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YOU!

We are sincerely grateful
to our donors, business
sponsors, and supporters
for their generosity,
engagement, and
ongoing contributions!

2019

Dean LaDue
Memorial
Scholarships

Baylee Kennedy
Ashley Reilly

2019

Nicholas DeSocio
Memorial
Scholarship

Samantha Lesch

2018-2019



**Auburn
Education Foundation**

Discover the Opportunities

Annual Report

For information about
serving on a committee,
making a donation, or our other
activities, please visit our
website at
www.auburnedfoundation.org.

★ **DON'T FORGET!**
Spring grant applications
due by Monday,
February 17, 2020

Letter from the Outgoing President

As I exit as president of the Auburn Education Foundation (AEF), I am humbled and inspired by—and most especially, grateful for—the individual and collective commitment of our board members and donors/sponsors to enriching the learning experiences of all students in the Auburn Enlarged City School District (AECSD). During my tenure, I have had the pleasure and privilege of seeing the impact of AEF’s efforts become increasingly significant in supporting creative and innovative ideas for capturing students’ attention, igniting their love of learning, and engaging them in exciting new ways. The 2018/19 year was no exception.

AEF continued and expanded upon established partnerships, and we further engaged with staff members contemplating projects, conducted encouraging outreach efforts to generate greater numbers of project grant applications, and connected one-on-one with staff and other interested constituents during fundraising activities. Such endeavors were guided by the ambitious agenda we developed last year, which included community education activities and raising awareness of AEF overall.

We accomplished these goals through print columns and television and radio appearances that highlighted AEF’s Hall of Distinction award recipients and promoted the website where nomination forms could be completed. The result was a 50% increase in the number of nominations we received!

AEF also partnered with AECSD to host a Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce Business After 5 event at Auburn Junior High School. This not only raised awareness of AEF, but also highlighted AECSD’s technology curriculum and showcased the new technology rooms.

We sustained interest and participation in—as well as the momentum of—our fundraising events, and successfully launched a new fundraising initiative: the Cavern Club Beatles concert. AEF was named the beneficiary of monies raised from this event, and board members rose to the occasion by helping obtain sponsors, promoting the concert, and working at the event.

These tireless efforts successfully raised community awareness of AEF which, in turn, afforded us more opportunities to enhance the educational experience of all public-school students. Especially noteworthy is our signature project—Innovation Labs—for which AEF provided the \$25,000 seed monies. This project alone has impacted all elementary school students by encouraging critical thinking skills, creativity, and collaboration.

Serving as president of AEF has been one of the most satisfying, fulfilling, and gratifying experiences I have had. I sincerely thank all of you for this opportunity, and I look forward to AEF’s continued positive impact on the AECSD learning environment.



Gobble ‘n Go for Education

For 4 years, Auburn Education Foundation (AEF) has partnered with the Downtown Auburn Business Improvement District and several restaurants and businesses to conduct its annual restaurant crawl fundraiser. The sale of tickets to the event support AEF’s mission to enhance learning for all students in the Auburn Enlarged City School District, while providing participants with a variety of delicious opportunities to sample tasty treats from local establishments—from burger bites to sliced apples, yummy desserts to savory soups, and even a full buffet. The October 2019 Gobble ‘n Go was AEF’s largest and most successful to date, netting proceeds of more than \$9,400.



We’re Excited About What’s Ahead for 2019/20!

We have an ambitious agenda for the 2019/20 year, and we’re excited about the possibilities that achieving each of these goals represents.

- Capitalize on the success of AEF’s first-ever Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce “Business After 5”—conducted at Auburn Junior High School—by again co-hosting with the District and BOCES in order to engage the business community.
- Continue to harness the power of newspaper columns, radio and television appearances, and mailings in order to publicize and showcase throughout the community the positive, creative, and beneficial “outside the box” teaching and learning programs supported by AEF grants.
- Identify and connect with class reunion committees to inform as many graduates as possible about AEF, its mission, and the creative enrichment opportunities it supports for students throughout the Auburn Enlarged City School District (AECSD).
- Solicit suggestions from AECSD staff and administrators for another signature project that will cultivate as equally powerful an impact on students as the highly successful Innovation Labs initiative.
- Strengthen the AEF organization by prioritizing strategies during a scheduled workshop retreat; refining and revising by-laws; and empowering the committee system of board governance.
- Encourage an increased number of grant applications by hosting question/answer sessions in each school building.

We Gratefully Acknowledge Our Partners, Sponsors & Donors!

Auburn Education Foundation relies on the success of its fundraising efforts—as well as private donations and guidance and insights from the school district—to fulfill our mission. Throughout our history, and in particular the 2018/19 year, our achievements were made possible because others supported and inspired creatively effective programs for our students.

Foundation Support

Fred L. Emerson Foundation
Stanley Metcalf Foundation
DE French Foundation
American Endowment Foundation
Columbian Foundation

Other Organizations

CIAO
Knights of Columbus
North American Young Generation in Nuclear

Business Support

1840 Dulles Inn
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Big D’s Limousine
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Langham Funeral Home, LLC
Lesch & Bechtel Family Dentistry
Post Beef and Pork
Refinery Modern Fare
RG Wright Insurance, Inc.
Savannah Bank
Soules & Dunn
SWBR
The Citizen

FAST FACT #1:
During 2018/19, the amount of donations to AEF increased by 35%.

FAST FACT #2:
Compared to the previous year, AEF retained 60 sponsors/donors, and 30 new Annual Appeal donors were added in 2018/19.



2019 Auburn Alumni Hall of Distinction Inductees

Auburn Education Foundation is committed to recognizing alumni accomplishments, and the Auburn Alumni Hall of Distinction Selection Committee accepts nominations for inductees at any time. Nominations are kept on file and reviewed each year, and inductees are selected from among all nominations received. To date, 42 Auburn Enlarged City School District graduates have been inducted into the Auburn Alumni Hall of Distinction.



Julie Jordan DiPalma
Class of 1997

*Chair, Monroe County Mental Health Association Board of Directors
Director-At-Large, New York State Trial Academy Board of Directors
Attorney in Private Practice*



John Liberatore, PhD
Class of 2003

*Assistant Professor of Composition and Theory
University of Notre Dame
MacDowell Colony NEA Fellowship Recipient*



Michael Lynch, PhD
Class of 1969

*Director, Arizona State University Mechanisms of Evolution
Elected Member, US National Academy of Sciences and American Academy of Arts and Sciences*



Brian McKeon
Class of 1981

*Senior Director, University of Pennsylvania Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement
Former Deputy National Security Adviser to Vice President Joseph Biden*



Tricia Purdy Messinger
Class of 1996

*Former National Board of Trustees Vice President of the Williams Syndrome Association
UnitedHealth Group Leader for Policy, Public Affairs, Advocacy, and Philanthropic Efforts*

Auburn Education Foundation 2018-2019 Grant Projects

Through a competitive grants process, Auburn Education Foundation (AEF) awards funding to educators who have creative project ideas that capture the attention and imagination of Auburn Enlarged City School District students, but which cannot be supported through the regular district budget. To date, AEF has funded more than 118 creative educational projects in grades K-12. During the 2018/19 school year, AEF supported several projects—examples of which are highlighted below—that enabled students to learn in unique and innovative ways.



Project Invent

The Project Invent Program provides a curriculum and opportunities for students to work with engineering professors from MIT to realize a solution to a global or local problem. Students involved in this program submitted projects to Project Invent and, if chosen, will travel to Silicon Valley to pitch their design to industry leaders.

Visiting Author Maker Faire

All Elementary Schools

Authors Miranda and Baptiste Paul—along with Cameroon farmer Tantoh Nforba, the subject of the Paul's book, *I Am Farmer*—visited each elementary school and shared how Tantoh solved water problems and developed community gardens in his country. AEF funded an evening event during which parents, students, and community members learned about the authors', illustrator's, and Tantoh's experiences. The event also featured a Maker Faire, which enabled individual and groups of students in grades 3-6 to share environmentally focused projects based on the problems they identified and solutions they developed using the design process taught in each school's Innovation Lab.

Advancing Literacy Skills with Karaoke

Genesee Elementary School

An AEF grant supported the purchase of a karaoke machine that allows Genesee Elementary School students to use music and lyrics as a means of strengthening their literacy skills. Through the motivational power of music, students have engaged in using phonics to read and identify the links among rhythm, sound, and text.

Asian Elephant Live Free Coloring Book

Herman Avenue Elementary School, Grades 5 and 6

To provide 5th and 6th grade students at Herman Avenue Elementary School with an opportunity to gain knowledge about—and strengthen their appreciation of—endangered species, a different culture, and how to be a global citizen, coloring books were given to each participating student for them to develop, illustrate, and write captions. Profits from the sales of the students' work with the innovative coloring books—which were sent electronically to the Elephant Nature Park in Thailand—support care for the animals at the park. Hardcopies were also provided to each elementary school library.

Sound Recording Technologies

Auburn Junior High School (AJHS)

This program provided students attending Auburn Junior High School interested in the technical aspects of music and visual design—such as stage lighting, acoustics, and live sound mixing—in addition to public address technologies (such as promethean board application and video projection), with opportunities to set up, facilitate, and tear down sound and audio during AJHS events. Through the AEF-supported purchase of two wireless microphones and an earset lavalier, students were hands-on in applying these technologies for assemblies, guest speaker presentations, meetings, and award ceremonies.

Essential Modular Circuits

Auburn High School

These AEF-funded kits provide students in the high school electronics and engineering classes with simple, easy-to-understand materials that increase their understanding of circuits and circuit applications in modern society, in addition to enabling them to build series and parallel circuits.

First Person View Drone Project

Auburn Junior High School (AJHS)

Students at Auburn Junior High School are now able to experience piloting drones remotely and acquire an understanding of drone technology using three first-person view drones, the purchase of which was supported by AEF. In addition to opportunities to use them in sanctioned BOCES drone competitions, the students are also able to describe, repair, and operate the technology.

“Expanding Your Horizons” Girls STEM Conference

Auburn Junior High School (AJHS)

AEF made it possible for 7th and 8th grade girls from AECSD—who would otherwise be unable to participate in a program of this nature—to attend Cornell University's one day STEM conference, which stimulates participants' interest in math and science through hands-on activities, as well as fosters awareness of math and science related careers.

FAST FACT #3:
AEF awarded \$4,500 in scholarships
during the 2018/19 school year.

FAST FACT #4:
AEF awarded 9 project grants totaling
more than \$11,725 during the 2018/19
school year.





Innovation Labs A Signature Project

A long-standing goal of Auburn Education Foundation (AEF) has been to partner with the Auburn Enlarged City School District (AECSD) to support a signature project, one that would require a significant donation from AEF and impact a significant number of students. Last year, AECSD elementary school librarians proposed creating collaborative spaces—Innovation Labs—where members of the school communities could develop hands-on learning, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills while expressing their creativity in a grade- and judgement-free zone.

The proposal specifically envisioned a space where learners of all ages and abilities could wonder, investigate, create, invent, tinker, share, dream, and grow. They would work together, help each other, and share their discoveries to form a rich learning environment. Through these practices, students would become comfortable exploring new and non-traditional venues of learning and discovering to become active producers.

AEF found this proposal to be a good fit for a signature project, since it would benefit and enhance the learning of all students in AECSD elementary schools. The skills acquired in this type of learning environment—such as critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration—are necessary for future learning and work environments.

To support the creation of Innovation Labs as a signature project, AEF granted \$25,000 to AECSD to provide each elementary school librarian with \$5,000 seed money for the purchase of materials to establish a Lab in each elementary school building. To turn their vision into reality, AECSD elementary school Library Media Specialists were tasked with creating and facilitating Innovation Lab spaces in their respective buildings throughout the 2018-2019 school year. To this end, strong and valued partnership with Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES and Renee Lawrence was established. Now, each elementary school building has a room dedicated to the Innovation Lab and students.

Since the mid-year report, Innovation Labs has entered a phase of reflection and planning for the 2019-2020 school year. Librarians and classroom teachers have reported an increase in student engagement and creativity, especially during hands-on experiences. Students have also been applying the collaborative approaches learned in the Innovation Labs to group work in their classrooms.

Today, students continue to learn about the Engineering Design Process, with a focus on collaboration, by engaging in digital and hands-on problem-solving activities. This year, critical thinking skills are also on the rise, largely due to the “First Attempt in Learning (FAIL)” model deployed in the Labs. As librarians and teachers encourage the FAIL approach, students are more willing to undertake opportunities to improve upon first drafts, as well as ask more questions to clarify their thinking.

Additionally, Library Media Specialists continue to attend professional development opportunities and subsequently report greater ease with utilizing resources in the Innovation Labs. Plans for next year include a gradual release of the Labs to classroom teachers for use with students, in addition to connecting the Engineering Design Process to the developing AECSD curriculum.

Herman Avenue Elementary School

Overall, this program enabled Herman Avenue Elementary School to continue reinforcing knowledge and skills of the Engineering Design Process throughout various activities and lessons. For example, I-Lab Stations—consisting of challenges that sometimes included “mystery challenges”—allowed students to solve problems using various materials in the I-Lab, such as Brainflakes, consumables, Legos, Keva Planks, Goobi, K’Nex, and others.

Students in grades K-2 used Beebots as an introduction to, and for the exploration of, coding and programming, while students in grades 3-6 utilized Ozobots to reinforce coding lessons. Additionally, 2nd and 4th graders created slideshows using Google Slides after conducting research using library databases.

For the 4th grade Biography Project, students used the I-Lab Brother Scan and Cut machine to cut out objects symbolizing the famous people they researched. Cut-outs from the machine were used to decorate a poster board with facts about their selected famous person.

During the April Maker Fair—which was held in conjunction with the district author visit—students utilized consumable materials from the I-Lab, such as popsicle sticks, pipe cleaners, and more, for environmental problem-solving projects. These were displayed in the library for all students to view.

Owasco Elementary School

A variety of Innovations Lab projects were undertaken at Owasco Elementary School. Students in grades K-4 used the Engineering Design Process to solve problems for characters in stories, which at times required them to use Beebots or Ozobots. In the Sewing Club, 5th and 6th graders learned to use sewing machines to make pajama pants.

Additionally, 5th graders learned to use TinkerCad to design a robot character, after which their designs were 3D printed Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES (BOCES). Students in 5th grade also explored CoSpaces in order to build virtual reality worlds; this enabled them to use programming skills to make their project interactive, then view their worlds in virtual reality (VR).

Throughout the year, 6th graders participated in code.org’s CS Discoveries course and were able to created digital portfolio websites.

Seward Elementary School

In conjunction with Clever Jack Takes the Cake, students in grades K-2 used Beebots, while 3rd through 6th graders undertook Caldecott Mystery Challenges, which enabled them to use stories and items from the Izone while working in groups to build challenges associated with a particular Caldecott story.

Additionally, students in grades K-6 rotated through various I-Zone Stations—such as Beebots, Ozobots, Legos, Keva Planks—to explore the various tools and equipment available in the innovation space.

All of the year’s activities culminated in the first-ever Seward Environmental Maker Fair, which was held in April 2019 in both the library and Innovation Zone. All classes were invited to view projects and take photos with the students.

Casey Park Elementary School

Similar to the other AESCD elementary schools, students in grades K-2 used Beebots; K-3 students worked with Bookflix—including Planting a Rainbow and It Could Still Be a Flower—after which they used BrainFlakes to create their own flowers; and students in grades 4-6 focused on Discovery Education, which enabled them to view video clips of STEM Careers and write why they were or weren’t interested in those careers.

Additionally, students in grades 3-6 were introduced to materials using the I-Lab stations, while 6th graders explored Lego Robotics with Tony Abbatiello and Renee Lawrence from BOCES.

Genesee Elementary School

The Innovation Lab introduced 6th graders to TinkerCad; students created their own accounts for exploring more on their own. The Ozobots were incorporated into the 4th Grade Traveling Teddy Project and used by students to map and follow the bear’s journey.

Using a Target Field Trip grant, 5th graders visited the BOCES Makerspace, were able to make Cricut paper cards, and created 3D printing projects using TinkerCad. They also visited Currier Plastics as follow-up to their “Tackling Plastic” project.

With help from retired teach volunteers, 4th graders met weekly on Mondays to continue the “Sew Cool” Club, while 1st and 2nd graders planted bean and sunflower seeds.

The Innovation Lab also worked with the 2nd grade ELT group to design and create battery-powered cars and, overall, incorporated Virtual Reality (VR) headsets for all students to experience the VR Google Expedition.



Auburn Education Foundation Mission

To support an enriched learning environment for Auburn Enlarged City School District students through collaborations, gifts, and grants. We value diversity; support educators who have creative and innovative ideas for capturing students' attention and igniting their imagination; and celebrate the accomplishments of students and alumni.



Community Partners

Paul DelPiano
Hall of Distinction Committee

Jennifer Forcey
Hall of Distinction Committee

Board of Directors

Our 15-member volunteer board builds Auburn Education Foundation's presence and relevance as an educational leadership organization throughout our community.

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A copy of the Auburn Education Foundation's annual financial reports may be obtained upon request by calling us at (315) 255-8827; or by contacting the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271.

A registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides significant resources to champion enrichment programs of Auburn Enlarged City School District students which elevate the educational experiences of from average to extraordinary.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019