

## Board of Trustees

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## Note from the Director

The 2013-2014 school calendar marked a time of growth and change at the Foundation. For 17 years our organization has promoted transformative programming in Decatur's classrooms. Remarkable generosity from our supporters translated to a record year both in terms of dollars contributed to District 61 and the number of special initiatives we funded. This level of commitment from our community has allowed us to widen the scope of projects we underwrite. For many years, our focus has largely been confined to teacher grants and occasional larger ventures. We believe that teachers are the lifeblood of the public schools and will continue to invest heavily in their creative endeavors. Uncertainties in state and federal funding, however, have amplified the importance of broad Foundation involvement in activities previously provided by general district operating funds. Budget constraints mean that without the Decatur Public Schools Foundation, **there would be no field trips**. Without our local partners there would be no **Kids + Books = Success** distribution program. Without YOU, the new **Technology Education Center** would not exist. Our Trustees and I want you to know how important you are to engaging students so that they strive to reach their highest potential. We hope you enjoy reviewing this summary of activities made possible by friends and corporate donors during the past academic year.

**The Decatur Public Schools Foundation combines diverse revenue streams to support students and teachers. Funding from the 2013-2014 cycle came from:**

- *Corporate Partners (12%)*
- *Individual (undesignated) donors (7%)*
- *Alumni Projects / Special Events / Grant Administration (10%)*
- *Donor-Designated Program Support (49%)*
- *Investments and Interest (22%)*



Warmest regards,



Zach Shields  
Executive Director  
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## New Trustees

The DPS Foundation owes its existence to the foresight of our original stakeholders in 1997. They recognized that public schools across the country were facing financial challenges that would only grow more daunting. They established the Foundation and defined its mission to organize private resources in support of District 61. As a result of their discernment, our city schools remains ahead of the curve, with a local Foundation investment of **\$62 per student** (versus a ten-year national average of approximately \$22 per pupil, according to consolidated data tracked by groups such as the National School Foundation Association and the American Schools Foundation Alliance).

Reviewing the list of past Trustees reveals why our organization has been so successful. The roster includes individuals who are fully devoted to this community and who remain active participants in charting its future. We're proud to count each of them as friends and continual advisors.

This spring we said goodbye to three Trustees whose terms came to a close, welcoming four first-year members to the board alongside new **Superintendent of Schools Lisa Taylor**. We are pleased to announce that **Michael Allen** (Supply Chain Manager – Caterpillar), **Judge Tom Little**, City Manager **Ryan McCrady** and **Dr. Todd Werpy** (Senior VP of Research and Development – ADM) will help guide the Foundation forward in its mission. For their years of devoted service we remain grateful to outgoing Chair **Wendy Morthland** (Legal Counsel, City of Decatur), **Tom Binder** (James R. Randall Research Center – ADM) and **Val Talley** (now Chief of Police in Maywood, IL).



## Instrument Fund

Foundation donors frequently contribute to bolster both the visual and performing arts. A multi-year collaboration with the **Symphony Orchestra Guild of Decatur** has created a lending library of 249 instruments available to disadvantaged students who might otherwise be unable to participate in band or orchestra. Individual community donors provided 34 new or well-kept instruments during our spring drive, as well as **more than \$15,000** for repairs, purchases, lessons and college scholarships.

## Alumni Walk Installation

On the heels of last year's successful Eisenhower High School campaign, a mirror project at MacArthur has enjoyed a similarly enthusiastic response. The two Alumni Walks incorporate **422 individually-inscribed brick** pavers and combined to raise more than \$69,000 to support Foundation efforts. Purchasers honored family members, friends, graduating classes, sports teams, teachers and other connections to their high-school days. Bricks are still available in all three sizes (4" x 8" – 8" x 8" – 12" x 12") and can be purchased for both schools by visiting our website and clicking the appropriate link: [www.dps61.org/foundation](http://www.dps61.org/foundation). Bricks will be etched and installed each time we reach 25 new orders.

The Eisenhower Alumni Walk Dedication took place on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The MacArthur Walk will be dedicated either this autumn or in spring 2015, depending upon construction progress.



## Memorial Donations

In Memory of Marilyn Long

Karen Wade

Cindy and Tim Baker

Gloria Martin

Linda and Richard Thomas

Cornelia Newston

Ruth Cortright

Ellen Crump

Rise' Davis

V. Christine Oyer

Carol and Larry Reed

Jean Gift

Carol and Clarence Josefson

In Memory of Metta Quinlan

(retired teacher at Enterprise)

Karen Stebleski

Kim and Timothy Unger

In Memory of Judy Weidlich

Albert Weidlich

In Memory of Dorothy Boyer

James N. Christman

In Memory of G. William Madden

Peggy (Margaret) Madden

In Honor of Janet Palmer

Miley Palmer

In Memory of Jerry Greive

Joy Greive

In Memory of Roy Schilling

Betty Query Smith

In Honor of Bob Jones

John and Jan Baird

In Honor of Blanch B. Dobbins

Milton Dobbins

In Honor of Paul Shields

Vi Shields

In Memory of Martin Getty

Ken Arndt

Ms. Lorraine Getty

William and Nanette Krueger

Jacqueline and Stephen Goetter

Melinda Harrington

Sharon Ray

Betty Hill

Sandy Munson

Rita Wall

Marcia Uchtorff

Judy Warrick

## Your Dollars at Work

Contributors to the Decatur Public Schools Foundation provided **\$546,149.26** directly to teachers and new projects during the 2013-2014 academic year. These gifts provided classroom grants, special programming and creative initiatives that span all schools and grade levels. Our Trustees and staff work with administrators to identify specific areas of need that cannot be met within the general District operating budget. This year these included:

- **119 separate classroom grants** and special programs
- **30 individual Earth Day projects** sponsored by ADM
- Awards for **Exceptional Seniors, Outstanding Alumni** and an **Educator of the Year**
- Nearly **\$20,000** in scholarships and more than **\$70,000 to support Dennis Lab School**
- **16 additional endeavors** including *Operation Calculus* and the first-ever DPS Film Festival
- Construction of the **DPS Technology Education Center**

This level of impact reflects your willingness to invest in students. Visit [www.dps61.org/foundation](http://www.dps61.org/foundation) for more.



101 W. Cerro Gordo St.  
Decatur, IL 62523

 presents:

# OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS 2014

To be announced at:

*Celebrate! The Legacy  
of Learning*

November 15, 2014

Millikin University  
5:30 PM Reception  
7 PM Dinner

2013 Recipients:

Alumna Of  
the year  
**Donna  
Thompson**  
(Decatur High  
School 1975)



Alumnus Of  
the year  
**Robert Cleave**  
(MacArthur High  
School 1981)

