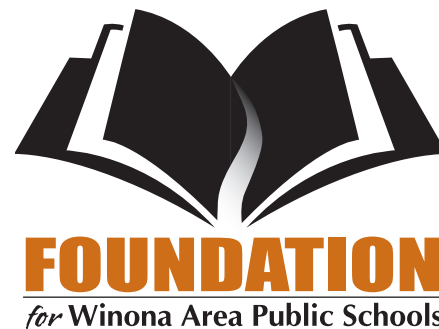


The Foundation Files

September 2013 through August 2014



The Foundation Board of Directors

Jen Anderson, *Grants Chair*
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 Katherine Harding, *Student Rep.*
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 Stephen West, *** *Superintendent*

* Executive Committee
 ** Ex-Officio; Voting
 *** Ex-Officio; Non-Voting

Shelley Milek, *Executive Director*

From the Executive Director

The Foundation filled the schools with activity as the Board of Directors and I worked to manage funds, provide new mobile technology, and provide over 30 grants to our schools. Several new funds were started, ranging from memorial scholarships for our youth, to raising money for new band uniforms. Generous citizens and alumni gave back to their schools by honoring classmates and retired teachers through gifts to the Foundation.

We kicked off the school year with a rally to help the WSHS band replace the tattered retro uniform pants from years gone by. I am told they have reached their goal. We look forward to watching our students--whether they are marching down Broadway or Main Street USA--representing Winona, Minnesota with spiffy new knickers.

The Foundation is honored to partner with Miller Mentoring as they generously give back to Winona Area Public Schools students through scholarship, mentoring and education. Miller Mentoring works with students on homework completion, academic goal setting and building positive social relationships.

In the Fall, we awarded the annual \$5000 Dare to Dream grant to fund a project called "The Global Forum". The grant helped engage students by getting them involved in an action-based service learning project that focused on water in our world. After attending the closing reception, I was in awe of how elementary students left there with a better understanding about the global issue of water and were ready to change the world.

The "light on their feet" groups of the "Winhawk Warriors" and "STEMtastics", both from the Winona Area Public Schools, bumped and boogied to raise money for scholarships and learning programs for our schools as hundreds of New Year's Eve celebrants attended the Dancing with the Winona Stars event to raise money for many local Winona charities.

After months of planning and creating, the Gala Committee comprised of many passionate Winona volunteers, created an Italian evening to remember. With hundreds of generous supporters in attendance, this year's Foundation Gala—An Evening in Tuscany-- raised over \$46,000 towards mobile technology for our schools.

As the school year closed, the Foundation rounded out the year with support and grants to the seniors as they look forward to that next step in their education or careers, and the Foundation held multiple funds that awarded numerous scholarships to deserving students at the annual Awards Banquet.

A new and exciting school year is upon us!! The Foundation is working on some changes to our website and looking forward to working with some talented new leaders in our schools as we expand and enrich educational opportunities for our students in the Winona Area Public Schools.

Thank you and blessings to all of our supporters!! We couldn't do it without you.

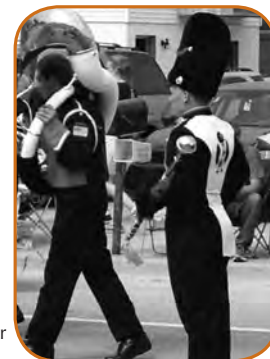
– Shelley Milek, Executive Director



Executive Director, Shelley Milek



Not Pictured:
 Ben Baratto, Don Klagge and Katherine Harding.



WSHS Drum Major
 Chris Wisted

Highlights of the Year

The 2013-2014 year was very active and eventful for the Foundation. Some of the highlights include:

- 30 classroom and school grants
- \$5000 Dare to Dream Grant for "The Global Forum"
- (2) \$250 Teacher Grants to use for educational materials
- 72 Donor Advised Funds and Management of
- 28 Scholarships from Funds
- 10 Scholarships
- Over \$500,000 has been directed through the Foundation to projects that enhance public education in Winona.
- \$46,000 raised for Mobile Technology for our schools
- Purchase of 2 additional Smart Boards for Classrooms

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generosity and kind support. Your help has made possible all of the special programs, projects, field trips and speakers listed in this newsletter- and much, much more. Gratitude goes out to each of you and I hope you will contact us with any questions or ideas for the Foundation and our schools.



6th Graders during the
 State Capital and Fort Snelling Field Trip
 Spring 2014

Welcome Dr. Stephen West! New WAPS Superintendent



Dr. Stephen West
Winona Area Public Schools
Superintendent

Welcome Dr. Stephen West!!!

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools is thrilled to have Dr. Stephen West, new WAPS Superintendent, join the Foundation Board of Directors. As in the past, having the Superintendent of Schools on the Foundation Board of Directors helps to bridge the communication between the Foundation and the schools, which in turn, helps us to build a stronger organization with more to contribute back to our students' education.

When asked how Dr. West's first few weeks at the Winona Area Public Schools have been, he replied, "Like drinking water from a fire hose! It has been so much fun meeting the members of this vibrant community. There are so many names and faces, if I forget a name, please remind me! I am of the belief that the best outcomes come from building on strengths. I have been using my first weeks in getting to know the strengths of the district, so that we can use those strengths to slingshot us to even more excellence."

We also wanted to know what Dr. West might bring to the Foundation that worked or was successful at his prior school or with other Foundations he'd worked with, he stated, "I love that there is a strong Foundation support for WAPS. I look forward to continuing this strong relationship with the Foundation. With my previous Foundation work, it proved quite beneficial to really take a critical

eye to the projects we were funding and evaluate if the projects were having great impact and were equitable across the district schools. We really looked at what projects were aligned to our district vision, and tried to scale that up to serve more students. I hope to find out how we can bring a focus to projects with major impact."

Finally, we thought you might be interested in how his family is settling into the area. He said, "My family has really enjoyed Winona thus far. We are just getting started to know the area since I am originally from Tennessee and my wife is originally from Chicago and we have been living in the Twin Cities suburbs for the last fifteen years. We purchased a family home in Winona that we are just thrilled to be blessed with. As far as the local sites, my daughters have enjoyed Bloedows donuts and the cornbread at Jefferson's Pub. We are really looking forward to more exploring and anticipate a beautiful fall of trees and some park time. Family outing suggestions welcome!"

Thank you for your great responses Dr. West, we look forward to working with you!!!

We haven't seen the last of Dr. Scott Hannon...



Dr. Scott Hannon

As I'm sure you know, Dr. Hannon, Superintendent and Foundation Board member, has officially retired from his many responsibilities at the Winona Area Public Schools. After 41 years of teaching, administration and leadership, he looks forward to some much deserved rest and relaxation. In fact, he and his wife Carmen recently vacationed in the mountains of Colorado.

When I first took on the role of Executive Director at the Foundation, Dr. Hannon offered a helping hand to make our Foundation stronger. He was always there to improve communication between The Foundation and the schools and to make sure the value added by The Foundation was truly enriching the education of our Winona Area Public Schools students. His welcoming handshake and "Roll up your sleeves" attitude were very valuable in getting the work of The Foundation done.

Most of us would probably take a break from a job after 41 years, but when asked if he would be willing to stay on the Foundation Board of Directors as a member of our community, Scott Hannon was more than willing to accept that role and is interested in possibly working more with the

Alumni Committee. Thank you Dr. Hannon and we are so pleased that we have not seen the last of you at the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB!

Information on the Foundation, its mission, Board, grants and alumni connections can be found on our website at:

www.foundationwaps.org.



Also, a **link for on-line donations** is available 24/7 for gifts in honor or memory of a special person, program or event. The Foundation is on Facebook! Check us out on: **Facebook.com/foundationWinonaAreaPublicSchools** and see the latest updates.

"An Evening in Tuscany" Raised over \$46,000

Next year's Gala:
March 14, 2015

Cio Bella!!! The Foundation for Winona Area Public School's 2014 "An Evening in Tuscany" Gala raised over \$46,000 towards Mobile Technology for our schools.

Ambient golden lighting, Garden Café seating, and table settings with succulent greens and lavender floral set the tone for our Italian Tuscan theme. Over 260 attendees strolled through the Market Eatily which offered an array of Antipasti and fresh breads, baked and donated by Winona Bread and Bagel, sure to tantalize anyone's pallet. Guests were able to bid on garden art, hand painted pottery, and centerpieces with a touch of Tuscan flair. The silent auction offered a collection of fine Italian themed leather handbags and eyewear, photography, specialty wine from local vineyards, textiles and baskets flourishing with Italian cuisine.

Guests settled into their seats with tables adorned with candle dripped wine bottles, Balsamic Vinaigrette salads, baguettes and dipping oils, and fresh rolled gnocchi pasta with Bolognese sauce, roasted red peppers, and spinach with shaved parmesan.

After dinner, the Foundation's Board of Director President, Scott Sorvaag, was honored to present its 2014 Legacy Award to a citizen that showed exemplary support to the Winona Area Public Schools with its goal to enhance education and support its students. The 2014 Legacy Award was extended posthumously to Richard "Dick" Kolter. Mr. Kolter was a public school math teacher with a passion for teaching and an undying inquisitive thirst for knowledge in the emerging field of technology. Accepting the award on his behalf was his friend, Jim Miller. The plaque will be displayed at the entrance to the WSHS Kolter Math & Science Wing.

Lucky bidders were the winners of two mouth-watering dessert tables layered with creamy Cannoli, Tiramisu, Italian cakes, fresh fruit pies, caramel drizzled Dulce de Leche cheese cakes, chocolate truffles, and dipped strawberries, sponsored by Blooming Grounds, Darlene Johnson, and Winona Bread and Bagel. That's Amore!!

With the help of our lead sponsors, Merchants and Winona National, corporate table sponsors, and donations from a multiple businesses, personal donors, and staff, the Gala will help enhance and enrich learning for our students for years to come.

The Foundation and its Board of Directors wants to thank everyone on the Gala Committee, devoted attendees and staff, sponsors, and the multitude of people who donated to this year's Gala to make it such a huge success.



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2014 Evening in Tuscany Gala Donors

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Memorial Tournament)

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Special Education Fund
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Tamara Matthees & Randy Galewski

We have made every effort to provide an accurate listing of gifts received between 9/01/13 and 8/31/2014. However, if you find an error/omission, please contact the Foundation office at 507-494-1004.

Leave A Legacy... Through the Foundation's Lowell Nelson Society

In 1997, the Foundation Board 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 IRAs, 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.

Judy Bodway
Susan and John Eddy
Mark Godsey
Norma Grausnick
Harriet Green
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Jim and Shannon Hanzel
Donna Helble
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Barbara Schilling*
Sharon Suchla
Rita Sullivan*
Linda A. Wood
Pete and Joyce Woodworth
(*deceased)

Teacher & Staff Payroll Deduction Participants 2013-14

Heartfelt thanks to nearly 100 WAPS staff members who participated in the Payroll Deduction Program benefiting the Foundation. Their support provided over \$15,000 for our students and we are so grateful!!

The following WAPS employees support the Foundation through the District's Payroll Deduction Plan (Rec'd up to 8/31/14):

Courtney Anderson	Timothy Firstbrook	Molli Kook	Patricia Norman	Julie Seeley
Shannon Bechly	Linda Gale	Holly Lecheler	Steven Norman	Melissa Shields
Frederick Blacklock	Timothy Gleason	Corey Lee	Susan Ogren	Anne Simon-Debroux
Elizabeth Ann Boettcher	Katrina Glick	Joseph Lepley	Linda Olson	Lisa Skifton
Paula Braaten	Katie Gove	Mary Lewis-Hyde	Kenneth Paulsen	Joleen Smith
William Braun	Elizabeth Hall	Pamela Lica	Kim Penrod	Katy Smith
Janet Bridwell	Scott Halverson	Kenneth Mann	Linda Pfeilsticker	Matthew Smith
Carolyn Bruels	Kelly Halvorsen	Monica Maroushek	Nathan Pollock	Terri Spartz
Joel Bruels	Lyn Halvorson	Hayley Martin	Carole Prudoehl	Ted Stuckmayer
Kathleen Calvey	Gail Hannemann-Doering	Sundra Menton	Barbara Rahn	Marianne Texley
Mary Cappel	Scott Hannon	Brenda Merchlewitz	Beatrice Salisbury	Kristine Traxler
Gay Casper	Cory Hanson	Luke Merchlewitz	Judy Sanvik	Dwayne Voegeli
David Chapman	Jon Hogenson	Janet Moeller	Thomas Sanvik	Rachel Vogel
Kristin Caudron	Marie Holmquist	Jeffrey Morgan	Margaret Schild	Cheryl Weaver
Eileen Dahlin	Lisa Hudson	Gaylene Mortensen	Steven Schild	Kara Welch
Maryann Dennis	Gretchen Johns-Derbyshire	Kathleen Moser	William Schmidt	Steven Wiltgen
Robin Draves	Cynthia Johnson	Lisa Mullen	Charles Schollmeier	Ann Wistrick
Adrien Everest	Judith Kiekbusch	Nancy Nelson	Kirstin Schultz	Judith Yess
Jon Feldhake	Jay Kohner	Jenny Nettles	Rodney Schwarz	

2013-14 Grant Awards

Teen Parent Program - WALC
 PBIS - WMS
 Reading Promotion - WSHS
 Senior Seminar - WSHS
 Whitewater State Park Trip WALC
 Guthrie Theatre Field Trip WMS
 7th Grade
 Face Large and Small - Artist in
 Residence WK, Rollingstone,
 Madison Gr 3 & 4
 Festival of Nations- WSHS
 Science Museum - Stem 6th
 Grade
 Quarry Hill Field Trip - WMS
 8th Grade
 Thrills and Thrills Music Festival -
 WMS 7th & 8th Grade

iCan Bike After School
 Program - Special Needs
 Program
 Elementary Author Visit -
 All Elementary Schools
 White Privilege Conference -
 National Conference -
 Madison WI
 Young Writer's Conference

WSHS Film Making Project -
 Artist in Residence
 Student Ambassadors to
 Misato Japan - WMS & WSHS
 Minnesota Zoo Trip - WMS 5th
 Grade
 WSHS Florida Band Trip - WSHS
 Games of the World Residency-
 Jefferson K - 4

Concordia Language Village -
 WSHS Grades 9 - 12
 WSHS Career Expo - WSHS
 Sophomores
 Flashcard Fun Fact - 2nd
 Grade Math Project
 White Privilege Conference -
 WSHS
 Link Crew - WSHS Support
 Program for incoming
 Freshman
 Payroll Deduction Grants (2)
 \$250 Grants for Educational
 Materials
 8th Grade Band Festival -
 7th & 8th Grade Band
 Students
 WMS 6th Grade Capitol Trip
 Great Dakota Gathering
 Education - 3rd Grade



Thrills & Thrills 2014 at Valley Fair

The Foundation helps to sponsor the Senior Seminar

Picture two hundred and fifteen stoic WSHS seniors filing into a Winona State University assembly room at the end of May! What were they doing there? They were on campus to learn about graduation preparation, the next steps after graduation, and to hear some informative and inspirational messages given by administration, instructors, and guests at the annual Senior Seminar. The mood varies with each class, but this year's seniors seemed unusually quiet as they sat ready to learn what was in store for them next. When asked what one of the most important things she took away from the seminar, Senior Madison Benson was quoted as saying, "I thought the break-out sessions were really helpful in getting a better understanding about what to expect in college". She also said she will take to heart the advice to stay at school the first four weeks to meet people and, "try to get the hang of it", before coming home. Senior Carly Moran's favorite speaker was Mr. Anderson because, "he shared his own real life experiences and you could somewhat relate to things he was saying".

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools is happy to sponsor educational and enriching experiences such as this. Congratulations Class of 2014!!!!!!



The Washington-Kosciusko *Global Forum*

Bringing the World to Winona!

Communities across the country are increasingly diverse. The challenges facing communities are complex; our global interdependence is more apparent than ever before. For society to collectively confront global issues, all sectors – corporate, nonprofit and government – require globally literate and culturally competent employees, citizens, and leaders.

Last Fall, second grade teacher Luke Merchlewitz submitted a Dare to Dream Grant to the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools with the help of WSHS Senior Calvin Dretzke. Their dream was thinking globally through the utilization of a common theme, the importance of water. Multi-age W-K students engaged in a Global Forum by learning about the world and its people, as well as, conducted action-based service learning projects that focused on water in our world.

Mr. Merchlewitz found research that showed students who learn about global problems are more than twice as likely to see the point of personally undertaking social action. Global learning encourages awareness and critical thought about issues such as poverty, climate change, politics, international trade, and different religions and cultures. Globally-minded students are more likely to exhibit tolerance and acceptance of religious, cultural, and ethnic diversity. The ongoing Global Forum was conducted, along with the assistance and cooperation of numerous institutions, such as WSU, WAPS, the City of Winona, the International Institute of Minnesota, and WaterProject.org.

Luke held a reception at W-K and invited community members, City of Winona and Winona Area Public School staff, University Leaders and parents. The event highlighted independent projects that each student worked on, as well as, a short documentary following the Global Forum from conception until its project finish. The uplifting and interesting video can be found on You Tube under the WK Global Forum. When interviewed, a 4th grade student who worked on the Global Forum project summed up the feeling of the group perfectly, stating “Now I feel I have the power to change the world”.



iCan Bike After School Program at WAPS!



iCan Shine biker and mentors

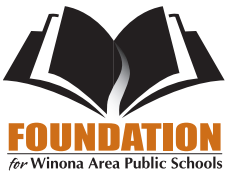
The Foundation’s Board of Directors supported the iCan Bike After School Program with a grant. Melinda Reinhardy submitted a request to the Foundation to support a program that teaches WAPS students with special needs how to ride a conventional two-wheel bicycle and teach biking skills so they can become lifelong, independent riders. This program is also designed to help promote self-esteem and confidence, while improving quality of life with physical activity. It also provides a service learning opportunity for WSHS students as they learn disability awareness training. The goal is for peer spotters to become educated in regards to diversity and open their minds to acceptance and inclusion. Elated faces and squeals filled the gym and outdoors as the students mastered the skill of riding a two wheeler. Spotters were often “left in the dust” as the bikers independently whizzed by.

A Little Bit of School History...

Do you hold a little bit of Winona Area Public School history or know someone who does? Were you or someone you know an alumni with letter jackets, pins, class rings, chevrons, pictures, uniforms or trophies? Have you held on to school treasures and are looking for a home for them? Drop off your items at the Foundation and we will archive them. So, as you are cleaning out closets and come across those items, feel free to drop them off at the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools at the Winona Middle School, 1570 Homer Road.

Pictured: Don Klagge, Dave Mertes, Scott Hannon & Joni Benson





Mission

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools is an **independent, non-profit, 501(c)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.

Community & Alumni Support

Community and alumni support has been invaluable in the many projects that have benefited our students, such as field trips, student speakers and enrichment programs. The Foundation also holds over 72 donor advised funds created by individual supporters to benefit specific educational causes of interest, such as the, SE MN Science Fair Fund, student scholarship funds, classroom technology funds, and funds for student learning trips.

How You Can Help

Donations can be made online (www.foundationwaps.org), in person (at our office at WMS) or by mail: 1570 Homer Rd, 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.

www.foundationwaps.org

Mark your Calendars!

March 14, 2015:

Join us at the
Foundation's Gala
to be held at
Visions Event Center!

Over the past two years, **more than HALF OF A MILLION DOLLARS** have been directed through the Foundation to projects and programs that have enhanced education in the Winona Area Public Schools through the Foundation.

Our sincere thanks to the many generous and caring donors who have made this possible.

Sincere thanks to each of you for your support!

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