



community connection

ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

www.salinaeducationfoundation.com 785-309-4729

Spring 2010

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

2010 LIFT Program Recipient Named

Lane (Laney) Brightbill wants to become an Early Childhood/Special Education teacher. The Salina Education Foundation wants to help her reach that goal.

The Foundation has selected Laney as the ninth LIFT recipient. LIFT—the Loan Initiative for Future Teachers—will



provide Laney with up to \$5,000 per year to help defray her college expenses as she pursues her teaching degree.

Laney, a 2007 graduate of Salina High School South,

has worked as a Head Start/Early Head Start paraprofessional while attending Kansas State University. She says that experience helped her discover her passion for young children.

“I have observed children form very close bonds and even become mentors to each other. Not only do they show improvement in social and emotional skills, but they gain a sense of acceptance of their environment and each other.”

Laney also has experience as a kindergarten volunteer at Meadowlark Ridge Elementary School. One of her references remarked, “Laney is a great listener, which makes her an easy person to talk to. She has a very caring and nurturing personality, which goes hand-in-hand with working with children, teachers, and families.”

See LIFT, page 3



Even more students will learn from GPS technology thanks to an SEF Grant.

2010-2011 Grants Awards to Benefit Many

Creative teachers in USD 305 always have more ideas for projects than the SEF has money to fund. This year’s grant requests totaled more than \$63,000! That is why SEF partners like Philips Lighting and Salina Regional Health Foundation are so important to our grant programs. Their funding to support projects involving science, healthy lifestyles and early childhood helped stretch our grant dollars to fulfill requests totaling nearly \$25,000. That means we’re able to reach many more teachers and students than we could without the generous help of these partners. Take a look at the opportunities Salina students will have next year, courtesy of the 21st Century Advantage Grant and Outside-the-Box Grant Programs:

Central High, *Science Chicks*: high school girls make science “come alive” for elementary school girls

Coronado, *Drum Program*: purchase two new drums to expand the program initiated by the PTO

Cottonwood, *Bal-A-Vis-X and Sensory Programs* (SRHF): programs that help students maintain focus and retain information

Heartland Programs, *Natural Playscape, Cooking School, School-to-Home Project, High School Program* (SRHF): build a natural environment for the new Early Head Start classrooms; crock pots, recipes and food for families to encourage healthy family meals; hands-on materials for children and parents to use at home; materials for 12 socialization activities for teen mothers and their children

Lakewood, *Build Your Own Treehouse, Trashy*

See GRANTS, page 2

Sudden Opportunity?

Quick Support from SEF!

When opportunity knocks, it's important to answer. But sometimes, that opportunity is unanticipated, and the answer requires money. That's why the Salina Education Foundation established the Sudden Opportunity Grant Program. It provides immediate funding of up to \$200 for approved projects. To apply, teachers simply complete a brief form with budget detail and an explanation of the purpose for the requested funding.

Sudden Opportunity Grants have been approved for projects ranging from "Dress for Success" business meetings for high school students, to a hand bell set for elementary music, to backpacks which are filled with non-perishable food and sent home with students from low-income families so they'll have something to eat over the weekend.

The Sudden Opportunity Grant is capped at \$200 in order to spread available funding to as many teachers and schools as possible. It may come as no surprise that we have seen a big increase in Sudden Opportunity Grant requests this year. With budget reductions, this funding will be even more vital in the 2010-2011 school year and beyond. The Sudden Opportunity Grant is funded exclusively by your generous donations. Thank you for making these grants possible!

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Middle school girls participate in healthy lifestyle workshops thanks to SRHF support.



South Middle students show Dan Mendicina, Philips Lighting, the robots that were made possible because of their support.

Travels, Electric String Orchestra, Life Through My Eyes: using math and problem-solving skills, students design and build a miniature tree house; environmental project that teaches 8th grade students about waste management practices; instruments for after-school alternative strings "jam session" groups; phototherapy project that allows troubled youth to express thoughts and feelings

Meadowlark, *Retell Me with MP3, Learning Language in Our Community:* students learn the concept of retelling by recording passages and creating a rubric to evaluate content; second language learners experience a guided tour through the community

Opportunity Now, *Reading for Life:* novel units for special education students

Schilling, *Move to Learn* (SRHF): therapy balls to increase student attention and productivity

South Middle, *Guitar Program, Concert Night with Mr. G, Cup Stacking* (SRHF), *Robotics project* (Philips), *Five Star Leaders:* 5 guitar

cases so students can take guitars home; reward music students with a Stiefel concert night; provide activity that increases hand-eye coordination, quickness and ambidexterity; transportation to Ft. Hays robotics competition; transportation for 8th graders to travel to the Eisenhower Center

South High, *Communication through Technology*, (SRHF), *Robotics*, (Philips): communication devices for non-verbal students; start a robotics team at South High

Stewart, *Live from Stewart:* students will develop news, skits and commercials and broadcast daily to the school

Sunset, *Playaways:* library will receive digital books that increase reluctant readers' fluency and comprehension

District-wide, gifted, *Adventures in GPS:* SEF will purchase an additional 5 GPS systems for small group activities that build teamwork and teach math and geography

Exceptional Schools Exceptional Community

Exceptional schools nurture and sculpt our children. But the benefits go beyond the kids themselves. Top-notch schools lead to higher property values, safer neighborhoods, and a stronger local economy. We all benefit from a top-notch public school system.

These businesses have made a commitment to making USD 305 schools exceptional by supporting the work of the Salina Education Foundation.

When you support our business partners, you support the work of the SEF!



To find out how
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can help SEF,
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Donations from 12/1/09-3/23/10

21st Century Club - \$3,000+

Great Plains Manufacturing, Inc.
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Salina Regional Health Foundation

Benefactor - \$1000-\$2999

Clark, Mize and Linville, Chtd.
Jones Gillam Renz Architects, Inc.
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Central States Enterprises
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The Scouler Company
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Friend - \$10-\$99

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Champion Seminars, Phil Coleman
Farm Bureau Financial Services, Lindsay Garber
First Bank Kansas
Headley's Clothing
Heartland Dermatology
Kasa Industrial Controls, Inc.
The Market Shop
Sports Connection, Inc.
Watson Electric, Inc.
Weckel Pet Care
Yarns – Sold and Told

LIFT, from page 1

Laney says her inspiration to become a teacher was found in the “amazing teachers” she encountered in Salina’s public schools.

The LIFT Program identifies and rewards outstanding Saline County residents who want to become teachers in USD 305. The student receives a forgivable loan of up to \$5,000 per year while working toward

an initial teaching degree. The Salina Education Foundation then forgives up to \$5,000 of the loan for each year that the new teacher is employed by USD 305. The deadline for application is January 31 of each year. Additional information and application forms can be found at: www.salinaeducationfoundation.com.

Mark your calendars!
SEF Breakfast
August 31, 2010

The mission of the Salina Education Foundation is to encourage educational excellence by providing resources to enhance opportunities for the students and staff of Salina's public schools.



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The Salina Education Foundation is a independent non-profit organization whose purpose is to assure excellence in Salina Public Schools.