



community connection

ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

salinaeducationfoundation.com 785-309-4729

Fall 2010

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

From Our Chair

Ahhh...fall. I love this time of the year; it always makes me think of new beginnings. Beginnings like sending the kids off to another year of school, preparing for the beginning of a new calendar year and for me this year, the beginning of my time as the chairman of the board of trustees for the Salina Education Foundation. While my love for community brought me back to



MICHAELIS

Salina to raise my family, it has been my love for my job that has led me to the Foundation. I have come to realize over the years how important it is for businesses to

support public education, as well as for our community to put well-educated, trainable and capable employees into the workforce. For me, this translates into support for the Foundation.

This year we selected our ninth LIFT recipient, Laney Brightbill, and USD 305 hired our third LIFT recipient, Andrew Book, to teach orchestra at Central High School. The Foundation gave out over \$30,000 in grants to programs like those showcased at our Fall Breakfast: Matt Gerry's Guitar Program, Five Star Leaders Program, the Robotics Program at South Middle School, and South High's Lab Chicks (a similar program will start at Central this year). Of course, none of these things would have

See CHAIR, page 2



Linn Exline, South High Principal, was the featured speaker at the 2010 SEF Breakfast.

Beyond the Classroom

Robots, guitars, Lab Chicks and 200 guests were all present at the Salina Education Foundation's fifth annual Fall Breakfast August 31st. Keynote speaker Linn Exline, who is the principal at South High, told the assembled guests about the importance of project-based learning and the SEF's grant programs. Four grant projects were highlighted:

Matt Gerry's 8th grade guitar class had two weeks to practice before performing, and their hard work showed! Using guitars that were purchased through our 21st Century Advantage Grant Program, 24 students entertained guests. The featured performer was Corey Lueth. Corey was one of the first students in the guitar program at South Middle School. He's now

a senior at South High. Central High's new orchestra teacher, Andrew Book (hired via the LIFT Program!) played bass guitar to accompany the students. *SEF grants help develop the skills required to play music and promote a life-long love of music.*

Four members of South Middle School's Robotics Club – Ethan, Noah and Sarah Zajac and Alexcis Barnes – demonstrated how they build and program robots to navigate through a maze. Their proud teacher and team coach, Barbara Livengood, explained that these students won half of all the medals awarded last year at the robotics competition at Fort Hays State University. Philips Lighting not only provides support for this great program,

See BREAKFAST, page 3

been possible without your support.

I have seen first-hand the difference these programs make in the lives of our students. I can positively say that the 21st Century Grant Program, the Sudden Opportunity Grant, and the Outside-the-Box Grant allow teachers to have the resources to educate our students in ways that make them desirable and employable. As a business person who is always looking for good employees, I am so thankful that our community supports the Foundation, and I am honored to have been chosen as the Chairman this year.

Amanda Michaelis
Chair

SEF Grants and Programs

21st Century Advantage Grant: awarded annually for creative and innovative classroom projects

Sudden Opportunity Grant: quick turn-around grant for projects that come up unexpectedly

LIFT Program: awards up to \$5,000 per year for Saline County residents who wish to become teachers

Outside-the-Box Grant: awarded annually for projects that take students outside the typical classroom setting

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The Sound of Success

LIFT recipient begins teaching career at USD 305

LIFT Recipient Andrew Book was hired to teach Orchestra at Salina Central High School and four USD 305 elementary



BOOK

schools for the 2010-2011 school year. Andrew graduated

from Central High School. He recently earned a degree in Music Education at Wichita State

University. While at Central, he was very involved with the orchestra, including the popular group “Strolling Strings”.

Throughout his high school and college

career, Andrew tutored students and taught private lessons. He also served as the president of Wichita State’s College Music Educators National Conference organization of 70 members.

Andrew is the perfect example of what the Loan Initiative for Teachers, aka LIFT program, is all about—encouraging exemplary local students to become teachers and bringing them back to the community that has loved and supported them. Congratulations to Andrew and his new wife, Emily (Alsop) Book, another Salina Central graduate! Want to see Andrew in action? Plan to attend the Central High Pops concert on November 1st, 7:00 PM, in Central High’s auditorium.

SEF Briefs

SEF says ‘farewell’ to board members

The Board of Trustees guides every decision made by the Salina Education Foundation. It is with grateful appreciation that we bid farewell to trustees Frank Hampton and Marcy Roth. We welcomed new trustees Aaron Martin, Amy Stonebraker, Judy Helm and Daran Neuschafer at our annual meeting on August 18.

Innovative grants support USD 305 teachers and staff

The SEF’s grant programs have awarded over \$422,000 to staff and teachers of USD 305 since 1993. Our grants support creative and innovative project-based grants that focus on problem solving. Philips Lighting, Salina Regional Health Foundation, and the Earl Bane Foundation sponsored some important projects this year.

Take a look at what we do

The SEF is always ready to help with projects that benefit USD 305. Take a look at the Salina Central Tennis Courts, the South High Softball Fields and the new scoreboard at Central High, to name a few—all of them administered by the SEF!

We are building endowments, donations appreciated

The SEF is building two endowments. One supports the SEF’s Outside-the-Box Grant and the other supports the LIFT Program (Loan Initiative for Future Teachers). The OTB Grant takes students outside the typical classroom setting to give students hands-on opportunities to learn about their community and world. The LIFT Program awards up to \$5,000 per year to outstanding Saline County residents who wish to become teachers. Donations are appreciated!

We have a new website, check it out

Check out our new website: salinaeducationfoundation.com. We plan to update the home page regularly to bring you current SEF activities.

but gives the students T shirts to wear to the competition. In addition, the company provides a guided tour of the Philips plant so students can see real-life application of robotics. *SEF grants encourage teamwork and high-level problem solving.*

Two of South High's Lab Chicks – Emily Newquist and Marina Coberly – shared their enthusiasm for a program that encourages young women to think about careers in science and math. Teacher Karen Bastin told the guests that the young women go to elementary schools to inspire even younger girls to think about the possibilities of science and math. Science comes alive when the Lab Chicks use demonstrations and experiments to teach concepts. Mrs. Bastin said interest in the club is so great that boys are wanting to join! *SEF grants make learning meaningful and fun.*

Guests viewed a video from the Eisenhower Center's Five Star Leaders Program. Every South Middle 8th grader studies the integration crisis at Little Rock, using materials supplied by the Center. They then travel to the Center where they do more research using original documents, play the role of members of Eisenhower's cabinet, reach a consensus on whether or not to send in federal troops to secure integration, and finally take part in a news conference where they must defend their position. *SEF grants bring history to life.*

\$30,980 SEF Grants awarded

While South High and South Middle School were highlighted at this year's breakfast, the SEF supports all USD 305 schools with its grant programs. Take a look at what we are funding this year:

Central High: Science Chicks

Coronado: Drum Program

Cottonwood: Bal-A-Vis-X and Sensory Programs (SRHF)

Heartland Programs: Natural Playscape, Cooking School, School-to-Home Project, High School Program (SRHF)

Lakewood: Build Your Own Treehouse, Trashy Travels, Electric String Orchestra, Life Through My Eyes, Rachel's Challenge (Earl Bane Foundation)

Meadowlark: Retell Me with MP3, Learning Language in Our Community

Opportunity Now: Reading for Life

Schilling: Move to Learn (SRHF)



TOP PHOTO: Students of the South Middle School guitar class entertain guests at the Salina Education Foundation breakfast. BOTTOM PHOTO: Sarah Zajac demonstrates how a robot navigates a maze. Robots built by South Middle School students were on display at the SEF's breakfast.

PHOTOS BY TOM DORSEY / SALINA JOURNAL

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

South High: Communication through Technology, (SRHF), Robotics, (Philips)

Stewart: Live from Stewart

Sunset: Playaways

District-wide, gifted: Adventures in GPS

We thank our partners Philips Lighting, Salina Regional Health Foundation, and the Earl Bane Foundation for helping to fund some of these great projects.

The Fall Breakfast was possible because of the generous support of these friends:

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Honor a teacher...

Consider a gift to the Salina Education Foundation in honor of a teacher who has made a difference in your or your child's life. It can be as simple as a Christmas or birthday gift to the Foundation. We will send a personalized card to the recipient, letting them know that you have remembered them.

Others may want a lasting memorial. The Nancy Whitehair Ribble Memorial Scholarship was established by Nancy's family to honor the long-time educator and Lakewood teacher. Every year, Lakewood teachers can apply for a \$250 scholarship to help fund continuing education. Endowing a memorial gift allows the legacy of your loved one to live on.

The H.E. and Erma Lee Nuss Teacher of the Year Award rewards USD 305's secondary and elementary teacher of the year. The Nuss Teacher of the Year Award is a long-standing award that the SEF is honored to administer on behalf of the Nuss family. This year's recipients, Nikki Chamberlain (South High) and Cheryl Werth (Cottonwood Elementary) received the award at the Board of Education meeting August 24.

To inquire about memorial gifts, call Pam McIntyre at 309-4729.



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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.