



Foundation

LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SPRING 2019

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY 20 THE SOUNDS OF LATIN AMERICA
Kimball Recital Hall
The Lincoln Community Concert Band featuring Los Mariachis de la Ciudad Estrella.

MAY 24 STRANSKY SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
Stransky Park
Featuring the PANgea Steel Drum Band.

MAY 28 FIRST DAY OF SPARK!
Adams Elementary
A summer of fun and exploration for K-5 kids kicks off!

MAY 30 GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY
givetolincoln.com
Please support the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools!

JUNE 12 HONOR ROLL SOCIETY LUNCHEON
Invitation Only
Chat about potential learning and engagement opportunities exclusively for members.

JUNE 19 SPREAD THE LOVE
Invitation Only
A cocktail party for Honor Roll Society members and guests.

foundationforlps.org
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Inspiring Possibilities

Providing opportunities for Lincoln's students.



Honor Roll Society

Principal for a Day offers donors a fresh perspective on community impact

Leslie Gibbens has always been a proponent of Lincoln Public Schools. But spending a half-day in the shoes of Southeast High School's principal Brent Toalson reinforced her commitment to supporting Lincoln's schools and educators.

"These principals are running 'companies' with 2,500 'employees' under their roof, every day," she said. "They have to be flexible. They have to have a good chain of command. And they have to be receptive to what they hear—from staff and kids," she said. "I have to admire him for holding such a demanding position."

Gibbens learned a lot about the school she hadn't known, even as the parent of two alums and one current student. She and Toalson discussed the changing demographics of the Southeast neighborhood and how the school is answering the challenge of increasing low-income students and families. They talked about the

school's Clothing Closet, Knight House after-school program, and efforts to curb truancy.

"School is much more than just reading, writing and arithmetic," Gibbens said. "We have an obligation to help fund those other things."

Britta Muhleisen had a similarly eye-opening experience at Rousseau, the elementary school her two children attend. She didn't know the variety and depth of activities the school was involved in outside her kids' classes. And most parents don't, explained the Rousseau principal Wendy Badje. That's part of what makes the Principal for a Day program so valuable. It gives schools the opportunity to bring members of the community in to see the full breadth of what education looks like today.

The Principal for a Day program is available to Honor Roll Society members who contribute \$2,500 or more. To join, contact Jo Ann Emerson at 402-436-1612 or visit foundationforlps.org/honor-roll.



Leslie Gibbens, Honor Roll Society co-chair, talks with Brent Toalson about being principal at Southeast High School.

Britta Muhleisen helps students at Rousseau Elementary place kindness rocks along a path at the school.

Letter from the President

Spring brings recommitment



Dear friends,

The school year seems to speed up as it winds down. With the harsh winter behind us, the spring push to renew our energy and ideas is even more pressing than usual. For the Foundation, this means increasing our efforts to expose students to career and life-changing experiences.

You, our friends and donors, have made so many experiences possible over the last few months.

We had the joy of taking our "prize patrol" out to more than 15 schools, as we recognized outstanding LPS staffers with educator awards. One of my favorites was a surprise assembly held to honor Kloefkorn principal Polly Bowhay with the Marie Bourke Leadership Award. Let me tell you, hiding a giant assembly from a sharp principal is quite the feat!

Arnold Elementary School received the Harley and Shirley Bair Playground Fund award. The Bairs created the fund to help improve playgrounds around the community. For the kids at Arnold, this means a fully-accessible, paved walking track for all students and playground equipment for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, who don't currently have anything to play on.

More than 125 exceptional LPS

students and teachers and one outstanding school were recognized at the 2019 Inspire Awards on April 25th at Lincoln East High School. This annual event is the only district-wide celebration of excellence that touches each of our 64 school communities. And it's so much fun getting everyone together in one big pep rally with bands, dancing and beach balls!

As you catch up with the Foundation in this newsletter, we hope you will reflect on what YOU can do to help a student reach their full potential. Can you give your time in a school or donate to the Foundation? Community partnerships set Lincoln apart from other school districts, and we rely on friends like you to help us develop and support more than 425 initiatives across all of our schools and programs.

Enjoy the celebrations highlighted in these pages, and know that none of it is possible without you.

Gratefully,

Wendy Van
President

Spark Summer Camp

It isn't too late

Make it a summer they won't forget. Spark, a summer experience for K-5 kids at Adams Elementary School, continues to grow, and your kids (or grandkids) can still be part of it!

We will spark their creativity and curiosity through science, technology, engineering, arts and math. We'll also make sure they have plenty of summer fun with more than 20 field trips, weekly trips to Star City Shores and daily outdoor time. Play all summer or drop in for a week here and there—Spark has your summer needs covered.

For complete details, including descriptions of each week's activities, visit foundationforlps.org/spark2019.



Because of you ...

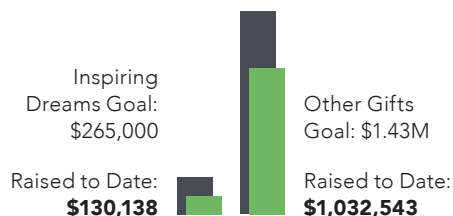
I didn't have to live in a car. Thanks to your donations, my family was able to stay in a hotel while we waited to move into our new apartment.

-LPS elementary student

Fundraising Update

TOTAL GOAL: \$1,695,000

TOTAL RAISED: **\$1,162,681**



If you already donated this year, *thank you!* If you have not yet sent in your donation, or you wish to give more, please use the enclosed donation envelope or visit foundationforlps.org/give-now.

Beyond the Classroom

2018-19 Educator Awards

Recognizing Lincoln's educators is one of our favorite things. And thanks to you, we were able to celebrate 17 LPS staff members this year.

Each year, administrators, principals, counselors, healthcare providers and teachers across the district are recognized for their leadership, innovation and cooperation. These awards are a great opportunity to both show Lincoln's educators appreciation and provide them resources for continuing education or professional development.

For a full list of award winners, visit foundationforlps.org/edawardwinners.



Pam Steckelberg, a teacher at Lefler Middle School, is presented the Florence J. Clark award by Eric Weber, associate superintendent of human resources at LPS.



Scholarships

Where are they now?

For Fawaz Hasan, winning the Robert D. Carstens Scholarship was life-changing. He had given up on the idea of attending college. It was an unaffordable dream—until the Foundation called.

“When I got the news that I was awarded the scholarship, I didn’t know what to do. I started hugging my school counselor,” Hasan said.

Now, Hasan is majoring in Civil Engineering at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

“I am forever thankful to the scholarship donor ... it brought a whole new beginning to my life,” he said.

Tasneem Abdelfatah and Lily Lou Lundine had plans to go to college, but the worry of how to pay for it weighed heavily on them.

“I still can’t explain how grateful I am for the Robert D. Carsten scholarship,” Abdelfatah said. “[It] made a huge impact on my life and let me focus more on school than all the financial burdens of college.”

She’s in the pre-nursing program at UNL and plans to become a labor and delivery nurse.

Lundine had a scholarship from the University of Southern California that covered the cost of her tuition. But, before being awarded the Anne Buntain Scholarship, she worried about the expense of living in southern California.

“I [qualified for]

work-study, so it would have been possible for me to pay for college without the scholarship,” she said.

“But now I can actually do stuff like buy myself a smoothie occasionally.”

USC is a “bit of a culture shock” but she’s transitioning well. She’s studying technical theatre and hopes to design sets for theatre and film.

Han Le was “flooded with joy” when she won the John Dennis Stubbs & Nancy Constantine Stubbs Scholarship.

“I always planned to pursue a doctorate degree in neuroscience, and the scholarship has helped me get closer to my dream.”

She’s studying biochemistry and molecular biology at Nebraska Wesleyan University. The scholarship



Clockwise from top left: Tasneem Abdelfatah, Fawaz Hasan, Han Le and Lily Lou Lundine.

reduced the financial pressure of college and has allowed her to take more classes, save for study abroad and be more involved on campus.

Thanks to donors like you, these LPS alumni are able to focus on college without added financial pressure. For more information about Foundation scholarships, visit foundationforlps.org.



2019 Scholarships

107
students selected

\$305,450
total dollars awarded

\$2,800
average award per student

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2019-20 Robert D. Carstens Scholarship winners

Congratulations to this year’s Carstens scholars! Left to right: Wendy Forlemu, Ayaz Hasan and Jihad Khurmish of Northeast High School and Angelina Tran of Lincoln High School.



Want to be more involved in our schools? Join the Honor Roll Society, a group committed to supporting a strong public school system in Lincoln. Visit foundationforlps.org/honor-roll or call Jo Ann Emerson at 402-436-1612.

5905 O Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68510

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SPRING NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S INSIDE ...

Principal for a Day
Scholarship Updates
Letter from the President
Not-to-Miss Upcoming Events
And more!

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Above: The 2019 Inspire Award winners! More than 125 individuals and Lefler Middle School were celebrated at the annual award ceremony. Thank you for helping us recognize these outstanding LPS students and staff!

Right: Brent Toalson, principal of Southeast High School, talks with Leslie Gibbens about the school's Clothing Closet. Gibbens said being Principal for a Day was an eye-opening experience. **Far Right:** Britta Muhleisen reads to her daughter's class at Rousseau Elementary School during her time as Principal for a Day. Read more about the Foundation's Principal for a Day program inside!

