

Governor News

A Publication of the Pierre Educational Foundation

December 2016

Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

The Pierre Educational Foundation welcomed two new board members. Janelle Toman and Dr. Nick Marso joined the board to replace outgoing members Dr. Tad Perry and Dan Elwood.

Perry and Elwood completed their terms on June 30th. Perry served a 5-year term as the Capital University Center representative and Elwood served a 3-year term as a trustee at large. Toman replaces Perry as the Capital University Center representative and Marso serves as an at large trustee.



Janelle Toman

Toman is director of communications for the South Dakota Board of Regents. In April 2014, she also became executive director of Capital University Center, one of three off-campus higher education centers primarily serving place-bound and non-traditional students.

Janelle works with the media, state policymakers, and the public to provide information about South Dakota's system of public higher

education. Her previous professional experience includes K-12 education policy work and serving as press secretary to two South Dakota governors. Before joining the public sector, she was a reporter and editor.



Dr. Nick Marso

Marso is a 2007 graduate of T.F. Riggs High School. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota and went on to graduate from the University of Missouri-St. Louis School of Optometry in 2016.

Nick and his wife, Liz (Winter) Marso ('07) returned "home" to Pierre in 2016. Nick is an optometrist at Central Dakota Eyecare.

Liz is the Pierre School District Food Services Director.

We cannot say thank you enough to people willing to serve on our board. We are excited to have Janelle and Nick join our board and thankful for the time and dedication of Tad and Dan in serving.

Foundation Invests in Students at Georgia Morse Middle School

Thank You from Hope Armstrong, Georgia Morse Middle School

Dear Pierre Educational Foundation,

My 6th grade classes at Georgia Morse Middle School continue working on our year-long STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics) novels. Some of our objectives were to better understand and describe solar eclipses, cloning, extending human life expectancy, and natural disasters.

To help us understand these objectives, the PEF purchased for our grade level a set of four different novels, for our library, along with the audio books. These were needed to make accommodations for our Special Education students who need extra support with their learning.

Our school strives to incorporate ways to teach standards using cross-curricular

methods. So, using science-based fiction novels fit perfectly with our goal to incorporate writing and reading into all subjects. Thank you for being a partner in our very busy learning environment, here at Georgia Morse Middle School. Trust that these will be used extensively and were a sound investment in the students of our community. Thank you.



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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Board Members

Wade Pogany - President

City of Pierre Designee

Lindsey Ritter-Rapp - Vice President

At Large Trustee

John Wellhouse - Treasurer

Pierre Board of Education Designee

Gina Schuetzle - Secretary

Pierre Chamber of Commerce Designee

Dennis James - Director

Pierre Board of Education Designee

Paul Turman - Director

Pierre Board of Education Representative

Janelle Toman - Director

Capital University Center Designee

Mike Fugitt - Director

At Large Trustee

Deann Booth - Director

At Large Trustee

Nick Marso - Director

At Large Trustee

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

Wade Pogany



Maya Angelou once said, "When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed."

That could be said of most South Dakotans; we give cheerfully and we are truly blessed. If you Google "most charitable states in the US" you will find articles that list South Dakota as consistently ranking in the top 5. Giving in order to help others is what South Dakotans do; it's ingrained in us.

That is why the Pierre Educational Foundation is so grateful to the hundreds of people who hold those wonderful values and have donated to the organization, which has consistently raised funds to help the Pierre school system, over the past 20 years.

In addition to the fundraising, PEF also serves the students and teachers of the Pierre School District and we are excited about a new venture we believe will not only help increase the fund, but honor students and teachers too.

On May 1, 2017, PEF will celebrate "An Evening of Excellence." We hope this annual signature event will honor T.F. Riggs students who are at the top of their senior class and a teacher the honorees wish to thank for helping them along the way.

For many years BankWest has selected a Teacher of the Year in Pierre and now will partner with the Foundation as the major sponsor of the "An Evening of Excellence" event to honor the Educator of Excellence Award. PEF is very grateful to Charles Burke III and everyone at BankWest for helping underwrite and organize the occasion.

The event will also showcase the many scholarships PEF donors give each year and will truly be an evening of excellence!

PEF continues to honor our students with a portion of the money raised by PEF used to help them with their post-secondary dreams. PEF acts as the host organization for benefactors that want to provide scholarships for Pierre students, with almost \$8,000 in scholarships awarded last year.

PEF also utilizes dollars to fund innovative and creative projects for teachers through our mini-grant program. In the last two years this competitive grant program has donated more than \$15,000 in awards to 22 teachers throughout the district.

There are many opportunities for you to become active in helping the Pierre School District. You can encourage people at work, or classmates you connect with on social media, to check out the PEF Facebook page. You can also visit the PEF website at www.pefgovs.org and read about reunion activities or Foundation news.

Communicating with Pierre alumni and friends is an important function for the Foundation and we need your help to make sure all of your classmates are receiving our newsletter and our mailings. We continuously update our database so we can connect with current and former Pierre residents and our contact lists are helpful for contacting classmates for your reunions.

We love to share the good things happening in the Pierre School District and with PEF and we know you would like to see what's taking place so opt in to our electronic communications and make sure your e-mail address is up-to-date to

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Pierre Educational Foundation Awards Grants

You can help be part of the effort to support academic excellence by visiting the Pierre Educational Foundation's website at www.pefgovs.org or contacting the Foundation at 605-224-9016 to make a donation.

The Pierre Educational Foundation awarded six Mini-Grants this Fall. The total amount of money provided to support teacher-driven grants through this program is nearly \$155,000.

Amp Up the Engagement

Heather DeBoer | Kennedy Elementary

This project will allow music to be more accessible and versatile during physical education classes by providing an iPod that can be hooked up the sound system in the gymnasium. This will allow for more music-driven activities during the physical education classes and allow the music to be controlled remotely.

Makerspace: Building Knowledge and Creativity

Jackie Richey | Jefferson Elementary

Through the use of building materials, the students will be able to challenge themselves to work together and be able to use various materials to create new things. The teacher will be able to use student-centered teaching with this project.

Boogie Boards

Laura Weber | Jefferson Elementary

This project will provide boogie boards (digital writing boards) in the Title 1 classes. The digital boards will allow students to practice letter formation, sight words, spelling words, vocabulary and note taking for stories.

Listen & Learn Letter Sounds Activity Program

Denise Hartford | Kennedy Elementary

The Listen & Learn Sounds Activity Program will allow students to follow step-by-step audio lessons to identify beginning and ending sounds to help with teaching short and long vowel sounds. Up to 8 students will be able to use this activity at one time.

Leap Into the World of Learning Through Technology

Tami Merrill | Georgia Morse Middle School

This project will allow students to use the newest Leap Frog android to investigate our world, community and school through technology. The project will use technology to increase comprehension, knowledge, life skills, and make positive changes in school, community and family activities for students.

Governor Store

Terri Johnson | T.F. Riggs High School

This grant will fund the building materials for a Governor Store. The Governor Store will be designed and built by students in the Governor to Governor (G2G) Leadership and Mentoring Program and will sell spirit and cheer gear to promote school spirit. Once built, the store will be operated by G2G students who will learn planning, financial, and business skills through the project.

From the President

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receive the Foundation's newsletter and updates on foundation events.

It's important that we honor our students and give thanks to their teachers. Our administrators and faculty work hard to educate our children and if, in some small way, each of us can show them how much we appreciate their hard work, it's worth it.

That's who we are.

That's what we do.

Class of 1955 Awards Scholarship



The T.F. Riggs High School Class of 1955 recently gave a scholarship gift to 2016 graduate, Seth McKinley.

Seth is attending SDSU pursuing a degree in civil engineering. He is the son of Dallas and Sarah McKinley.

Pictured: Suzanne Pries, Seth McKinley and Ida Anderson



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.



Does your class have a reunion coming up? Let us know!

If you had a reunion this year, send us your pictures to share in the next newsletter.

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 with your reunion.

Pierre School District Welcomes 27 New Teachers

The Pierre School District welcomed 27 new teachers to the district this Fall. New teachers were hired for positions in all schools in the district to fill vacancies left by retirements and resignations. This large number of new teachers speaks to the challenges in retaining teachers and is the driving force behind the Foundation's efforts to raise funds to establish the New Teacher Welcome Program. Your support of this effort can help provide each new teacher with a monetary stipend to get settled in a new classroom.

You can support the New Teacher Welcome Program by designating your gift to the program.

Years of Experience Retire

As the new school year began, several familiar faces were missing from their usual place in the district. Over 275 years of experience retired from the school district at the end of the 2016 school year. Among the retirees that we thank for their service to the students of the district are:

Name	Position	School	Years of Service
Deborah Hepper	Science Teacher	Georgia Morse Middle School	31
Joan Crabtree	School Counselor	Buchanan Elementary	29
Jeff Dykstra	Science Teacher	Riggs High School	23
Bob Gill	Computer Teacher	Riggs High School	20
Betty Hanson	Kindergarten Teacher	Buchanan Elementary	25
Bridgette Magilke	Special Education Teacher	Jefferson Elementary	26
Denise Thompson	Family & Consumer Science Teacher	Riggs High School	21
Mary Titze	Special Education Teacher	Georgia Morse Middle School	18
Christie Zander	Early Kindergarten Teacher	Jefferson Elementary	31
Lori Venner	Special Education Tutor	Buchanan Elementary	28
Mark Hiatt	Custodian III	Georgia Morse Middle School	24

Thank you for your service and for the impact you made on so many lives during your time with the Pierre School District.

Scholarships & Endowments

The Pierre Educational Foundation oversees the following scholarships and endowments. Gifts can be directed to any of these funds by indicated the specific fund with your donation. Gifts to these funds are tax deductible.

- James and Gertrude Mueller Scholarship Fund
- Mortenson Family Scholarship Fund
- Peter (Norbeck) Wegner Memorial Fund
- Emde Scholarship Fund
- Brakke Family Scholarship Fund
- Charles & Shirley Feeney Scholarship Fund
- Fran Ruzick Debate Travel Fund
- Michael Isenburg Book Room Fund
- Spilde Family Scholarship Fund

Thank You

The following is a list of donors to the Pierre Educational Foundation from January - November 2016. Every effort was made to ensure accuracy of the donor list. If your name was omitted or misspelled, please accept our apologies and contact the Foundation with corrections at 605-224-9016 or via e-mail at jennifer@pefgovs.org.

Cynthia Brogren	Foundation Fund	Thomas & Florence Corcoran	Foundation Fund
Damon & Mary Milner	in honor of the class of 1969	Matt Brakke	Brakke Family Fund
Mary & David Blythe	in honor of the class of 1978	Beverly Hillmer	Foundation Fund
Randall & Dianne Ice	Foundation Fund	Kathy Tusa	in memory of Steve Tusa, Class of '51
Barry Glum	Foundation Fund	Kathy Tusa	in memory of Nita (Tusa) Robbins, Class of '49
Corrinne & David Berklund	in honor of the class of 1968	Jamie & Paula Huizenga	Foundation Fund
Tony & Sharon Wegner	in honor of the class of 1955	Mark Tieszen	in honor of Paul Harens & Terry Petersen
Gary & Donna Dettman	in honor of the class of 1973	Fred Tweet	Foundation Fund
James & Bev Wegner	in honor of the class of 1968	Robert and Carolyn Riter	in honor of Don Rogers
John & Judith Schliessmann	in honor of the class of 1959	Daniel and Janice Bergeson	in memory of Shane Cronin
Lyssa Bingman	in honor of the class of 1965	Dennis Germann	in memory of Phil Trautner
Bill Efting	in honor of the class of 1971	John and Jill Wellhouse	in memory of Colette Pugh Abbott
Kent Adney	in honor of the class of 1977	John and Jill Wellhouse	in memory of Pat Adam
Robert & Darlene Turner	in honor of Dale Thoreson	John and Jill Wellhouse	in memory of Mary (Schliessman) Turman
Jo Rawlins Gilbert	in memory of R.E. Rawlins	Jeff & Nadine Amy	Foundation Fund
Vern Brakke	Brakke Family Fund	Mary & David Gillette	in memory of John T. Murphy
Matthew Brakke	Brakke Family Fund	Edward Tegland	in memory of Georgia Morse
Curt & Kim Mortenson	Foundation Fund	Class of 1976	in honor of the Class of 1976
Wade & Karen Pogany	Foundation Fund	Jay Vogt	in honor of Elizabeth Vogt
Ann & Jay Schwartz	in honor of the class of 2016	Lori Varilek	in memory of Esther Crawford
Ann & Jay Schwartz	in honor of Mary Steffen & Ashley Giese		

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): _____

Evening of Excellence Event

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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Pierre, SD 57501

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