

YOUR EDUCATION RESOURCE

NEWS FROM THE LAWRENCE SCHOOLS FOUNDATION & LAWRENCE EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT PARTNERS

January 2007–April 2007

**TOGETHER WE BUILD
RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES**

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

5/27	2007 GRADUATION LHS & LFSHS
8/31	COMMUNITY EDUCATION BREAKFAST
9/12	THE TASTE OF LAWRENCE, LAWRENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & LEAP

Creating an Alliance

“Maximizing resources to benefit the Lawrence public schools” is the purpose of the newly formed alliance between the Lawrence Education Achievement Partners and the Lawrence Schools Foundation. As of January 1, 2007 the alliance was made official! With a brand new logo and three new staff members (executive director, programs coordinator and administrative assistant), the new team has combined its strengths and resources to provide the most efficient and effective support to our schools. If you’ve been supporting one of these organizations, specifically, no need to worry. Each organization is going



Together we build relationships and resources

to maintain their respective identity to accomplish respectively stated missions and goals. They will also maintain separate and distinct financial records as well as operating and program budgets. The joint staff will work with the LEAP Board of Directors and the Foundation’s Board of Trustees. After comparison of the organizations’ mission statements and the noticeably similar

language, it was apparent that the two shared the same ultimate goal. New staff hosted a “meet and greet” social to give the Board of Education, the LEAP Board and the Foundation Board the opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss strategy for the new alliance. Ginger Wehner, LEAP Treasurer stated, “community relationships created by the Lawrence Schools Foundation and LEAP have proven to be beneficial for both businesses and schools, developing relationships that enrich the lives of Lawrence’s most valuable assets—it’s students.”*

The 2007 Foundation Follies

This was a record-breaking year, with nearly 500 people in attendance, 145 performers, sold-out table sponsors and most of all, a record amount of dollars raised! Among the 20 colorful acts this year were the Lunch Ladies performing “Junk Food Junkie” and Superintendent, Randy Weseman, along with the entire Board of

Education and other district staff, presenting “Randy & the Detentions.” It’s always amazing to be reminded of the outstanding talent that exists in our district. We are excited to announce that during intermission, we presented two (that’s right, two) outstanding teachers with the \$1000 Educator of the Year award! Congratu-

lations to Terri Durgan, Quail Run Elem., and George “Skip” Bennett of Southwest Junior High!





SEE CHUCK MEAD (FRONT CENTER) AT THE 2007 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

2006 TOTALS:

THE FOUNDATION

RAISED A RECORD

\$336,611 WITH

TOTAL INCOME OF

\$417,135 IN 2006!

THANK YOU TO ALL

YOUR EFFORTS AND

GENEROUS SUPPORT

THIS PAST YEAR!

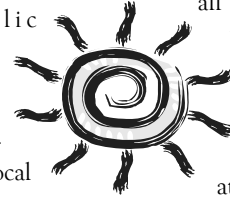


LSF BOARD PRESIDENT, PAIGE HOFER (RIGHT), ACCEPTS SUNFLOWER BROADBAND'S 2006 DONATION.

RISE & SHINE....and join us for the 2007 Community Education Breakfast, scheduled for Friday, August 31, 2007. The Foundation is hosting the 6th annual Breakfast from 7:30–9:00am at the Lawrence Holidome. Our keynote speaker for this year's event is Chuck Mead, Lawrence High School Class of 1979. Chuck is the lead singer for the Nashville, TN group BR549. BR549 has received several Grammy nominations and has toured with country western stars, Faith Hill and Tim McGraw.

Rise & Shine....

Chuck supports public education and some of his family members have even been educators in the Lawrence Public Schools. The Community Breakfast is a wonderful opportunity for local businesses and community members to celebrate and demonstrate their support for public education. We believe our students deserve to receive an excellent education in the Lawrence Public Schools, which



has been recognized by *Expansion Management* magazine as the second best overall metro school district in the nation! Contact Susan Esau, Executive Director about being an event/table sponsor at 785.330.1941 or sesau@usd497.org. Payment for sponsorships and individual reservations can be made online at the Foundation website (see back page for address). Please join us for this high-profile event! *

2007 Teacher Innovation Grants

The Lawrence Schools Foundation's Teacher Innovation Grants program provides the opportunity for an educator or a group of educators to enhance the educational experience for their students. The 2007 recipients are:

The house of Vettii Portico/Peripatetic School—LHS, \$2,000; Lawrence Landscape, moving from the Literal to Inventive—LHS, \$750; Interactive White Board—Langston Hughes, \$2,016;

netTrekker DI—Hillcrest, \$400; The EDGE Program—Giving students the edge for jobs and careers—CJHS, SJHS, WJHS, SWJHS, \$1,500; The Jewelry Shop—LHS, \$1,500; AirLiner Wireless Slates—Broken Arrow, \$2,751; Audio CD's for Integrated Studies—LHS, \$448; Teaching Strategies for Multiplication & Division—New York, \$608.30; Music Therapy: "Tuned Into Learning" - District-wide,

\$2,944.35; Link Crew A Team Mentoring Program—Free State High, \$1,000. Congratulations to our 2007 recipients!

The public recently had a chance to experience the results of a 2006 Teacher Innovation Grant. All orchestra students in the district held two concerts to perform their original piece composed with the assistance of commissioned composer, Kirt Mosier of Lee Summit.

Donor News

Sunflower Broadband's 2006 "Sunflower for Schools" promotion resulted in a gift of \$5,445 to the Foundation in January (pictured at left). They do a similar promotion in other area school districts. Our thanks to The World Company for their continued support! Sunflower Broadband is also one of our four major sponsors again this year for the Follies! *

The Foundation's Music Endowment Fund is now over \$60,000 thanks to the amazing efforts of the *Music Works!* This group held a fundraising concert featuring Free State and LHS Concerto performers in January and hosted a cappella group, *M-pact*, in February, in Lawrence. The committee will meet to make the first round of music grants this spring! *

The Ethel and Raymond Rice Foundation awarded a \$25,000 2007 grant to the Foundation for the Early Childhood program. The grant is to be used to subsidize teacher salaries at the center. The Rice Foundation has provided over \$400,000 in funding, since 1997, for this important program for at-risk four year olds.*

Meet the New Staff

Susan Esau, Executive Director for LEAP and the Lawrence Schools Foundation. Susan has been with the Lawrence Schools Foundation since November 2003. She has been a licensed attorney since 1992 with experience in corporate and administrative law. She currently lives in Lawrence and has three children who have attended the Lawrence public Schools. Susan is responsible for the oversight and development of both organizations. *

Andrea Moen, Programs Coordinator for LEAP and the Lawrence Schools Foundation. Andrea previously worked for the school district's Safe Schools/Healthy Students program. She received a bachelor's degree in communications from Missouri State University, and has lived in Lawrence for four years. Her duties will include facilitating partnerships between businesses, local organizations and the schools, and event planning. *

Donna Mannell, Administrative Assistant. Donna spent nine years working in the Topeka Public Schools and most recently worked for the U. S. Geological Survey. She will be assisting with financial and other record-keeping for both organizations, as well as other operational support.

Please direct all general LEAP and Foundation questions to Donna's direct line at 785-330-2790.



**NEW STAFF (L TO R):
MANNELL, ESAU AND MOEN**

LEAP in the Limelight

Wow! Since January 1, the office has been very busy with LEAP activities. New staff has been meeting with the LEAP Board of Directors, the Foundation Board of Trustees and the Board of Education, as well as principals and partners to discuss the newly-formed alliance. They have also met with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the collaborative Fall

Mixer – Taste of Lawrence. Other LEAP happenings: Jersey Mike's Subs donated



Lawrence Education Achievement Partners

\$1,668.14 from their grand-opening this fall; and elementary students decorated

500 holiday cards for LEAP Directors, partners, the Board of Education, district administrators and the Foundation's Trustees. LEAP also continues to recognize monthly Shining Star Award recipients (listed at right), who will all be formally recognized at the May 29 Board of Education meeting. LEAP Annual Award winners will also be announced at that time! *



School Scoops!

With more than 103 years of experience between them, three district administrators announce their retirement. Drs. Sandee Crowther, Tom Christie and Janice Nicklaus will retire at the end of the 06-07 school year. Crowther is the executive director of planning and program improvement, and has been with the district for 43 years. Her duties include K-12 counseling, American Indian

student services and elementary after-school programs. Christie is the executive director of educational programming and has worked in the Lawrence schools for 31 years. He began his career in 1974 as a math and science teacher at Deerfield School and became principal at Cordley school in 1994. Nicklaus is executive director of education programming-instruction and

has been with the district for 34 years. She joined the district in 1978 and helped start the district's first Title 1 program at New York School. She also received the Teacher of the Year Award in 1984 and the Lawrence Schools Foundation's Vicki Larson-Landman Memorial Award in 1996. We thank each of them for their support and years of dedication to the students in our schools! *

2007 SHINING STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS:

- KU CREDIT UNION/
LFSHS
- CMP MEDIA/BROKEN
ARROW
- SAUER-DANFOSS/
KENNEDY
- LAWRENCE NOON
ROTARY/CORDLEY
- ALTRUSA CLUB/NEW
YORK
- HASKELL UNIVERSITY/
SOUTH JR. HIGH
- LAWRENCE BREAKFAST
OPTIMISTS/NEW YORK
- FIRST STATE BANK/
WOODLAWN



**103 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
RETIRING. PICTURE: DRs.
NICKLAUS, CHRISTIE AND
CROWTHER (L TO R).**

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 Lawrence Education Achievement Partners
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 Lawrence, KS 66044

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 www.leapforlawrence.org
 office: 785-330-2790



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Trivial Trivia!

Q: Who was the first superintendent for the Lawrence public School district?

Do you know the answer?

Email us and prove it! If you're the first one to do so, you'll win a lovely prize from one of our gracious LEAP partners!

Send to: amoen@usd497.org

Lawrence High School, Class of 1989, **Angela Buening Filo**. A teacher, photographer, philanthropist, generous donor and inspiration to many. Raised in Lawrence, Kansas, Angela received a bachelor's degree in human biology from Stanford University and a master's degree in journalism from UC Berkeley. She has taught journalism at Eastside College Preparatory School in East Palo Alto, California, for seven years and says "Eastside is a unique private school that serves students who are under-represented in higher education." Besides teaching part time, Angela has been pursuing her own photography for the past six years. Her photographs explore Silicon Valley's ever-changing technology-based landscapes and imagery.

Amazing Alumni



ANGELA (CENTER) WITH HER STUDENTS IN NASHVILLE WHERE THEY TOOK FIRST PLACE AT A NATIONAL JOURNALISM CONVENTION (2006).

The latest phase in her photography pursuit will take her to Bangalore, India where she'll be documenting the current tech boom in that area. Her photographs can be found in the permanent collection of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art among many

other venues and publications. Angela Buening Filo is truly an amazing alumni. She credits her Lawrence education by saying "it has made everything else possible. I feel such gratitude and appreciation for the tremendous teachers I had, especially at LHS. They set such a high bar and my experience there is the foundation for my belief that our public school system is absolutely the most important resource we have as a country, and the best hope for addressing poverty and inequity in our society—sadly, though, it is also much neglected—we need the best and brightest people working together to find solutions for the many challenges of educating the next generation equitably and with the highest standards." *