

The Southwestern School Foundation for Educational Excellence

Our Mission: The purpose of the Southwestern School Foundation for Educational Excellence is to maintain a vital network that supports and advances quality education in the Southwestern School system.

About Us:

The Southwestern School Foundation for Educational Excellence is proud to serve the students, employees, and families of the Southwestern School District. Since its founding in 2000 as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt, nonprofit, volunteer organization, the Foundation has provided funding for scholarships and special events for students, and has funded classroom initiatives through mini-grants to teachers.

The Foundation's scholarships and other endeavors are funded in part through memorial donations, gifts from businesses and individuals, and the ongoing support of community members who value the work being done by the Foundation. Many individuals have witnessed the success of Southwestern graduates and take pride in supporting the ongoing efforts of the district and its employees.

To donate to the Foundation, please click [here](#). (Link to Donations page)

History

In 1990, the Southwestern administrative team envisioned a Foundation to benefit the students of the Southwestern district. An administrative initiative was established and a request was submitted for a \$1,000 grant to help in the study of school foundations. Over the next 10 years, the idea of a non-profit school foundation took root and finally came into being in June, 2000. The \$1,000 study grant has grown into an organization that has produced several

hundred scholarships for students and has provided thousands of dollars in special event and mini-grant funding.

The following is the vision statement that was developed by the founders in June 2000:

- The Southwestern Foundation for Educational Excellence is proposed as a non-profit, tax exempt organization founded for the exclusive purpose of providing supplemental funding for educational projects that will encourage Southwestern Community Unit School District No. 9 students, teachers, administrators, and other members of the educational community to strive for higher levels of academic excellence. This foundation is intended to work in close harmony with the Southwestern Board of Education while remaining independent of their jurisdiction in matters relating to fund raising and the expenditure of the organization's assets.
- This Corporation, founded as an educational support foundation, shall operate as an autonomous, non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, the Foundation shall act as a channel through which tax-exempt donations may be accepted for educational projects that benefit members of the Southwestern Educational Community.
- The Foundation shall be governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who represent the community by donating their expertise in business, professional, educational, agricultural, and domestic matters in the operation of this corporation. Although the Corporation and the Southwestern Board of Education are separate and distinct entities, they shall work in close harmony with each other in a complimentary manner that provides educational benefits for the School District.

Mr. George Lahr served as the first President of the organization. Founding members included: Ken Archer, Terry Buhs, Don Burch, Dan Clasby, Webb Cunningham, Don Kruse, George Lahr, Ken Loy, Tom Ryder, Kent Scheffel, Larry Stewart, and Don Stuckey.

Scholarships

Hundreds of Southwestern graduates and their families have benefitted from scholarships provided by the Southwestern Foundation. Funding for the scholarships has come through generous donations from businesses, organizations, community members, memorial gifts, and various fundraising efforts conducted by Foundation members.

Several scholarships are funded by specific businesses, groups, or individuals. The donors' names are linked to the scholarships and recognition is provided by the Foundation. The tax deductible donations are having a major impact on Southwestern graduates.

Many families have recognized loved ones through memorial scholarships. Memorial donations can provide the funding for a scholarship in a family member's name, with the gifts helping to strengthen the future for next generation recipients.

To establish a scholarship or donate to the Foundation, please click [here](#). (Link to Donations page)

The following Southwestern graduates have received Foundation scholarships:

2021

Evan Archer, Megan Bailey, Sydney Baumgartner, Mackenzie Behrends, Alena Beilsmith, Zoe Bohn, Josie Bouillon, Myah Brantley, Mallory Carter, Brodie Edwards, Anna Gallaher, Chloe Hanslow, Addis Moore, Megan Nolte, Caleb Ready, Molly Reed, Logan Rodgers, Brianna Roloff, Brady Salzman, Emily Smith, Ashtin Sorgea, Justine Wigger

2020

Logan Anderson, Megan Bachman, Raigen Baker, Kaitlyn Beilsmith, Alec Bowman, Emma Brandon, Mackenzie Conlee, Averii Corby, Taylor Denbow, Morgan Douglas, Jarrett Dresch, Gabrielle Emmons, Bethany French, Ben Gallaher, Russell Goss, Andrea Gwillim, Olivia Harper, Molly Hasquin, Nathaniel Holloway, Payne Hubbs, Anna Kahl, Elizabeth Lewis, Caroline Morgan, Bailee Nixon, Ryan Nixon, Shelby Oertel, Sarah Rutledge, Kyler Seyfried, Emily Simpson, Trinity Swift, Matilynn Thornsby, Layla Ward, Rachel Watson, Ashleigh Watts, Mayci Wilderman

2019

Ryleigh Baker, Cecilia Ballard, Brienne Bland, Kaylee Bock, Caden Bohn, Alec Bowman, Abbey Burns, Emily Burns, Gabrielle Cranmer, Reece Davis, Jared Dunnagan, Kendra Elliott, McKinzee Fisher, Janel Gaither, Jami Gwillim, Alexis Hall, Ryne Hanslow, Natalie Kahl, Carter Moore, Brianna Murphy, Katey Norris, Molly Novack, Tyson Oertel, Karlee Paslay, Emmaly Ragsdale, MacKenzie Randolph, Samantha Raymer, Shelby Ritchey, Stephen Connor Schobernd, Peyton Smith, Zoe Swift, Luke Tutterow, Madelyn Vaughan, Morgan Vaughan, Tanner Werts, Alyson Walter, Madelyn Walter, Bailey Weible, Hannah Woods

2018

Justin Bailey, Andrew Ballard, Carrigan Barnhart, Jaycie Beard, Leanne Bockstruck, Grace Burns, Jonathon French, Myra Harbison, Caden Heyen, Morgan Laramée, Benjamin Lewis, Andrew

Miller, Zacari Miller, Sarah Richey, Ashlyn Ringhausen, Caleb Robinson, Madison Scates, Grant Seniker, Brock Seymour, Jacob Simmons, Harley Sims, Sydney Sinks, Courtney Stahling, Lana Kay Tutterow, Tanner Whipps, Isabelle Wolff

2017

Collin Baumgartner, Kimberly Behrends, Taylor Bozarth, Nicholas Breitweiser, Grace Burns, Samantha Burns, Kassidy Cottingham, Grant Francis, Benjamin Gallaher, Emma Greenwell, Bayli Ironwing, Amber Moore, Jenna Moore, Nicholas Ringhausen, Whitney Runyon, Shelby Salzman, Adlai Schetter, Baylee Scott, Austin Selvog, Bailee Stahl, Ashley Stone, Abigail Stormer, Alexis Tucker, Aaron Tutterow, Jonathan Tutterow, Alexandra Vaughan, Avalon Wasson, Diana Watson, Alexander Watts, William Werner, Abigael Westerman, Ezekiel Wilfong, Ethan Wilson, Emily Wolff

2016

Graham Bachman, Malea Bailey, Nathan Beilsmith, Jacob Bowman, Grace Bregenzer, Savannah Brinkman, Cheyenne Brown, Samantha Brown, Cody Catlett, Ashley Egelhoff, Samantha French, Madison Greeling, Karlie Green, Emily Hays, Hunter Kahl, Scott Kasting, Kaeden Kessinger, Erin Laubscher, Evan Lowis, John Mann, Abby Mueller, Brandon Murphy, Reid Nixon, Taylor Nixon, Samara Parker, Ryan Pasley, Jacob Ritzhaupt, Zachary Seymour, Cheyenne Slack, Paige Stahling, Bradley Spurling, Grace Starett, Ryleigh Tulgetske, Collin Walter, Mackenzie Wolff, Juliet Wooldridge

2015

Rachel Baldwin, Nicholas Ballard, Elyzabeth Colburn, Alyssa Cox, Keely Egelhoff, Andrew Fry, Briana Gillespie, Hannah Greeling, Payton Heyen, Darby Jones, Emily Jones, Ryan Laramie, Blake Lawson, Grace Luly, Aileen Manns, Leah McGaughey, Chelsey Milligan, Cade Muenstermann, Brandon Murphy, Joshua Norris, Meghan Peuterbaugh, Meghan Pomeroy, Hannah Price, Ashlyn Ringhausen, Connor Robinson, Aubrey Thornsbery, Elisa Trombetta, Bo Watson, Daniel Watson, Troy Wild, Ashlee Wittman

2014

Bailey Allen, Sarann Boker, Emily Bowman, Morgan Chandler, Morgan Crane, Amber Freeman, Lora Kay Fritsch, Ethan Gallaher, Ryan Goeken, Leighton Grothaus, Emily Harbison, Randilynn Hopkins, Lauren Jenkins, Marissa Jones, Joshua Jordan, Alysa Kaiser, Ashley Kraushaar, Jonathan Loy, Samuel Loy, Rachel Meisner, Maksym Merzlyakov, Casey Moore, Corey Moore, Hanna Moore, John Paul Mueller, Caleb Norris, Austin O'Heron, Hannah Paige, Mackenzie Rose, Brendan Schiller, Alyson Siglock, Garrett Simpson, Sondra Thurm, Veronica Trevino, Destiney Vonderheidt, Bridget Watson, Keri Watts, Daniel Woodman, Katie Wooldridge

2013

Emily Bachman, Katie Baker, Sarah Bennett, Christopher Catlett, Joshua Foiles, Victoria Garland, Danielle Gillespie, Dalton Greenwalt, Adrienne Grothaus, Bailey Hallows, Larissa Hudson, Erin Huff, Kairegan Johnson, Amber Kasting, Daniel Kasting, Alyssa Kroeschel, Libby Linhares, Demi Lewis, Rachel Luly, Abby McNear, Jonathan Montgomery, Caleb Muenstermann, Nicholas Parrino, Jessica Pugsley, Phillip Ready, August Schetter, Jacob Segrest, Nicholas Simmons, Tarah Wallace, Hunter Watson, Emily Wilson, Alicia Woodman

2012

Hope Birch, Miranda Bohn, Jacob Clendenen, Brooke Cloninger, Brittany Cox, Daisy Gibbons, Haley Goodpasture, Maleah Grothaus, Maleah Grothaus, Ashley Gwillim, Sumer Harpole, Ryan Kasting, Erica Lenhardt, Kayla Meisner, Madlyn Novack, Elizabeth Rodney, Shelby Sawyer, Emily Short, Samantha Simmons, Maegan Vinson, Caitlyn Watson, Alexis Weaver, Elizabeth Wild

2011

Tess Betts, Kristen Bowman, Stacy Edelen, Loran Greenwalt, Brianna Harbison, Allison Hartzell, Devyn Kahl, Diane Lahey, Evan Laughlin, Danielle McNear, Jacob Meisner, Sarah Moore, Evan Moran, Brad Pence, Samuel Porter, Alex Reed, Amanda Roberts, Alexandria Schafer, Bailey Shaw, Ricardo Sosa, Samantha Kay Wallace, Adam Watts

2010

Megan Armentrout, Anna Cadmus, Jennifer Carter, Katy Clendenen, Samantha Davis, Melanie Escalante, Michelle Farmer, Joseph Huebener, Conner Kessinger, Christina Lahey, Ciara Laubscher, Samantha Lucker, Elizabeth McAfee, Rudolph Porter, Miranda Price, Seth Rich, Jacob Schuenke, Ellie Thomas, Rheanna Vonnahmen, Shelby Watson, Nathan Wegener

2009

Christina Bennett, Rachel Cadmus, Justin Emmons, Alexandra Halliday, Shauni Hernandez, Gracie Johnson, Nathan Kallal, Evan Keil, Chelsea Kroeschel, Kady Kroeschel, Katlyn Long, Daniel Powell, Tyler Prough, Kristen Reno, Jessica Rothe, Sydney Skaggs, Katelyn Trombetta, Adam Wallace, Chelsea Waters, Benjamin Wegener

2008

Rose Betts, Alexandra Cope, Brady Darr, Shayelle Dominguez, James Eyers, James Greer, Taylor Healey, Travis Healey, Kevin Kwas, Miles Linhares, Nathan Lively, Zachary Lucker, Hillary Mansfield, Laura McGaughey, Emily Moore, Alyssa Watts, Kyle Wood

2007

Caleb Bennett, Dorothy Cambron, Katelyn Christopher, Bryan Decker, Leah Gwillim, Daniel Hagen, Ashley Harlan, Dace Hartman, Mary K. Huebener, Blake McAfee, Natalie Pacini, Tara Puskar, Jacob Springman, Sarah Trombetta, Michael Watson, Danielle Wooley

2006

Katie Coles, Brett Decker, Kelly Kalist, Amanda Kallal, Robert Kwas, Derek Kuhnline, Katie Lahr, Stephanie Lewis, Kendra Loy, Lindsay McGaughey, Megan Mueller, Robert Musgrave, Katie Prough, Keith Rands, Christine Scott

2005

Lindsey Aholt, Jamie Beilsmith, Naomi Gwillim, Ashley Hanold, Michelle Matsche, Josh McDale, Lindsay Middleton, Nathan Miler, Ramona Puskar, Hannah Rothe, Chelsey Stamps, Dori Strader, Cassie Westfall, Jeremy Williams, Eric Zurheide

2004

Andrea Cairns, Rusty Clevenger, Ann Douglas, Brian Lewis, David Long, Laura McAfee, Jessica Nagy, Jana Rathgeb, Kristin Reinhardt, Amber Robins, Kimberly Schweiker, Andrea Smith, Kyle Vonnahmen, Diedra Weaver, Michael Wense

2003

Aaron Bowman, Jennifer Burns, Jess Chism, Chris Clasby, Holly Clifft, Megan Farmer, Mary Harris, Stefanie Jackson, Amy LeMarr, Eric McAfee, Letoyia Mathis, Erica Milner, Meghan O'Brien, Andrew Prough, Jennifer Wilson

2002

Lindsey Bauser, Eric Bowker, Jessica Hoth, Justin Huebener, Carrie Roberts

2001

Justin Archer, Rika Hopper, Katherine Rathgeb, Eric Wagener

Mini-Grants

Students in the Southwestern district are the major beneficiaries of the Foundation's mini-grant program. The grants provide funding for special projects and activities that teachers develop for their students.

Mini-grant recipients include:

2020-2021

Christy Whipps and Blake Dempsey

2019-2020

D. Gaffney, K. Reed, A. Moore, K. Gottschall, C. Sackman, T. Norris, J. Borkowski, L. Wray, S. Robinson, A. Albanese, 1st Grade teachers, 11th & 12th STEM students, Music Appreciation Class

2018-19

A. Albanese, L. Wray, K. Reed. The Foundation also sponsored a school assembly with David Flood-Top Youth Speakers.

2017-2018

Jill Albertine, Jamie Droege, Debbie Gaffney, Amy Hartman, Tiffany Hanslow, Jessie Joaquin, Kelly Kleinschmidt, Mickie Kroeschel, Karen Lowis, Deonia Mathis, Patti Price; Camille Rinacke, Brooke Scott, Michelle Walden

2016-2017

Marvin Allen, Joe Behl, Jennifer Borkowski, Jill Carroll, Jason Darr, Jamie Droege, Debbie Gaffney, Kierd Gottschell, Tiffany Hanslow, Amy Hartman, Matt Hasquin, Roger Henry, Mickie Kroeschel, Karen Lowis, Patti Price, Brooke Scott, Alexandria Weinberg

2015-2016

Marvin Allen, Joe Behl, Jennifer Borkowski, Katrina Cottingham, Jason Darr, Michelle Ernst, Tiffany Hanslow, Jessie Joaquin, Mickie Kroeschel, , Peg Mitchell, Patti Price, Camille Rinacke, Brooke Seymour, Christy Seymour

2014-2015

Jill Carroll, Jason Darr, Jamie Droege, Michelle Ernst, Tiffany Hanslow, Amy Hartman, Jessie Joaquin, Laura Laird, Connie Sackman, Betty Schiller, Brooke Seymour, Amy Tonsor

2013-2014

Jamie Bechtold, Joe Behl, Joe Buttitta, Jill Carroll, Sara Hanebutt, Amy Hartman, Rodney Knittel, Mickie Kroeschel, Patti Price, Lisa Reno, Patty Ringhausen, Connie Sackman, Janet Saxton, Lori Schultz, Brooke Seymour, Kelly Tucker, Christie Whipps

2012-2013

Joe Buttitta, Debbie Gaffney, Betty Schiller, Teresa Dankenbring, Sara Hanebutt, Joe Buttitta, Stormy Camerer, Jill Carroll, Debbie Gaffney, Amy Hartman, Mickie Kroeschel, Laura Laird, Deonia Mathis, Christy Spencer Mull, C. Redford, Brooke Seymour, Sue Sullivan

2011-2012

Jill Albertine, Joe Behl, Joe Buttitta, Jill Carroll, Blake Dempsey, Debbie Gaffney, Tiffany Hanslow, Amy Hartman, Scott Hopkins, Rodney Knittel, Christy Spencer Mull, Louise Oleson, Patti Price, Patty Ringhausen, Tammy Rosentreter, Brooke Seymour, Tracy Zerwas

2010-2011

Debbie Ballard, Joe Buttitta, Stormy Camerer, Jill Carroll, Jamie Droege, Debbie Gaffney, Pat Hagen, Sara Hanebutt, Tiffany Hanslow, Mickie Kroeschel, Patty Ringhausen, Janet Saxton, Brooke Seymour, Mike Varner

2009-2010

Joe Buttitta, Mary Cambron, Jill Carrol, Julie Duggan, Tiffany Hanslow, Mickie Kroeschel, Karen Lowis, Lisa Reno, Susan Ruyle, Jamie Scott

2008-2009

Joe Buttitta, Jill Carroll, Michelle Cox, Debbie Gaffney, Sara Hanebutt, Tiffany Hanslow, Pat Jedlicka, Pat Johnson, Karen Lowis, Lori Schultz, Jamie Scott

2007-2008

Jill Carroll, Pat Johnson, Treena Lemons, Mariah Meisenheimer, Lori Schultz, Christy Spencer Mull, Tanith Smith

2006-2007

Jennifer Borkowski, Deb Elliot, Debbie Gaffney, Jill Hunt, Mickie Kroeschel, Mary Sue Norman, Erin McAfee, Christy Spencer Mull, Camille Rinacke, Lori Schultz, Jamie Scott

2005-2006

Teresa Dankenbring, Diane Davis, Michelle Ernst, Tiffany Hanslow, Pat Johnson, Karen Lewis, Christy Spencer Mull, Mary Sue Norman, Kim Reed, Janet Saxton

2004-2005

Jan Gremaud, Tiffany Hanslow, Treena Lemons, Gina Schwegel, Teresa Shank

2003-2004

Katrina Cottingham, Pat Johnson, Caroline Kelly, Rusty Lucy, Connie Mank, Chris Stamps

2002-2003

Mary Cambron, Pat Hagen, Sara Hanebutt, Tiffany Hanslow, Diane Milner, Marsha Morgan, Christy Spencer Mull, Camille Rinacke, Lori Schultz, Tanith Smith, Jamie Spencer, Ronda Woolridge

2001-2002

Janice Burns, Kelly Goetten, Tiffany Hanslow, Connie Mank, Sara Roth, Christy Spencer Mull, Jamie Spencer, Bill Wren

Donations

The Southwestern School Foundation for Educational Excellence works diligently to promote student and classroom success in the Southwestern district. The Foundation is achieving its goal by providing new educational opportunities and scholarships. Approximately \$500,000 has been donated toward classroom projects and scholarships since the Foundation's inception in 2000 as a non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. The Foundation encourages higher levels of academic excellence within the Southwestern district, while remaining independent in matters related to Foundation fund-raising and expenditures.

Funding for the Foundation's work has come primarily through its events, memorial donations, and payroll deduction contributions from district employees. Gifts are tax deductible, and a representative would be pleased to talk with you or your tax advisor about a donation or making the Southwestern Foundation a part of your estate planning.

Donating to the Southwestern Foundation

Gifts to the Foundation take many forms. Representatives of the organization can assist you or your representative in developing a plan that works for you.

- Individual Donations: Scholarships, projects, or programs can be funded through one-time gifts or ongoing donations. The Foundation has worked with donors on all types of gifts and offers the flexibility to give in a format that meets your goals.
- Matching Gifts: If you're involved with a company or organization that has a matching gift program, the Foundation can provide the documentation and assistance to procure the donation. A matching gift produces major benefits for students.
- Memorials: The Southwestern Foundation is the recipient of many memorials. The Foundation works with funeral directors and individuals in establishing memorials, and ensures the desired recognition for the person being remembered.
- Legacy Gifts: Current and future Southwestern students will benefit through estate gifts or endowments. The Foundation and its tax and legal representatives will work with you to assist in planning a substantial donation. The coordination between your advisors and the Foundation representatives enables you to receive the necessary benefits while offering long-term opportunities to students.

The Impact of Your Gift

Donors to the Southwestern Foundation see the benefits of their gifts on an annual basis. Scholarship recipients, teachers and mini-grant projects, and special programs funded through the Foundation are highlighted at the organization's events. The events recognize the people and activities that make Southwestern special.

- Scholarships: Funding for scholarships can be based on the donor's wishes. Grade point averages, careers or occupations, specific college or universities, specific academic programs, or other criteria can be used in establishing scholarships. Donors have the opportunity to select the eligibility requirements and the number of years the scholarship will be offered. Scholarships can be funded for one year, or an endowment or reoccurring gift can fund a scholarship on a long-term basis.
- Mini-grants: Southwestern students of all ages have experienced the benefits of mini-grants. Teachers apply for the grants to fund special projects. The result is new educational opportunities that are created through Foundation funding. Mini-grants can be funded in the same manner as scholarships with the donor determining the parameters and length of the funding.
- Special Programs: These programs are usually offered to an entire school or specific grade levels. The programs are unique educational experiences and are the type of events students remember. The scholarship and mini-grant funding flexibility also exists for special program donations.

Stewardship of Your Donation

The Southwestern Foundation values our supporters and works diligently to care for their gifts. Funds are invested in guaranteed income accounts to help gifts grow while also protecting their value. The balance of each memorial, major gift, and legacy fund donation is monitored and balances can be provided on an annual basis.

Completing Your Donation

Individuals interested in contributing to the Southwestern Foundation, or including the Foundation in their estate planning, should contact any Foundation board member or the Southwestern Superintendent's office. Students are the benefactors when you make a gift to the Southwestern Foundation.

A donation form can be downloaded [here](#). Please check the 501(c)(3) box on the donation form if you would like to receive documentation on the Foundation's non-profit registration.

(donation form)

The Southwestern School Foundation for Educational Excellence...helping our students succeed.

Attached is my tax deductible contribution to the Southwestern Foundation.

Please contact me regarding estate planning or establishing a scholarship.

I would like to have the Southwestern Foundation designated as a memorial.

Please send me 501(c)(3) tax information on the Foundation.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Southwestern School Foundation for Educational Excellence
201 E. City Limits Rd.
Brighton, IL 62012

SMILE.AMAZON.COM PROGRAM

The Southwestern Foundation for Educational Excellence is now enrolled as a nonprofit organization on Amazon.com. Each time you have an eligible purchase, Amazon will donate 0.5% to the Foundation. To be able to do this, you need to log on to smile.amazon.com and choose Southwestern Foundation for

*Educational Excellence as your nonprofit organization and each time you log on, you will need to log on to smile.amazon.com, instead of amazon.com.
Thank you for your support!!*

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