

Governor News

A Publication of the Pierre Educational Foundation

June 2016

Evening of Excellence Planned for May 2017

The Pierre Educational Foundation Board of Directors has finalized plans to host Evening of Excellence to recognize the outstanding academic achievements in the school district. This event will recognize graduating seniors in the Pierre School District for their academic excellence. The event will also provide an opportunity to recognize an educator who has had a significant impact in the district.

Key to the Board's setting the date for the first Evening of Excellence was the early commitment of BankWest as the premiere sponsor of the event. "BankWest has a long standing commitment to supporting education in our community," said Deanne Booth, president of the Pierre Educational Foundation. "We are excited about the opportunity to have BankWest's support of this event to allow us to put together an evening to celebrate education in our community."

As part of the Evening of Excellence, the Foundation will award their academic

scholarships and announce the Foundation's spring grant winners. The evening will focus on the achievements and future plans of the top graduating seniors, with an emphasis on achievement in academics and fine arts. Participation by students, their families, teachers, school administrators, community members, business leaders, city and county leaders will affirm the importance of academic excellence in our school district.

"We have such talented students in diverse areas," according to Booth. "The opportunity to recognize this talent in a forum that will include educators, business leaders, parents, and grandparents, is so exciting for the Foundation and hopefully for the students who have worked so hard in their achievements."

The inaugural Evening of Excellence will be held on May 1, 2017, at the Ramkota Convention Center.

Pierre Educational Foundation Awards Mini-Grants

Over \$150,000 in mini-grant funding has been provided by the Foundation to support innovation in the classroom by our teachers. The most recent recipients of grants from the Foundation include:

MakerSpaces Come Create With Us! Denise Overweg and Andrew Dempewolf | Kennedy Elementary

The emphasis of this project is two-fold: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) activities, and opportunities that allow students to be creative. The dedicated space in the Media Commons (library) would provide an opportunity for students to be introduced to and participate in STEM and artistic activities that are not provided in the classroom on a regular basis.

Who Am I? Book Series Amber Stout | Jefferson Elementary

These biography books will allow students to witness learning concepts first-hand as they also learn about writing, reading, language arts,

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Our Mission

The Pierre Educational Foundation promotes the further educational development of the Pierre Public School District students, staff and graduates through the delivery of quality educational opportunities and resources.



Pierre Educational Foundation

Pierre Educational Foundation

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Pierre, SD 57501
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The Foundation was established in 1995 with a gift from the Cora London Estate. Cora London was a successful clothier business owner and operator for many years in Pierre. Her generosity will encourage additional grants, gifts and endowments for educational purposes.

The Pierre Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community based organization committed to academic excellence in the Pierre Public School District.

The activities of the foundation are directed by a Board of Trustees representing business, education and the community.

The funds of the Pierre Educational foundation are currently being managed and held by the community-based Oahe Foundation.

From the President

Deanne Booth



This is always an exciting time of year. As the school year ends, we celebrate our successes and look forward to all the opportunities ahead. For the

194 T.F. Riggs students who graduated this year, there is much to be proud of and so much to look forward to. The talents of these graduates will have an impact in many places for many years to come. The Pierre Educational Foundation is proud to have supported their education and looks forward to all they will achieve.

As the Foundation reflects on the last year, there are so many things to be excited about. Our 20th anniversary was a success in terms of financial support from alumni and opportunities to support our school district. Congratulations to the Class of 1970 for its support through the \$20 for 20 challenge. The Class of 1970 won the challenge by cumulatively donating the most to the Foundation in 2015 and wins a \$500 prize towards their next class reunion. Congratulations, also, to the teachers who received grants from the Foundation in 2015. We have surpassed more than \$150,000 in grants awarded to more than 170 innovative projects in our school district.

Like our new graduates, this year holds great opportunity for the Foundation, too. I am pleased to be part of the planning for the Foundation's first Evening of Excellence to be held in 2017. This event is a perfect way for the Foundation to support education in our community by celebrating the academic achievements of our students. We look forward to partnering with the community to highlight the incredible talents we have in our students, recognize the dedication

and hard work of our teachers, and show our support for the academic achievement that benefits us all.

Our thanks to BankWest for being an early supporter of the Evening of Excellence, in keeping with their long standing commitment to supporting education. We look forward to working with our community partners to make the evening meaningful for our education community. Mark your calendars for May 1, 2017 and look for more information as the planning takes shape.

The strength of the Foundation is our alumni and their generosity. Your financial support and volunteer time help us support our students and teachers as they do the great work they do. Your gift of money or time does not have to be large to make an impact. I hope you will consider giving to the Foundation as a way to honor your education and a way to support the new opportunities on the horizon.

In addition to your financial support, I hope you will consider serving on the Foundation's Board. We have a great group of people working to support excellence in education in our school district, but we can always use more help and more perspectives. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please let me know. This is an exciting year to be part of the Foundation as we chart our next decade of work and move forward with our Evening of Excellence.

As I said in my last column – we have much to be proud of and so much to be excited about for the future of the Foundation. Thank you for supporting the Foundation, our students and our teachers to make the Pierre School District one of the best.



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2016 Scholarships Awarded

The Pierre Educational Foundation oversees multiple scholarship funds and participates in the selection process of the recipients each year. This year, scholarships were awarded to three graduating seniors to help support their continuing education. Generous support for these scholarship funds allowed the Foundation to award over \$6,000 to these students.



Cortney Dowling
James and Gertrude Mueller Scholarship and Charles "Lindy" and Shirley Feeney Scholarship Recipient

James and Gertrude Mueller Scholarship Charles "Lindy" and Shirley Feeney Scholarship

The James and Gertrude Mueller Scholarship was established in 1997 by Mrs. Gertrude Mueller to recognize a T.F. Riggs senior who intends to enter the medical field. The scholarship committee considers the scholastic achievement, work experience, community contributions, financial need, and college plans and goals related to pursuing a medical career in selecting the recipient.

The Charles "Lindy" and Shirley Feeney Scholarship is awarded to a dedicated track athlete to assist with the costs of higher education. The recipient of the scholarship must have participated in track for at least three years, show determination, hard work and perseverance in the sport and be accepted to a college or technical school.

Cortney Dowling was awarded this year's Mueller Scholarship and the Charles "Lindy" and Shirley Feeney Scholarship. The scholarships are \$3,500 and \$1,000, respectively. Dowling graduated first in her class, was the Secretary of the National Honor Society, Captain of the Pierre Cross-Country Team, a member of the track & field team for the last 5 years, and participated in the Governor 2 Governor Program, band and tutoring. She was active in AWANA, dance, piano, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Salvation Army, Special Olympics Basketball, Lil' Gobs Track & Cross Country, and the Mexico Mission Outreach Program. She plans to attend Augustana University and major in chemistry with a focus on pre-med.



Samantha Paul
Mortenson Family Scholarship Recipient

Mortenson Family Scholarship

The Mortenson Family Scholarship is awarded to a T.F. Riggs Native American senior who demonstrates academic achievement, a financial need, and a desire to pursue a post-secondary education at a college or technical school. The scholarship awards up to \$1,600 to the recipient.

The 2016 award winner is **Samantha Paul**. Samantha's love of reading has spurred her desire to study reading education. She will be majoring in education when she attends Black Hills State University in the fall.



Mikayla Thomas
Spilde Family Scholarship Recipient

Spilde Family Scholarship

The Spilde Family Scholarship is awarded to a T.F. Riggs senior who is in need of financial assistance to further their education beyond high school. The purpose of the scholarship is to assist a student in his/her higher education costs at a South Dakota university. The scholarship award is \$1,000.

The 2016 award winner is **Mikayla Thomas**. Mikayla has learned her work ethic from her parents and admires their dedication. In addition to maintaining a part-time job during the school year, she has also worked two jobs each summer for the last few years to save for her education. She is majoring in nursing and will be attending the University of South Dakota in the fall with the goal of becoming a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

Alumni News

The Pierre Educational Foundation would like to hear about marriages, births, and remembrances of alumni who have passed away. We will also be printing information about upcoming class reunions, so please keep us informed so we can help keep your classmates informed.

Please send your news to our offices at PO Box 94 Pierre, SD 57501, or via e-mail to jennifer@pefgovs.org.

Class Reunions/Gatherings

Class of 1996 20-Year Reunion

June 25, 2016

More details on class Facebook page

Contact: TF Riggs Class of 1996

(t.f.riggs96@hotmail.com)

Class of 1986 30-Year Reunion

July 1-4, 2016

July 1 (6-11 pm) Oahe Marina Social

July 2 (9-10 am) Golf Tee Times/Evening Social

July 3 (All Day) Family and Friends Day/

Evening Social

July 4 (9 am) Ft. Pierre Parade Class Float

Contact: Robert Williams

(robertw@brozengineering.com)

Class of 1976 40-Year Reunion

June 24-25, 2016

For information contact Doug Rounds at douglasrounds@gmail.com or 605-222-6225.

Class of 1971 45-Year Reunion

September 2-3, 2016

Contact: Kathy Hartford

(kathy.h@dakotabusiness.com)

Do you need help with ideas or who to connect with for your reunion?

Contact the Foundation office at 605-224-9016 or jennifer@pefgovs.org for information about possible reunion locations, class lists and other information to help begin your reunion planning.

Pierre Educational Foundation Awards Mini-Grants

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geography, and technology. The books chosen are ones the students can relate to and with their interest they will read more.

Art Photography Fusion Kiln

Jill Kokesh | T.F. Riggs High School

This project introduces students to digital photography, editing and printing skills required for state standards in art, digital media and technology. It offers students an opportunity to explore a unique art medium not ordinarily offered in a rural school district. This project will allow students the opportunity to submit unique and original works of art in local and national competitions like the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, The Congressional Art Competition, and the SDHSAA Visual Arts Contest plus others.

Ticket to Literacy

Ashley Boone | T.F. Riggs High School

Using board games and growth mindset as a catalyst for scaffolded writing prompts will allow all students to be successful in their writing without immediately having to worry about understanding a reading assignment. Beginning with the game instructions, students will learn informational text reading strategies. As they engage in play, they will use newly acquired journaling strategies to monitor progress and reflections related to the game itself and their understanding of growth versus fixed mindset concepts.



Thanks to a grant from the Pierre Educational Foundation, five hand-held Coleman video cameras were purchased for use in Jessica Carr's 7th Grade science classroom.

The use of video cameras in the classroom allows for a wide variety of uses including enabling students to complete multimedia projects, record observations and test data over a period of time, document findings when off-site for various projects/research, and providing additional reinforcement of concepts.

\$20 FOR 20th | And the winner is ...

The Class of 1970 won the 20 for 20 challenge celebrating the Pierre Educational Foundation's 20th Anniversary, and will receive \$500 towards their next class reunion. Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS *to the* CLASS OF 2016!

The Foundation is proud of all the Class of 2016 accomplished. We look forward to what the future brings for these talented students.

eWall of Honor

Pierre Educational Foundation

The Pierre Educational Foundation eWall of Honor is an ongoing, electronic wall of honor for staff of the Pierre School District. The wall allows parents, alumni and any other individuals interested in education the ability to honor and recognize a teacher, coach, administrator or any other current or former Pierre School District staff member. By making a donation to the PEF eWall of Honor in a teacher's name, the contribution will be used to directly support educational programs within the Pierre School District.

eWall Honorees and Donors:

Teacher

Jen Allen
 Penny Andersen
 Mackenzie Blake
 Megan Deal
 Bob Gill
 Brenda Hardwick
 Paul Harens
 Denise Harford
 Esther Hoard
 Larry Johnson
 Betty Johnson
 Jill Linn
 Kimberly Livermont

Recognized by:

Kim Brakke, Wendy Smith
 Jarron Beck, Andre Carbonneau
 Kim Brakke, Wendy Smith
 Jackson Overweg
 Daniel Neugebauer
 Eleanor Overweg
 Wade Pogany
 Eleanor Overweg
 Robert Riter Jr.
 John Wellhouse
 Barb & Monte Hillestad, Sheila Ann Clark
 Andre Carbonneau
 Jackson Overweg

Teacher

E. Jay Mickelson
 Jennifer Nedrebo
 Connie Palmer
 Karen Pogany
 Wade Pogany
 Laura Snow
 Sarah Strohman
 Elizabeth Vogt
 Glenda Woodburn
 Mary Steffen
 Ashley Giese
 Michelle Merrill

Recognized by:

Matt Brakke
 Jay and Ann Schwartz
 Palmer Grandchildren
 Delores & Dwight Pogany
 Delores & Dwight Pogany
 An Anonymous Donor
 Andre Carbonneau, Jay and Ann Schwartz
 An Anonymous Donor
 Carolyn Perry
 Ann & Jay Schwartz
 Ann & Jay Schwartz
 Ann & Jay Schwartz

Pierre Educational Foundation Contact/Donation Form

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Maiden Name (if applicable) _____ Riggs Grad Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone (_____) _____

Spouse's Name _____ Riggs Grad Year _____

News or Comments: _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

This gift is in: memory of honor of _____

Designated toward: General Donation New Teacher Welcome Program

Scholarship/Enrichment Fund (please specify): _____

eWall of Honor (specify teacher): _____

Please make checks payable to Pierre Educational Foundation. Thank you!

Mail to: Pierre Educational Foundation, PO Box 94, Pierre, SD 57501



Pierre Educational Foundation

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