



WEST FARGO EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Foundation *Connections*



May 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Our Mission

Create exemplary futures for West Fargo Public Schools students, by enhancing the district's capacity for all students to achieve 21st Century Skills.

Our Vision

To boldly advance the education of West Fargo Public Schools students by providing progressive opportunities for learning above and beyond the basic curriculum. These actions will be achieved by respecting West Fargo heritage, building on the West Fargo Alumni legacy, and inspiring the future by noble pursuits. Through these endeavors and supporting West Fargo teachers, parents and administration, the West Fargo Education Foundation will strive to empower students with the capacity for success.

A Message from the WF Educational Foundation Board

Welcome to the first issue of **Foundation Connections** from the West Fargo Educational Foundation. The aim of this publication is to keep you informed of new initiatives and updates concerning the West Fargo Educational Foundation and its partnership with West Fargo Public Schools.

The West Fargo Educational Foundation has a long history in the West Fargo Public Schools with its inception in the early 1980s. However, it was dormant until 2013 when a group of school board members and committed alumni approached district leadership about reinvigorating it. We have reawakened the foundation in order to support an outstanding school district, of which we are all proud, to achieve even greater things for our students, our staff and the community.

The new WF Educational Foundation Board has established governance bylaws and has launched initiatives in alignment with school district needs and the foundation's purposes. A few of these initiatives include the West Fargo High School Hall of Fame event and the Mini-Grant Program for Teachers. Although the board is proud of the successes achieved thus far, we are striving to continue our forward progress by developing new initiatives and programs, seeking collaborations with other educational agencies, and procuring grants and development money to ensure our students have access to and are challenged with 21st Century learning opportunities that extend beyond the regular classroom experience.

We hope you find **Foundation Connections** a valuable resource in staying connected with the West Fargo Educational Foundation. We welcome your time, suggestions, ideas, and feedback, and we hope you are as excited as we are to support our students and our school district.

Thank you for your support!

West Fargo Educational Foundation Board

A Message from the WFEF Board

2014-2015 Foundation Recap

Mini-Grant Awards

11 Teachers Awarded Mini-Grants for educational projects not funded by the district, state, or federal money.

Hall of Fame Nominations

Nominations for the 2015 Hall of Fame due by June 1st.

How to Support WFEF

How-to guide on assisting the WFEF create exemplary futures for West Fargo Public School students.

Foundation Board Members

A list of West Fargo Educational Foundation board members and their role on the board.

Contact the Foundation

WEST FARGO EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
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West Fargo, ND 58078

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701- 356-2000

Email
Alison@westfargofoundation.com

Website
www.westfargofoundation.com



Foundation Connections is funded in part by the **West Fargo Exchange Club.**

Dedicated to making our community a better place through programs of service.



Mini-Grants Awarded to Teachers

The mini-grant program was created to augment and complement school district efforts to provide students with quality 21st Century learning opportunities by building teachers' capacity to plan and facilitate such experiences. The Foundation awards competitive grants to WFPS staff and schools for innovative educational projects not funded by district, state, or federal money. Applications for the first mini-grants were due by Sunday, February 1, 2015 and a panel of district employees and West Fargo Educational Foundation board members selected the Spring 2015 recipients. The maximum award for each grant was \$500. The WFEF is proud of all the teachers in the West Fargo School District, and we are pleased to announce the 11-Spring 2015 Mini-Grant recipients who received a total of \$5,000 for their projects.

Congratulations to the following West Fargo teachers:

West Fargo Grades 1-5 REACH Program: **Virjean Cramer** for *Lego Architecture Studio*

Freedom Elementary: **Dawn Beil** for *Cooking Demonstration 101*

Aurora, Independence and Freedom Elementary: **Deb Boyer** for *Kind Campaign for Girls (Gr 5 & 6)*

Westside Elementary: **Kayla Delzer** for *iPads in a 21st Century Classroom*

Liberty Middle School: **Gretchen Peterson** for *Coding for 6th Graders*

Westside Elementary: **Jenna Farkas** for *Collaboration and Communication with iPads*

Liberty Middle School: **Jane Laux** for *Gaming Unit*

Liberty Middle School: **Jennifer Shearer** for *Outdoor Science Lab*

Cheney Middle School: **Karen Lietz** for *STEM Kits for Forensics, Disease, and Iditarod*

West Fargo High School: **Matt Slocomb** for *Civilization 5 to Enrich and Extend World History*

West Fargo High School: **Nicole Peterson** for *Cultural Dance in Physical Education*



CONGRATULATIONS!

West Fargo Public Schools Teacher of the Year

Heath Rydell

South Elementary School

Hall of Fame Nominations

Applications due June 1st, 2015 by 11:59pm

Nomination Categories

- Outstanding Alumni
- Outstanding Team/Group
- Outstanding Community Member
- Outstanding Faculty

Criteria for Nomination – Required

- Application turned in on time
- Five years after employment
- Ten years after graduation
- Graduate of West Fargo High School for categories of Alumni and Team/Group
- Outstanding Faculty or Community-- Member does not need to have graduated from West Fargo High School

Voting Rules & Limitations

- No more than one staff member will be selected each year.
- No more than three students will be selected each year.
- The committee reserves the right not to select any students or staff members.
- Nominees must receive a 2/3 majority vote to be selected.
- Individuals and teams may be selected.
- Nominations must be resubmitted each year to be considered.

If you have questions or would like to submit a nomination, please visit our website for the online application at

www.westfargofoundation.com/hall-of-fame

or contact Jimmy Hoy at

wfshalloffame@outlook.com



Foundation Board & Directors

BOARD

- Alison Ottesen for the office of President
- Jimmy Hoy for the office of First Vice President
- Gary Clark for the office of Second Vice President
- Clint Schmidt for the office of Secretary
- Karen Nitzkowski for the office of Treasurer

DIRECTORS

- Alum: Angela Ottesen
- Alum: Greg Tehven
- Alum: Mark Staples
- District Administration Representative: Superintendent Dr. David Flowers
- School Board Representative: Shauna Vistad
- West Fargo Education Association Representative: Mark Berntson
- West Fargo High School Student: Marisa Pacella
- Sheyenne High School Student: Kaitlyn Kuntz
- Community High School Student: Savannah Lende
- District Staff Liaison: Heather Konschak
- District Staff Liaison: Mark Lemer

Congratulations!

Community High School
Student of the Month
April 2015

Emily Lyon

West Fargo High School
Student of the Month
April 2015

Brianna Faul



Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

-William Butler Yeats

Upcoming Events

WF High Graduation

May 31, 2015
Scheel's Arena @ 2:00pm

Community High Graduation

May 28, 2015
WF High Auditorium @ 7:30pm

WFEF Hall of Fame Event

October 1, 2015
Speedway Event Center
6:00-10:00pm



How to Support the West Fargo Educational Foundation

You can support and empower student success in West Fargo by **volunteering** or **making a donation** to the West Fargo Educational Foundation.

The West Fargo Educational Foundation is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization recognized by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

EIN 363548686. Contributions are deductible as allowed by law.

VOLUNTEER

Short on money, but still want to help? Donate your time and invest in our future! Contact Alison Ottesen for more information at 701-388-3165 or Alison@westfargofoundation.com

DONATE ONLINE

The WFEF website has a donate tab and utilizes RAZOO to receive donations. Please visit www.westfargofoundation.com to make an online donation.

DONATE BY MAIL

Access our donation form below. Once you've filled it out, detach the form and either mail it to us or drop it off at our WFEF office in West Fargo.

West Fargo Educational Foundation
 207 Main Avenue W
 West Fargo, ND 58078

WEST FARGO EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION DONATION FORM

Name _____		
Organization/Company _____		
Address _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip _____
Email _____	Phone (_____) _____	

One time gift of \$ _____ Monthly gift of \$ _____ for _____ months Yearly gift of \$ _____ for _____ years

Please indicate your payment method: Check (Made Payable to WFEF) Cash Credit Card

Please charge my: VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER CARD

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ 3-digit code on back of card _____

Name on Card _____

Billing Address (if different from above) _____

My company will match my gift I would like information about planned giving I would like to discuss other ways of investing in WFEF