

Impact Update – Winter 2016



The Decatur Public Schools Foundation connects private funding to community classrooms. Together, individuals and businesses ensure that District 61 students are inspired by meaningful enrichment opportunities. We strive to provide teachers with additional resources to pursue innovative ideas.

Because supporters believe in its importance, **creative programming continues to expand** despite gaps in state funding for education. Our town is committed to our kids. Over the past three years, the Foundation has directed more than **\$1.2 million** to grants, special projects and engaging activities at every grade level. Trustees shape these efforts in alignment with the Decatur Public Schools strategic direction.

Every day, students in our buildings explore career possibilities and envision a bright future. Some recent examples of how include:

- Hundreds of unique **teacher-designed projects** and classroom awards
- 69 **Earth Day** activities (sponsored by ADM)
- The **Kids + Books = Success** free book distribution program
- The continuation of traditions like 3rd Grade visits to the **James Millikin Homestead**
- Expeditions to the **Lincoln Presidential Museum, Capitol** and **Chicago Field Museum**
- Student development at the **National Youth Leadership Forum** (Chicago) and **Congress of Future Medical Leaders** (Washington, D.C.)
- Promotion of the visual and performing arts, such as **Oklahoma!** at Eisenhower High School and the **DPS Instrument Library** (in cooperation with the Symphony Orchestra Guild)
- Large-scale programs such as **Decatur Science Investigations** and **Operation Calculus**
- **First Lego League**
- Construction of the **DPS Technology Education Center**
- Significant ongoing support for project-based learning at **Dennis Lab School** (\$173,414)
- The selection of high school faculty members to attend the **National Science Teachers Association** conference (support provided by the Eline Svendsen Memorial Fund)

*A healthy economy drives a community's success. Education is the engine.
Our partners invest in young people to help shape tomorrow.*

Contact **Zach Shields** (zshields@dps61.org or 217/362-3042) with questions regarding the Foundation

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