



SALINA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

community connection

ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

salinaeducationfoundation.com 785-309-4729

Fall 2020

Classroom grants to enhance student learning • Exceptional teachers to staff our classrooms

From the Director

First off, thank you! I've had the best time over the past few months. It's been great fun to meet many of you and listen to your stories of how and why you support the work of the Salina Education Foundation. The foundation's trustees and everyone have been so welcoming and helpful as I've settled into this new role.



A real highlight of my first few weeks on the job was getting to meet with each of the LIFT recipients. Mason Frost is a first year LIFT recipient and a student at Wichita State University. When I moved to Salina more than 20 years ago, Mason and his family were my neighbors. I enjoyed getting reacquainted with Mason and hearing about his future plans to become a great math teacher in Salina Public Schools. Each of the LIFT recipients inspired me with their enthusiasm and willingness to embrace the challenges of returning to school during a pandemic. I left the meetings feeling excited about the difference they'll make as teachers in this community!

Thank you for the warm welcome and for your continued support of the Salina Education Foundation. You make the LIFT program possible and help create the next generation of great teachers in USD 305.

Michael Chambers
Executive Director

Nuss Teacher of the Year Awards

JaNae Basinger is the 2020 Elementary Teacher of the Year. JaNae teaches fifth grade at Heusner Elementary School. She has taught in USD 305 for 11 years. This fall she will transition to the position of Literacy Coach at Heusner.

Megan Pommer is the 2020 Secondary Teacher of the year. Megan teaches English and Reading at South Middle School. She has taught in USD 305 for 12 years.

JaNae and Megan were recognized by the Board of Education at its meeting on August 11th and presented with the Nuss Teacher of the Year Award. This award was established in honor of H.E. & Erna



L-R Megan Pommer, JaNae Basinger, Superintendent Linn Exline

Nuss, who were long time educators in Salina. Lawton Nuss, retired Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court and the son of the late H.E. & Erna Nuss was on hand for the award presentation. Salina Education Foundation is pleased to facilitate the continued generosity of the Nuss family by awarding JaNae and Megan \$500 each.

An Alien Ate My Breakfast

Typically at this time of year the Salina Education Foundation has celebrated the previous year with our annual Fall Breakfast. However, given the unusual circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to host the breakfast. In order to celebrate all the wonderful things that our supporters make happen, we are preparing a special mailing called An Alien Ate my Breakfast, which will arrive in mailboxes over the next couple of weeks.

Thank you to the following sponsors for making it happen this year:

The Bank of Tescott • Clark, Mize & Linville • Hickory Hut, BBQ Jones, Gillam & Renz • Woods & Durham



Welcome New Trustees

Megan Dupy graduated from Missouri State University with a degree in elementary education. She taught in USD 305 as well as the Shawnee Mission school district.



She is originally from Minnesota and from a family of educators. Her mother, father and brother are all former or current teachers. Her husband, David, is a Salina native and a graduate of South High School. They have three children, Ryan, Anna and Caleb, and have made Salina their home for the past 10 years. In her spare time you can find her on the golf course.

Samantha P. Angell is a native of Hays, Kansas. She graduated from the University of New Mexico in 1995, with a B.A. in political science. She went on to obtain her law degree, with honors, from Washburn University in 1999. Samantha has been very active in the Salina community. She previously served on the boards for the



Salina Community Theatre, the Salina Area United Way, Salina Youth Care, Kansas Legal Services, and the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce. She was a member of Noon Network AMBUCS, serving as its president from 2005-2006. She was also appointed to serve on the City of Salina Disciplinary Review Board from 2001-2007. She was elected to the City Commission from 2009-2013. She is currently on the Board of Directors for the Kansas Board of Indigent Defense Services.

Retiring Trustees

At its annual meeting on August 19th, the following trustees were honored for their many years of service to the Salina Education Foundation:

Valerie Andrews
Kate Bycroft
Gary Denning
Byron Norris
Kristy Rodriguez
Jeanie Warner

We thank them for their dedication to the mission and vision of the Salina Education Foundation.

From the Chair

As another school year begins during these unprecedented times, Salina Education Foundation is ready to work with USD 305 to support the teachers and students. As I begin my second stint as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, I am excited to continue to be a part of all of the wonderful projects and programs that Salina Education Foundation directs and supports for the benefit of Salina's public education system. Salina Education Foundation awards grants each year to teachers to fund classroom projects and to provide students opportunities that may not have been realized without such additional financial support. The LIFT program provides essential support to both the recipients and the school district in general, as the recipients are provided financial support as they work towards becoming teachers while guaranteeing a teaching job in Salina upon graduation. At the same time, LIFT helps the district develop a pipeline of talented teachers that will come teach in USD 305. While the 2020-21 school year may be unconventional at times, I am confident that teachers and students will find innovative ways to teach and learn, and Salina Education Foundation is ready as always to lend assistance as needed.



The importance of supporting public education cannot be stressed enough given the positive impact it can have on people's lives and on the community as a whole. That's why SEF is such an important organization to Salina and why the continued support by the community is needed. None of what SEF does would be possible without the support of our donors. On behalf of SEF, I sincerely thank all of our donors who have supported SEF in the past and respectfully ask that you continue to be our partners in the future. I also encourage members in our community who have not donated to SEF to consider making a gift so that SEF may continue to offer its support to USD 305 teachers and students.

Jeff Norris
Chair of the Board

Quick facts about the Board of Trustees:

- The Board of Trustees consists of not less than ten (10) nor more than fifteen (15) persons from the community and two (2) members of the Board of Education.
- Members serve three-year terms and may serve two consecutive terms.
- Trustees are assigned to committees, which include the Executive Committee, Finance & Investment Committee, Allocations Committee, LIFT Committee and Activities & PR Committee.
- The Executive Director and the Superintendent serve ex-officio, without vote.
- The Board of Trustees makes independent decisions, with guidance from USD 305, about all grants and programming.

Sudden Opportunity Grants

This school year is unlike any other. As always, staff are identifying new and creative ways to engage students. However, as a result of the current circumstances, Salina Education Foundation has received many Sudden Opportunity Grant requests for things that couldn't have been planned for or anticipated.

Recently, Salina Education Foundation was able to fund the purchase of teacher licenses for Lingt.com. Mrs. Jan Denning, French teacher at Central High School submitted an application for a Lingt.com license. She said, "I love

the new website. I used it this week for my level 1 students to quiz them over the alphabet. It's so much fun for me to listen to them, even on the days that they are not in the classroom. It is exciting to know that I'm not losing any of the speaking activities that need to be done simply because students are at home. I gave them words in French and the students had to record themselves spelling them for me."

Find out more about Sudden Opportunity Grants by visiting our website at SalinaEducationFoundation.com.

South High School Food Pantry

As part of our 21st Century Advantage Grant program, Salina Education Foundation and Salina Regional Health Foundation partnered to fund the launch of a small food pantry at South High school.

Social Worker Kirsten Bruce applied for the funds to help address the needs of food insecure students. Grant funds were utilized to purchase a cupboard and non-perishable food items.



Executive Director Michael Chambers and South High School Social Worker, Kirsten Bruce.

Memorial Gifts

We honor the memory of William (Bill Ray) Rowson and Harlan Floyd Gwin and thank their families for naming the Salina Education Foundation as recipients of their memorial gifts.

William Rowson was a well-known local radio personality. He studied the guitar under the instruction of South Middle School Music teacher Matt Gerry. Bill's daughter, Casey, was the first LIFT recipient and is a math teacher at South Middle School.

Harlan Floyd Gwin was a beloved history teacher in Salina Public Schools for 36 years. His wife Zella also worked in USD 305 at the district office. Their daughter, Marcie currently teaches at Meadowlark Ridge Elementary.

Honoring the life, recognizing the work, or celebrating a special occasion of a loved one is a wonderful way to support the work of the Salina Education Foundation. Let us help you honor your important people: michael.chambers@usd305.com, or call 785/309-4729.

Salina Education Foundation School Visits



Kyle Griffiths, Cottonwood Elementary principal and Michael Chambers, Executive Director.

As each school year begins the Salina Education Foundation's trustees make it a priority to visit each school building and present information about our grant programs. For health safety reasons this year the presentations were skipped. Instead we provided printed materials and added some cheer to each building by providing cookies and balloons to be enjoyed by staff.

Grant Partners

The work of the Salina Education Foundation is supported 100% through the generosity of individuals and businesses in our community. Your support of our programs demonstrates a strong commitment to a healthy community. Local businesses need employees who implement critical thinking skills and can meet ever-evolving business needs. Perhaps this is the year you fund a specific grant. We can help you match the topics that are important to you to projects happening in USD 305. Contact Michael at michael.chambers@usd305.com or 785/309-4729.

Our Mission

To promote and support educational excellence by providing resources to enhance opportunities for the students and staff of Salina's public schools.

As part of this mission, the trustees of the Salina Education Foundation:

Manage and grow endowment funds, grants, and gifts for specific schools, programs, and scholarships

Award grants to teachers seeking to enhance instruction

Identify and support, through forgivable loans, outstanding Saline County residents seeking to become teachers in USD 305

Build community awareness and support of the Salina Education Foundation

Our Vision

Uniting the community to support excellent public schools

Board of Trustees, 2020-21

Jeff NorrisChair
Amy StonebrakerVice Chair
Katy EbertSecretary
Bill SturgesTreasurer

Samantha Angell
Mark Bandre
Tim Blake
Megan Dupy
Dirk Hutchinson
Dana Kossow
James Lambert
Tom Loudis

Michelle Peck
Taylor Urban
Executive Director
Michael Chambers
Ex Officio Member
Linn Exline
Superintendent

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
SALINA, KS 67401
Permit No. 140

Friend us on facebook!



1511 Gypsum
P.O. Box 797
Salina, Kansas 67402-0797
785-309-4729

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Help Make A Difference. **Join Salina Education Foundation Today!**



Students enjoy rehearsing for last spring's 305 Live.

YES! I want the BEST for all students in the Salina School District! Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- \$3000 or more **21st Century Club**
- \$1000-2999 **SEF Benefactor**
- \$500-999 **SEF Patron**
- \$100-499 **SEF Supporter**
- \$10-99 **SEF Friend**
- Please send more information

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Make checks payable to:

Salina Education Foundation
PO Box 797
Salina, KS 67402-0797