

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

Thank you!

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



2022 - 2023

**Auburn
Education Foundation**

Discover the Opportunities

Annual Report

★
don't forget!
Fall grant applications
due by
October 15, 2023

2023

Dean LaDue
Memorial
Scholarship
Winners

Patrick Crawford
Karydence DuBray
Grace Kim
Caleb Riley
Zachary Wilczek

Letter from the PRESIDENT

AEF is proud to celebrate 20 years as a not-for-profit organization, dedicated to supporting excellence in education for students of the AECSD, through its teacher grants that promote innovative and creative projects that fall outside of the district budget.

On June 30, 2003, a steering committee comprised of Michele Sedor, Paul DelPiano, Bob Bergan, Robert Pine, Ed Galka, and John Plume gathered to create what was the birth of the Auburn Education Foundation. This initial meeting was followed by an organizational meeting held on November 10, and the filing of AEF's certificate of incorporation. In addition to the members of the steering committee, the organizational meeting included Richard Paulino, whose signature appears on the certificate of incorporation, Michael Sterns, Kevin Berry, and Leslie Leary, AEF's first Executive Director. We are ever grateful to these community members, whose vision has not only survived, but continues to thrive in spite of challenges posed by the economy, Covid, and rapid changes in instructional requirements and demands faced by teachers. In the intervening years, AEF made the change from an organization led by an executive director dealing with administrative duties, to an all-volunteer board taking on all duties.

We could not have achieved success and grown as a foundation without the commitment and the support of our community, sponsors, the AECSD administrative team, teachers and staff. We would be remiss not to extend our gratitude to the following foundations, whose support then and throughout the years has been fundamental to our birth and growth: DE French Foundation, Stanley Metcalf Foundation, NAYGN, American Endowment Fund, and the Taylor-Brown Family Foundation. We would also like to thank the DeSocio and LaDue families who put their faith and trust in the young AEF by establishing student scholarships to be administered by the Foundation.

We are grateful to the teachers who have submitted grant proposals, the students whose hard work highlight the excellent educational experiences provided by AECSD, and members of our community who have so generously given of their time to serve on our Board of Directors.

As we look towards the future, we remain steadfastly committed to our mission to support an enriched learning environment for students of the Auburn Enlarged City School District through collaboration, gifts and grants that support diversity, equality and inclusion.

On behalf of the Auburn Education Foundation Board of Directors, ex-officio members, community partners, and many volunteers who support our efforts, a heart-felt thank you!

Yours in education,

Miguelina Cuevas-Post, President
Auburn Education Foundation

What we accomplished in 2022 - 2023

- Hold an annual retreat in person to review By-laws; revisit/update AEF's Mission statement, community outreach and address strategic plan (including a succession plan).
- Continue to explore and expand funding opportunities.
- Continue to reach out to teachers to encourage submission of grants, and the district's central office administrators to identify another special signature project.
- Return to in-person Business After 5 and Gobble 'n Go events.

Looking ahead: 2023 - 2024 goals

- As a full board, expand existing fund raising opportunities and seek out new ones.
- Continue to identify ways to make AECSD staff more aware of the educator grants program.
- Encourage community involvement through community partners.
- Continue to grow the website and use of other media platforms.

By the numbers:

AEF was incorporated in 2003.

Annual Appeal contributions for fiscal year 2022-2023: \$15,445.

Additional unsolicited donations: \$10,550.

Number of donations in 2022-2023: 128.

Average donation amount: \$203.

Total contributions including foundations, pass-throughs and in-kind donations: \$64,543.

AEF funded 10 teacher Grants in 2022-2023, and awarded 2 pass-through grants.

Board of Directors

The board of Directors consists of 16 member volunteers. Through its volunteer force, and community partners, AEF implements its mission through teacher grants, administration of the LaDue and DeSoccio scholarships, Hall of Distinction to honor graduates of Auburn High School, as well as many other activities that enrich the educational opportunities of students in the AECSD.

Mickie Cuevas-Post
President

Janie Hutchinson
Immediate Past President

Bill Tenity
Vice President

Bonny Blair
Vice President

Denise Pellegrino
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Marianne O'Connor
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Andy Tehan
Kathy Rhodes

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Terry Mahoney

Jessica Wrench
Patricia Festa

Ex-Officio
Jeff Pirozzolo
Lisa Green
Ian Phillips

Community Partners
Paul DelPiano
JD Pabis
Jessica Klein

★ Thank you to AEF's outgoing board members, Tom Bachman and Cindy Murphy! Welcome to our newly elected directors, Mark DiVietro, Ben Sussman, and Allyssa DelPiano! ★

2022-2023 Grants

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 City School District students, but which cannot be supported through the regular district budget. To date, AEF has funded more than 50 creative educational projects in grades K-12. During the 2022-2023 school year, AEF supported several projects that enable students to learn in unique and innovative ways. A few of these projects are highlighted below.

Amount awarded in teacher grants in 2022 - 2023:
\$25,905.62



The Tassel is Worth the Hassle

Funding for this project was used to purchase flexible seating, sensory lighting, and calming activities to make a more welcoming space for students who need to practice mindfulness, relieve stress, and complete assignments. The goal is to provide a comfortable setting for students who need extra help/support to graduate.

Sensory Toolkits for Inclusion Classrooms

Sensory activities were purchased to create sensory "toolkits" for inclusion teachers at Genesee Elementary School. The kits were filled with items offering different colors, textures, sounds, and smells. These types of activities help to calm students allowing them to become more mindful, better behaved, and able to focus on learning.

CPR Anytime

The purchase of Adult/Child CPR and Infant CPR Anytime Mannequins allows the health department at Auburn Junior High School to teach CPR during health classes. Every student will receive training to perform hands-only CPR which will give each child the lifesaving knowledge/skill that can be used anytime and anyplace.

Auburn School District Golf Program

Golf mats simulating Par 3, Par 4, and Par 5 golf holes are used in Seward Elementary School physical education classes to expose students to golf. The curriculum includes/encourages teamwork, goal setting, honesty, and perseverance. This equipment can be shared with other physical education teachers desiring to teach this sport.

Calming Area/Sensory Hallway

Casey Park Elementary School created calming areas within classrooms for students who needed a safe and effective place within the classroom setting to regain control, reflect on behaviors, and rejoin the class. The goal is to decrease disruptive behaviors and increase student engagement. The sensory hallway is a series of pathways that students follow using different types of movement (skipping, hopping, jumping, etc.) allowing students to burn off excessive energy.

Motorcycle Fabrication

Students taking Advanced Transportation in the technology department learned about the engineering, design and fabrication techniques used in building motorcycles. Students developed higher order thinking skills to build high-performance custom motorcycle frames and expressed their creativity in designing every aspect of their mini motorcycles. Learned skills help prepare those students attending technical colleges or starting positions in industry.

The Coffee Cart

The Auburn Junior High School Coffee Cart is manned by a group of students who are cognitively disabled, other health impaired, and/or autistic who may struggle to be actively engaged in the learning process. Every week, these students discuss, list needed ingredients and then make baked goods for the Friday Coffee Cart where staff can purchase coffee and baked goods. The students also deliver to staff unable to visit during times when The Cart is open for business. This endeavor provides hands-on learning experiences, with a focus on physical, cognitive, and emotional support to develop various skills and confidence through planning, preparing, and running the Coffee Cart. The grant funded a commercial brewing system, a mixer and curriculum materials.

Let's Color Auburn's History

In collaboration with Kevin Burke of Accredited Art, a local art company, a coloring book was created that featured many of the people and sites that have played important roles in Auburn's history. Because fourth grade students learn about local history, each student was given a book and then in conjunction with the Fourth Grade Passport Program, students were able to visit several of the sites mentioned in the book.

Root Coding Robots

Root Coding Robots, an instructional technology tool with a supportive curriculum that can be leveraged for coding, were purchased for each of the five elementary schools and the junior high school. These devices involve scaffolding computer programming that can be used by our youngest learners and progressively advances with grade levels. The implementation of coding also allows students to advance their skills in communication, collaboration, and team building.

Games for AHS Library

The library at Auburn High School is a gathering place for students and is open throughout the school day. With the relaxation of Covid guidelines, the librarian introduced board games as an alternative to students interacting constantly with screens. Research shows that board games alleviate stress, reduce social anxiety, and improve interpersonal skills. A variety of board games including chess, Rummikub, Mancala, Backgammon, and Trivial Pursuit Decades, were purchased for student use in the library.

Special Projects



Kindness Project at Herman Avenue

The Cosentino family donated to Auburn Education Foundation to specifically fund this project. Carson, a fifth-grade student wanted to spread kindness with staff and students at Herman. Carson and his friends made ornaments for all to show that "You Matter!"

Auburn Junior High Musical

The Prentice American Education Foundation donated to AEF funds to help with the production of the musical, "Beauty and the Beast."

TEACHER REPORTS

"I would like to express my sincere appreciation for helping to ensure that we were able to provide **EVERY single 4th grader** a copy of the coloring book titled, Let's Color Auburn's History!! The coloring books were well received at the end of the students' Passport Program Field Trip after several stops to local historical places featured in the coloring book.

Students who are otherwise unable to go to the other locations are able to access information and images of those places. Providing an imaginative tour of locations and information otherwise not accessible. There are a substantial **number of students who benefited** from this grant".

Many thanks,
Amanda

"I first would like to thank you for helping Casey Park Elementary School put calm areas in each classroom. We have implemented the calm areas in each classroom and modeled these for all students. One of our goals was to keep the students in the classroom with a safe space to go when they are having difficulty controlling their emotions. **We have had success** so far, resulting in less calls to the office for resets. The teachers are thankful for a space within the classroom, which has resulted in less disruptive behavior. The students are **thankful** to have a safe space to go when they need a break or need a couple of minutes to refocus.

Each classroom received a calm area kit. The kit included a cushion seat and a bin full of fidgets, which the students may use to help them calm down."

Casey Park Staff and Students

"We can't thank you enough for providing us with the grant to make our Graduation Coach space more welcoming and inviting. We have had an **incredible response** from students who have come into our office. They appreciate the comfortable seating, the sensory lighting, and the coloring center. When thinking about the evaluation required to present after receiving this grant, we weren't sure how to best go about it. Although we have seen a **new excitement from students**, it is hard to express that through an evaluation.

Thank you again for providing us with the funds for these items. We, and the students, **truly appreciate it!**"

Sincerely,
Michael Losani & Melanie Maher

Gobble 'n Go

AEF was thrilled to resume their iconic fundraiser, "Gobble'n Go for Education," last October after a two year hiatus. Well over 200 attendees enjoyed strolling throughout our downtown area, stopping to "gobble" delicious food or drink specialties prepared by a dozen participating venues, and bumping into friends and neighbors for lively conversation. Another fun highlight of the day included hunting for hand-painted "Gobble Rocks" hidden at every venue. Finders of the rocks collected gift cards from participating venues, purchased by board members. Tom Ganey and Gina Gera, representing major sponsors, Savannah Bank and Wegmans, drew winners of raffles at the Knights of Columbus, where a light buffet was provided at our "last stop."



Winner of one of five \$100 gift cards donated by Wegmans, presented by Tom Ganey, President of major sponsor, Savannah Bank.

Fun Fact!

On March 25, 2023. Mickie Cuevas-Post, Guy and Crystal Cosentino, were pleasantly surprised to see former Genesee Elementary students Sam Saunders, Raymond Elliott, Sheldon Brown, Andre "A.J" Murphy, Darnell Murphy, Alauna (Smith) Coleman, Jake Jones, Walt Leonard, and Teesha Barnes, among others Auburnians in attendance at the beautiful wedding of Tyrone Saunders and Tiffany Little held in Houston. These friends and former students had one thing in common: an Auburn Enlarged City School District education. Their friendships were forged in childhood, living in the same neighborhood, and attending Genesee Elementary School, West Middle School, and Auburn High School. Mickie was Tyrone's 5th grade teacher; Guy met him through his "Readers are Leaders" project at Genesee Elementary.

The impact made in the lives of students cannot always be immediately observed, or measured. While the "Readers are Leaders" project preceded the founding of AEF, grants awarded to AECSD's teachers can have a similar lasting impact on the lives of students.

Congratulations to Tiffany and Tyrone!



Left to right: Dr. Joseph Freeman, Dr. Susan Taylor Brown, Phillip Gregory Burke, Patricia Ryder, Carmen Cosentino, Dr. Marc Brown. Missing from photo: Neil Salvage, Jr.



Class of 2023: Carmen Cosentino, Patricia Ryder, Neil Salvage, Jr., Dr. Joseph Freeman, Phillip Gregory Burke.

We Gratefully Acknowledge Our Partners, Sponsors & Donors

We are grateful to all of our sponsors, partners, funders, and in-kind donors. Auburn Education Foundation relies on the success of its fundraising efforts, private donations, and foundation support. Since 2003, your generosity has made it possible for AEF to thrive as a viable organization committed to providing creative, innovative, and enriching opportunities for students in the Auburn Enlarged City School District.

Foundation Support

Stanley Metcalf Foundation
DE French Foundation
NAYGN Foundation
Taylor-Brown Family Foundation
Prentice Charitable Fund

Business & Community Support

Wegmans
Hilton Garden Inn
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The Citizen
SWBR
Buffington & Hoatland CPAs, PLLC
Kate Vitale Design
Knights of Columbus



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Who We Are

Founded in 2003, the Auburn Education Foundation mission statement seeks to support an enriched learning environment for Auburn Enlarged City School students through collaboration, gifts, and grants. We value diversity, support educators who have creative and innovative ideas that capture students' attention and ignite their imagination; and celebrate the accomplishments of students and alumni.

A copy of AEF's latest annual financial report may be obtained from the Attorney General's Charities Bureau Website www.charities.com, or from AEF by mailing a written request to AEF at 78 Thornton Avenue, PO Box 592, Auburn, NY 13021.

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

Look for the annual Gobble 'n Go event on Saturday, October 21st, and our Hall of Distinction (HoD) on Friday, May 17, 2024!