Inspiring Possibilities
Help us give new opportunities to Lincoln students.

Step-Up Survey
NATIONAL RANKING OF #7

Did you know that the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools was ranked as the seventh best K-12 educational foundation in the nation this year? Moving up from number 13 last year, the Foundation reached the Top 10 for the first time in the four-year history of the report. Nearly 200 school foundations were reviewed. Caruthers’ “Stepping Up” report looks at eight key performance categories to determine the ranking: annual revenues, revenues per student, total assets, assets per student, investment income, total program expenses, expenses per student, and human capital (volunteers).

Thank you to our generous donors and many community partners who make our Foundation — and our community — strong.


By the Numbers: Our Year in Review
In case you haven’t seen our Annual Report, here is a quick snapshot of the impact Foundation donors had on schools in 2016-17.

Distributed over
$994,000
Over
400 funds
3,431 Gifts from our generous donors

FUND A NEED

→ 121 classroom needs met
→ 44 schools served
→ $117,830 raised to support classroom needs

STRONG, STABLE FAMILIES

→ $39,286 provided for emergency needs
→ 217 families supported in times of crisis
→ 201 families helped through 2Gen Program
→ $34,502 provided for 2Gen Program

NEW LEVEL LEARNING

→ $9,742 library, books, media funds
→ $9,041 arts funds
→ $3,274 science funds

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

→ $38,027 distributed to music programs
→ $4,399 distributed to athletic funds

COLLEGE AND CAREER

105 scholarships
→ $330,778 awarded
→ 84 students
The Career Academy
→ 49 tuition reimbursements awarded
→ $11,806 distributed to scholarships
→ $137,641 distributed to TCA student experiences
Strong, Stable Families

BEHAVIOR SCHOOLS NEED YOUR HELP!

It takes a certain set of talents and skills to become a builder of ideas, businesses and communities. Gallup’s new BP 10 (Builder’s Profile) assessment helps reveal just that. If you take "Gallup’s Strengths Finder for Entrepreneurs," you will quickly understand the core foundation in Lincoln’s Future Builders Challenge.

As a society, we’ve become pretty good at identifying students with athletic, musical or academic talents at a very early age,” said Prosper Lincoln developer and FLPS Trustee co-chair, Rich Claussen. "Why don’t we do the same thing for students with ‘builder’ talents — those students who will be building the communities and businesses of the future.” Claussen came to the Foundation for LPS with this idea, and the rest is history — in the making.

"This is the part of my job that I love most,” Van says, “matching donors’ philanthropic passions to real projects. Student dress code is the first step to success for students turning around their school behavior. Dress code creates an environment where students are part of a group that works together to succeed, giving them a more even playing field. Students earn status as they make good choices, support their peers, and show sensitivity and respect. They begin to stand out based on their positive behavior, not on their attire.

Cost for the average student ranges from $15 - $40 per student, depending upon the size of the uniform. Students receive one set to wear when they arrive, and many families struggle to afford additional items.

Meeting the basic needs of behavior schools is vital to their development and success. In general, they work harder than the average student to get back on track and have the opportunity to reach graduation. Additional funding helps meet students’ basic needs and provides access to other opportunities that allow them to become contributing members of society. Schools represented are Nurnberger, Spreetail, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, Asunray, Don Pan's Flats, The Lincoln Community Foundation, Foundation for LPS as well as several individual contributors.

"Student potential is at the heart of this project and the heart of our mission,” says Wendy Van, FLPS President. “We are helping these great partners work with our schools to provide an exceptional opportunity for kids. It is a perfect use of our public school foundation. Working in partnership, and building on the unique contributions each entity brings, we can produce so much more together than we ever could as individuals — and it is apparent in the Future Builder’s Challenge.”

Those activities include an Inspiration Rally and boot camps meant to inspire and teach students to understand and use their Builder Strengths in their career development. Identified students competed in a Pitch Competition that challenged students to use business ideas to solve community issues. Winning students have the opportunity to participate in the Clifton Strengths Institute’s month-long internship over the summer.

Philanthropy fueled the project with broad community support from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Gallup, Ameritas, Spreetail, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, Asunray, Don Pan’s Flats, The Lincoln Community Foundation, Foundation for LPS, and several individual contributors.

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Beyond the Classroom

DAWES MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADS THE WAY

The first time Dawes Middle School Principal Angie Plugett heard about a possibility for the national engineering program “Project Lead The Way” to find a home at Dawes Middle School, she knew she would fight to make it happen. “Programs like these change the lives of students,” said Plugett. “Students are not only learning. Yes, you can do this; they are gaining the experience to be confident in their abilities, knowledge, and skills. They have opportunities to see how to use these skills in the real world.”

Dawes is the first middle school in Lincoln Public Schools to offer Lead The Way. The project came about because of a conversation between Foundation President Wendy Van and Dr. Ken Jones, an engineer and the donor who started Northeast High School’s Project Lead The Way program.

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None of this could happen without the donor and an idea.”

The well established CLC and extended-day program at Dawes serves around 130 students each night which made it the perfect place to house the new curriculum. CLC Director Myeshia Essex and Industrial Technology teacher Kristin Page attest that both parents and students are excited.

"They love the program,” said Essex. “Students are excited about designing, modeling, and presenting their hard work to peers and adults. Parents have been excited about the engineering opportunity for their students.

Having resources through gifts or times, “is invaluable to changing the outlook and hope for a student’s future” says Page. "I’m passionate about connecting students to the world around them through technology and giving them opportunities they might not get outside of school.”

Students love the design process and their faces light up when they see their 3-D designs on a computer modeling program turn into a physical model from the 3-D printer. Learning the math, science, and technology behind their designs is also a favorite activity.

Plugett is grateful. “There are a lot of factors involved in creating a program of this size in the schools, and the Foundation navigated all of this for us,” she said. She is positive this program will make students, schools, and the community even better.

The Criminal Justice pathway courses include Intro to Criminal Justice, Police, Courts & Judicial Systems, and Criminal Law; among other offerings. Community partners include law enforcement and corrections so that students have opportunities to experience the pathway fully.

The Automotive Tech pathway will include General Maintenance, Engines, Brakes, and Electrical systems. These advanced classes reach beyond what LPS currently offers.

The Career Academy is that it creates real opportunities to enhance students’ personal and academic success, helping them to reach their full potential.

"Our community sponsors are a big part of this educational experience,” said Hohensee, director of the academy. “Our engagement and funding assists in creating a robust learning environment,” said Hohensee. "We are very grateful to all of our sponsors and donors.” The advantage of The Career Academy is that it creates real opportunities to enhance students’ personal and academic success, helping them to reach their full potential.

"Students find their fit in the world and gain confidence that they are capable of whatever they set their minds to,” Hohensee said.

College and Career

DID YOU KNOW?

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2018 EDUCATOR AWARDS PRESENTED TO-DATE:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD NAME</th>
<th>WINNER</th>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florence J. Clark Middle School Award</td>
<td>Amanda Mueller</td>
<td>Mickle Middle School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen Krieger Outstanding Healthcare Provider Award</td>
<td>Patty Baker</td>
<td>Elliott Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Prasch Health and Physical Fitness Award</td>
<td>Denyse Hunssaker</td>
<td>Zeman Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marie Bourke Leadership Award</td>
<td>Tim Muggy</td>
<td>Roper Elementary</td>
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<td>Myrtle Clark Educator Award</td>
<td>Pat Janice</td>
<td>Lincoln High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Muehlhausen Counseling Award</td>
<td>Lucas Varley</td>
<td>Lincoln High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura 'Soul Work' Award</td>
<td>Nina Schelle</td>
<td>Elliott Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union Bank &amp; Trust Award</td>
<td>Nina Schelle</td>
<td>Lux Middle School</td>
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<td>Victor Vaughan Memorial Award</td>
<td>Rachele Brown</td>
<td>Bryan Community</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jennifer Marvin</td>
<td>Elliott Elementary</td>
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<td>Steinheider</td>
<td>Yankee Hill Program</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Thomsen</td>
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A big thank you to our board for their support and hard work helping all LPS students to reach their full potential.

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- Leslie Gibbens and Brian Hefner

Thank you to our board for their support and hard work helping all LPS students to reach their full potential.

Mark Your Calendars

Scholarships
April
- Scholarships announced at the end of April

Learn for Tomorrow A Community Discussion
April 23
- Nebraska Innovation Campus
  4 pm - 8 pm

Spark Summer Learning (K-5th grade)
May 29 - Aug 3
- Check us out at www.sparksummer.org

Give to Lincoln Day
May 31

Foundation Coffee showcasing Irving’s choral music camp
June 6
- Irving Middle School
  9 am - 10:30 am

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