- Wireless Hotspots and Monthly Wireless Fees



Leave A Legacy...

THROUGH THE FOUNDATION'S LOWELL NELSON SOCIETY

In 1997, the Foundation of Directors established the Lowell Nelson Society in honor of former District 861 Superintendent Lowell Nelson. Membership in the Society is accorded to those who help build the Foundation's endowment by naming the Foundation as a beneficiary in their wills, qualified pension plans (including IRA's, 401k's, Keoghs, etc.), insurance policies, trusts, or other types of planned gifts.



Please consider the Foundation when you are updating your will or developing your estate and retirement plans. Our office is here to help you make a difference in the lives that follow.

SOCIETY MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Judy Bodway
Susan & John Eddy
Gayle Goetzman
Mark Godsey
Norma Grausnick
Harriet Green
Carmen & Scott Hannon
Shannon & Jim Hanzel
Dr. Donna Helble*
Susan Hoffe*
Neva King *
Pauline & Harland Knight
Ruth Kottschade*
Leone & Tom Mausycki

Ramona & Roger* Metz
Shelley & John Milek
Jolienne & LaVerne Olson
Linda & Don Olson
Russ & Wanda Rattunde
Nancy & Jim Reynolds
Judy & Chuck Shepard
Barbara Schilling*
Sharon Suchla*
Rita Sullivan*
Linda A. Wood
Joyce & Pete * Woodworth
(*deceased)

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Dr. Charles & Judy Shepard Match - General Fund

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Alumni Video

Jon Lica
Park Street Video

Foundation Endowment

Allan & Jeanine Aspen
Class of 1954

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\$5,000 Lead Sponsor

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Farmers Insurance - Dave Jensen
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EVENT 2021

Grant Donation

Elizabeth Callender King Foundation

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Nosh in Nashville Friend

\$250 Friend
John & Susan Eddy
Robert & Marlene Kohner
Todd & Liz Paulson
Brad & Gaby Peterson

\$5000 and up Donors

Dan & Jennie Florness

\$1,000-\$1,999 Donors

Luke & Brenda Merchlewitz

Up To \$250 Donors

Northwestern Mutual Matching Gift Program

VIP Donors

Ted & Joni Benson
Andy & Jan Blomsness
Jennie Florness
Scott & Amy Halverson
Kevin & Hayley Martin
Scott & Lori Jackels
John and Shelley Milek
Jeff & Dawn Lueck

** Donations received to date prior to the event*

DONATIONS TO SPECIAL PROGRAMS & FUNDS

Donor Directed Science Fund

Jerry & Mary Lowery

Miller Mentoring Program/Summer Programs

Edythe Larimer
Hugh Miller
Russ & Peggy Northrup
RTP
Russell & Wanda Rattunde

Miller Mentoring Program in memory of Becky Kouba

Todd, Susie, Hunter, Austin, & Adrianna Baab
Randy & Mary Sue Bauer
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Luke & Brenda Merchlewitz

Science Fund

Jerry & Mary Lowery

Special Athletic Competition

Chrysler Winona
Roger Johnson & Teri Kook
Tony & Linda Palubicki

Stacy Rasmussen-Top Notch Teacher Program- WKBT

Paulette Klinger

WAPS Girls Basketball Program

Val & Mary Jo Stiever

WAPS K-12 Music Department Fund

James & Gretchen Erwin

WAPS Nutrition Services

Drew, Amy, Sullivan & Delaney Althoff

WAPS Sports Fund

Paulette Klinger

Winona Touchdown Club

Winona Touchdown Club

WK Bob Hogenson Fund

Ursula Hogenson

WSHS FFA

Jerry & Pat Papenfuss Family Fund of the Winona Community Foundation

WSHS Business/Economics Dept.

Helen Imm Trust

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Anah Munson

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Mitzi Girtler

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Mitzi Henderson

Jamie Henderson & Ray O'Loughlin

Sue Kreibich

Judy Davis

2019 MN Wrestling Hall of Fame -

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Nancy Wondrasch

Sophia Allena Moe - Birthday

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Shelley Milek
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Brian Sather

Jon & Ruthanne Weipsfenning

Marjorie White

Richard Webb

Luke Merchlewitz

Allan & Debbie Greenwood

Check Us Out ON THE WEB!

Information on the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools, its mission, Board of Directors, grants, and alumni connections can be found on our website at:

www.foundationwaps.org

Also, a [link for online donations](#) is available 24/7 for gifts in honor or memory of a special person, program or event.

The Foundation is on Facebook!

Like Us!



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Family of Jerry Whetstone

Richard Whetstone
Steve & Betty Maliszewski

Lyle Winter
Scott & Amy Halverson
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Craig & Patricia Jilk Scholarship
Steve & Patricia Jilk

Erik Floan Memorial Scholarship Fund
Einar Floan

Jake & Hal Edstrom Music Scholarship
Francis Edstrom

Mark Steffes Scholarship Fund
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Companion Animal Care Center

Bill Schmidt
Dr. Nancy Wondrasch

Mienergy Scholarship
Mienergy

Miller Mentoring Mark Deter Memorial Scholarship- It Takes Two
Mark Deter Memorial Fund of the Winona Community Foundation

Rollingstone Scholarship Fund
Rollingstone Firefighters-Relief Assoc.

Sophia Allena Moe College Scholarship Fund
David & Theresa Bauer
Thomas & Karin Benedict
Joshua Bergler
John & Jane Brinkman
Brian & Dana Cierzan
Derek & Cathryn Espy
Goodview Activity Group
Steve Groth
Lavern & Nancy Hauschildt
Ricky & Karla Hovey
Doug Hubbard
Paul Klinger

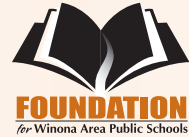
Timothy & Summer Kohner
Arron & Mandi Lange
Amy Marinelli
Market Street Tap, LLC
MCH Inc., Gabbys
John & Debbie Nielsen
Randy & Mary Jo Pfaff
Edward Urbick, Jr
Matt & Kristen Reeck
Adrian Russeau
M. & S. Schroeder
Macaulay & Abby Smith
RTP
Richard Tristano
Edward Urbick Jr.
VFW Service Club- Gambling Acct.
Terry Westby
Winona Heating & Ventilating
Robert Wunderlich
Lee & Joie Zimmerman

Tom Blacklock Memorial Scholarship Fund
Michael & Teri Jacquart
Jerry & Judy Lawson

Winona Friendship Scholarship
Winona Friendship Center

Xcel Energy Scholarship
Xcel Energy

Youth Alliance Scholarship Fund
Jon Lica
Greg & Pam Lica
Matthew Pientok
Eugene Thiele
Richard Tristano



WAPS ALUMNI DONATE \$250,000 TO CREATE A SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

Great things are often achieved when you least expect it. **Winona Area Public School's Alumni, Craig and Patricia Jilk, donated \$250,000 to the Foundation for WAPS to create a scholarship fund.** The Jilks wanted to create a scholarship for WSHS seniors who have a need and who would like to attend WSU in the field of education. **The Jilks will be awarding up to four \$5000 scholarships each year to deserving students.** In a time where needs are greater and different than ever, we are humbled by such a gracious gift for our students.

The Jilks wanted to support the Winona Area Public Schools and this Foundation because they said they had a great education at WSHS. They felt they had wonderful teachers who provided a great educational foundation for their next level of college education. Great teachers are important to our schools and community. Because of this, the Jilks wanted to give an opportunity for those students wanting to move forward in the career of education.

The Foundation for Winona Area Public School's single purpose is to enrich and expand educational opportunities for our schools by supporting important programs and projects that would otherwise not be funded through normal district resources. We are able to continue this mission with the support of our donors and we are so very grateful. **For more information on the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools and our programs, please visit www.foundationwaps.org or call Shelley Milek at 507-494-1004.**

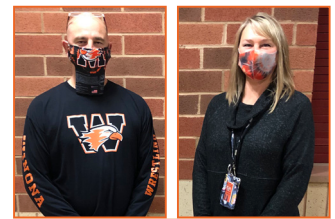
TEACHER & STAFF PAYROLL DEDUCTION PARTICIPANTS 2020-2021

Our teachers once again spent the 2020-2021 school year continuing to work hard with the distance learning criteria set in place. Teachers found it challenging to have students not only in front of them but also having to tend to the educational needs and juggling half of the class on line often at the same time. Even with making sure teachers met the student's educational needs, they also continued to keep the students in mind by donating personally to the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools through our payroll deduction program. Please take note of the staff members who participated in the Foundation's Payroll Deduction Program benefitting the Winona Area Public Schools. **Their support provided nearly \$10,000 for our student's education.** We are humbled by these gifts and this grand support.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Gloria A. Alatorre | Eileen M. Dahlin | Marie L. Holmquist | Luke A. Merchlewitz | Jed Reisetter | Emily Solheid |
| Kelly Allington | Joleen Danca | Amanda K. Indra | Amber J. Mlynczak | Ann Riebel | Terri A. Spartz |
| Courtney W. Anderson | Mary K. Dickey Tufvesson | William J. Jacobs | Debra A. Moe | Judy M. Sanvik | Jackie Stevens |
| Shannon Bechly | Jon A. Feldhake | Gretchen A. Johns-Derbyshire | Kimberly Moran | Thomas P. Sanvik | Ted A. Stuckmayer |
| Pat Beckman | Annette Freiheit | Molli R. Kook | Jeffrey S. Morgan | Barrie B. Schank | Brenda L. Svendsen |
| Frederick J. Blacklock | Linda A. Gale | Lisa M. Kulzer | Lisa L. Mullen | Steven R. Schild | Wendy Tiesing |
| Paula L. Braaten | Timothy M. Gleason | Susan Larsen | Jenny M. Nettles | Kirstin J. Schultz | Dwayne A. Voegeli |
| William L. Braun | Katrina J. Glick | Holly J. Lecheler | Susan L. Ogren | Mary Schultz | Brenda S. Volkman |
| Janet K. Bridwell | Elizabeth B. Hall | Mary L. Lewis-Hyde | Shannon Pass | Julie L. Seeley | Kara L. Welch |
| Joel G. Bruels | Scott R. Halverson | Dawn Lueck | Kim M. Penrod | Melissa L. Shields | Kathleen M. Welch |
| Emily R. Cassellius | Gail T. Hannemann-Doering | Kenneth J. Mann | Linda K. Pfeilsticker | Anne M. Simon Debroux | Elizabeth A. Wright |
| John F. Cassellius | Shannon L. Helgeson | Sundra L. Menton | Victor Pinon Flores | Lisa K. Skifton | Judith A. Yess |
| David R. Chapman | Jon M. Hogenson | Brenda C. Merchlewitz | Nathan J. Pollock | Jen Snook | Carolyn Zoemer |
| Kristin K. Coudron | | | Stacy A. Rasmussen | | |

STAFF PAYROLL DEDUCTION *Grant Award*

The Foundation awarded two grants from the pool of staff candidates who provided payroll deduction donations to the Foundation. Courtney Anderson and Bill Jacobs were chosen to spend \$250 each on educational tools and enhancements for our students. Courtney Anderson purchased the Academic Therapy Publications Dandelion & Moon Dogs set of materials which is published to assist with learning disabilities. With this set, reading skills are developed through a step-by-step progression which allows practice and consolidation at each level. Bill Jacobs purchased a Bluetooth speaker and wall charger to use with physical education classes in the weight room, gym and pool and he also purchased a live bait cooler to assist him with his ice fishing PE classes. **Thank you Courtney and Bill for supporting the students through the Foundation's programs.**



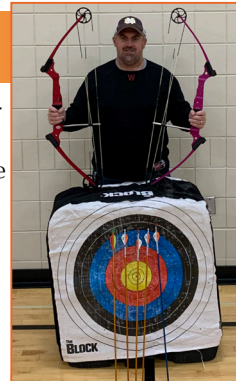
Bill Jacobs and Courtney Anderson
2021 Payroll Deduction Winners

FOUNDATION GRANT MONEY AT WORK

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools reviews grant requests monthly to help to pay for things like, field trips, technology, educational supplies, music and art, books, physical education equipment, extra-curricular activities, etc. This year as we continued with distance learning, some of the typical grant requests, such as field trips, did not come in but others took their place.

As needs changed, we listened and granted some more unique items that would help during the pandemic. Winona Area Public Schools discovered some students did not either have WiFi or data available for distance learning. The Foundation's Board of Directors granted \$5200 to purchase hot spots and monthly data to solve that problem. After the pandemic, the hotspots can be checked out by students when traveling for away games on the bus. Some other creative distance learning requests were elementary rhythm sticks to teach music online, flexible seating, sensory items and virtual education to teach families how to keep students engaged and cooperating with distance learning.

We are able to provide these wonderful benefits of education because of the generous support from our donors. The Foundation is working hard to lessen the gap of budget shortfalls by providing modern equipment and resources that play a vital role in enriching education for our students. Take a look at some of the great things our grants have provided for our students.



Winona Middle School archery equipment



W-K



THE ALUMNI PROJECT

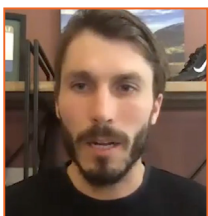


Alumni are so important to the unyielding success of our schools and this Foundation. We were so grateful when one alumni, **Jon Lica** from the class of 2004, came to us with an idea to create and launch a video put together by Park Street Studio which **features alumni, Allison Eddy Sollazzo, Jeremy Miller, Garrett Heath, Elizabeth Roque and Elliott Heath** as they explain some of the highlights of their Winona Senior High School career and how important extracurricular activities, school experiences,

teachers, coaches and classes are to the student's growth and how they helped to mold them into the success that they are today. It highlighted some of the great work the Foundation does to enrich and expand education for our students and pledged the importance and time to give back to help our students of today so they too have the foundation for their next steps in life. The powerful ending quoted, "Others paved the way for us. Now, it's our turn to support today's generation. Donate to the Foundation for WAPS." We couldn't have said it any better. Thank you to our great alumni friends for supporting the Foundation and our schools with this great video.



Allison Eddy Sollazzo '05
Director of Child Business Development, NHL



Elliott Heath '07



Garrett Heath

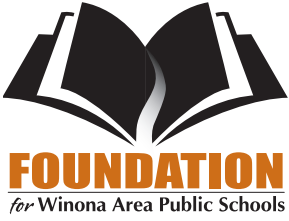


Jeremy Miller '01
CFO Miller Scrap, MN State Senator



Elizabeth Roque '10
Assistant Attorney General

"Investing in today's students for tomorrow's future."



1570 Homer Road
Winona, MN 55987
507-494-1004

SINCERE THANKS TO EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank you to the many generous and caring Foundation donors! You have made it possible to enhance funding for many great educational projects and programs in the Winona Area Public Schools.

www.foundationwaps.org

Mark your calendars!
Join us for Nosh in Nashville
fundraising event on
Saturday, October 9, 2021.

Community and alumni support has been invaluable to the many projects that have benefited our students. Using the emails collected from the Alumni Directory update, the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools has started to reach out to alumni to share with them what is new at school and the work of the Foundation to enrich and enhance learning for students and teaching for our faculty.
If you, or a family member, are a **WASHS ALUMNI** and you are not receiving an emailed newsletter, please use on the online form, found on the Foundation website at www.foundationwaps.org/alumni, to update your contact information.

COMMUNITY ALUMNI & SUPPORT

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donations can be made online, (www.foundationwaps.org), in person at our office at WMS, or by mail at 1570 Homer Road, Winona, MN 55987. Gifts are frequently made in honor or in memory of a special person or event and can also be provided via a will, pension plan or other types of planned giving.
For more information, please call the Foundation at 507-494-1004 or email: support@foundationwaps.org

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools is an independent, non-profit, 501©3 organization established in 1991 and funded entirely by community and business supporters of education in Winona. The single purpose of the Foundation is to enrich and expand educational opportunities in Winona Area Public Schools by supporting important programs and projects that would otherwise not be funded through normal district resources.

MISSION

