30 Years Building Community Pride Through Education

The Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools believes that all students should have what they need to reach their full potential. We engage the community to inspire students and educators and create educational opportunities that enhance academic and personal success.

$1,555,568 FUNDS RAISED

Approximately 2,500 Donors

64 Schools Served

382 Funds Supported

- 222 Beyond the Classroom Funds
- 32 Strong, Stable Families Funds
- 94 College and Career Funds
- 25 Next-Level Learning Funds
- 9 Cross Pillar Funds

Every Dollar Given to the Inspiring Dreams Fund in Turn Raised $7 for LPS

42,000+ Students Empowered

$345,000

72 Scholarships to 108 Students for Higher Education
Spark Summer Camp
A summer dedicated to creating curiosity, enhancing exploration and bringing creativity to kids across the community.

74 kids per week in attendance (K–5)
29 middle school students in one-week program
10 scholarships awarded
50 clubs participating in projects
10 weekly STEAM themes

Inspire Awards
Honoring 128 students and educators who are an inspiration to their school and the community. See all of the award recipients @FoundationForLPS Facebook page.

Giving Days
Days of giving the Foundation championed.

Spread the Love
Events of love held by our donors to raise awareness around the Foundation and its mission.

849 People Reached
22 Gifts Made

Fund a Need
A platform for educators to share a special classroom need and gain visibility to fund it.

122 classrooms empowered
96 needs fully or partially met
40 schools served
$82,000+ raised
Honor Roll Society

Strengthening our School System

Honor Roll Society is made up of parents and community members who have committed $250+ annually to high-quality education and helping students achieve the next-level of excellence through their monetary support and direct interaction with the district.

This year, we introduced our inaugural volunteer award, the Billie Bussmann Spirit Award, to Billie Bussmann for her spirit, passion and commitment to LPS. Her gifts have made a significant difference advancing the mission of the Foundation.

Outstanding Educator Awards

Honoring outstanding educators who are an inspiration to students.

37 Nominations
19 Awards
24 Recipients

Outstanding Educators

Breanna Hagedorn
Jonas Christensen
Emily Seifferlein
Andrew James
Emily Koopmann
Megan Zillig
Emily Ediger
Lee Dreyer
Will Smith
John Neal
Jessica Halsey
Deanna Macek
Kelsey Lorimer
Michael Hart
Karen Krull
Polly Bowhay
Emily Wiebeck
Chris Heffner
Joy Harvey
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Leslie Gibbens, Honor Roll Society member, was one of two individuals who piloted a new opportunity for donors to be principal for a day—her adventure took place at the school of her choice, Lincoln Southeast High School. During her experience she took tours of the buildings, met with teachers between classes, spoke with staff and gained valuable insight from Brent Toalson, on all things related to his work as principal of Southeast High School. “I am impressed with how much is overseen day-in and day-out!” Leslie reflected.

She learned a lot about Knight Pride, the confidence Mr. Toalson has in the administrative team and the effort the school undertakes to give back to others. Other observations from her day at Southeast that left an impression included the graduation rate of 93 percent, the staff’s commitment to treating all students equally and the lack of chaos in the school.

Through all things I experienced, I was impressed with how much the school involves kids in giving back and re-enforcing respect for others.”

– LESLIE GIBBENS

On the Agenda

- Discuss challenges and successes of the school
- Attend a morning staff meeting
- Greet students
- Deliver morning message and announcements
- Take a school tour/walk-through
- Conduct a fire drill
- Read to classroom and listen to stories written by the students
- Visit ELL classes
- Visit kitchen and learn about nutrition services
- Time for lunch room duty! Eat and interact with the students
- Attend specialty classes like ACES
- Visit with other staff and facility
- Talk to a SEM — security
Last year, my family had to move out of the trailer we were living in because it wasn’t safe anymore. We lived in a hotel for a while until mom found a place, but she was struggling to make first month’s rent even though my sister also had a job and was helping out. We needed just a little bit more to finally move into our new home.

Because of you, we were able to get the rest of the money we needed so we could move to a house that was safe for me and my brother. Now I have my own bed to sleep in and even my own room to do my school work. Thank you!
To strengthen Spark Summer Camp efforts, the Foundation for LPS is an integral part of the STEM Ecosystem in Lincoln, NE. This program group works to lift up and connect Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) organizations across the community to strengthen career paths, opportunities and experience for all LPS students. The ecosystem was selected into the global community of practice committee formed in 2019 and is vigorously working on plans to connect with students to understand where they can make the largest impact.

**Next-Level Learning**

Partnering with the community to enrich student learning.

Supporting camps and clubs, academic and creative exploration, and full-service community schools. Empowering regular participation in high-quality before and after school learning, and enriching summer school programs that not only build strong school to community partnerships but increase engagement.

**OUR FOUR PILLARS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

$58,847

Provided to student competitions, project equipment, conferences and other student experiences including The Career Academy.

$78,589

Provided to help students take their learning to the next level through out-of-school activities from music to science, leadership to foreign travel.

7

Foreign study trips to France funded through the Elizabeth Grone Know-Your-Neighbor Fund.

$26,227

Provided to students to enhance skills in STEAM through Saturday Science, Spark, Lincoln STEM Ecosystem and Prairie Immersion.

**Strengthening Expertise to Strengthen Impact**

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Cory Free of Lincoln North Star High School used the Fund a Need program to upgrade the VEX Robotics technology from V4 to V5. The Lincoln North Star Robotics team had a tradition of a strong presence at the SkillsUSA and Vex Robotic Competitions but financing the technology and equipment to stay competitive was becoming difficult. Without access to new technology, ability to compete would be affected by privilege as much as talent. Since the current budget barely covered entry fees, they needed a way to get the new technology. Cory turned to the Foundation. He was elated when the need was funded, and he learned his team would be one of the first in the LPS district to possess the new technology. The outcome was incredible — students competed on a fair turf and were able to expand their expertise to a more advanced coding language, which will aid them well in their career paths after graduation.
Enabling students to explore multiple opportunities that help them realize their potential and expose them to the full range of career options is critical to long-term success. That’s why we not only fund numerous scholarships for all types of career fields, but also work closely with The Career Academy (TCA) to provide hands-on dual credit classes accessible to all students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funds disbursed for dual credit tuition assistance.</th>
<th>$345,000 Awarded in post-secondary scholarships.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dual credit students supported.</td>
<td>108 Students awarded post-secondary scholarships.</td>
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<td>Provided for tuition assistance.</td>
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_Paving Career Paths and Building Futures_

**THE CAREER ACADEMY**

“After being at TCA for over a year now, I have loved the environment, teachers, content, and trips we are able to take in the pathway that suits us best. Since being able to come to TCA, I have been able to get a jump start on my future career path and cannot wait to see what the future holds.”

– Student pursuing Criminal Justice

“I am attending the Culinary Pathway because Culinary Arts is my passion, and I hope to have a long and successful career in it. TCA is the best place for me to be to advance my skills and further help my career. Being able to spend a lot of my school week in lab, doing hands-on work is one of my favorite things about TCA. I hope to continue my education at SCC once I graduate. Thank you for helping me do that.”

– Student pursuing Culinary Arts
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