

NAPSF

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATIONS

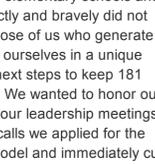
NAPSF News

April 2020

Hello Nebraska K-12 School Foundation Friends!

NAPSF Member Spotlight: Omaha Public Schools Foundation

Toba Cohen-Dunning



Dear Nebraska Association of Public School Foundation (NAPSF) Friends - When I started to think about the impact of Covid 19 on our industry at the beginning of March, I'm certain there would have been no possible way to predict what was to come. At the Omaha Public Schools Foundation, we operate the parent-pay before and after school childcare program in 42 elementary schools and seven parent-pay early childhood classrooms. When our Districts correctly and bravely did not return students to the buildings in March to protect everyone's health, those of us who generate "revenue" from the parent-pay program in the Omaha metro area found ourselves in a unique position. It set into motion a wave of concern about what would be the next steps to keep 181 part-time qualified childcare employees and 21 full-time staff on payroll. We wanted to honor our commitment to pay staff just as Districts have done the same. Through our leadership meetings, finance committee calls and emergency board strategic planning zoom calls we applied for the CARES Act SBA Loan and started down a path to revise our business model and immediately cut budgets.

We are doing this at a time when we are also focusing on serving our students in need in a variety of ways. 23,000 meals are being disbursed a week from Nutrition Services at various schools throughout our District. Families who have never needed assistance from the Food Bank for the Heartland, or rent/utilities/cable help in order to stay in their homes, are searching for relief. Now our communities are faced with the slow process of returning to workplaces, shopping in person, getting haircuts, congregating in the parks - with the expected concern that it is possibly too soon.

But what about the parents/guardians who could not stay home in the first place? Our first responders, health care providers, meat packing employees, grocery store employees or restaurant staff who are trying to keep their businesses alive through "take out" continue to make sacrifices each and every day.

The one thing I can attest to is that parents have never admired teachers MORE than they do now after home schooling their children for the last several weeks. And, those are the parents who can do it, so many either don't have the capability or the technology.

Our colleagues across the country are facing the same struggles as we are having here in Nebraska. The new underlying question is...will students return to the buildings in August? Will all of our students then have the same equitable access to technology and internet? In our District - these are pending questions and our Superintendent is tirelessly working to ensure that e-Learning is in place if a second or third wave of Covid hits our area. It's far too early to predict. All we can do is try to ensure that we are taking the appropriate precautions and following the recommendations of the CDC to protect ourselves and our families. AND - make sure we have a plan in place for the fall and beyond.

So, as we prepare for the school year to come to its natural conclusion and as our students finish two and half months of likely their first real experience of e-Learning, we must remember that we are all in this together. Lean on the NAPSF, the National Schools Foundation, colleagues in our field, colleagues in the District and partners in your community. And most of all - here's to the Class of 2020! May they find great success down their future paths and remember the impact of their education (and their K-12 Education Foundation) somewhere along the way.

Warm regards,

Toba Cohen-Dunning
Executive Director, Omaha Public Schools Foundation
President, National Schools Foundation Association

NAPSF Regional Meetings

Grand Island Regional Meeting Feedback

Members of Foundations in Region 4 (Central Nebraska) met for a zoom reception on Friday, April 17. Among topics discussed were COVID-19 response, software platforms, and fundraising messaging in these new times. Representatives from Kearney, Grand Island and Aurora attended. As always, the discussion was both therapeutic and enlightening. We look forward to a time when we can meet in person again.



July Regional Meeting - Region 5

Date: To be shared when available

Where: Zoom Meeting - Link will be shared when available



No Pause On Scholarships!

Friends I know many of you offer college scholarships to graduating seniors in your district. If you are like the Grand Island Public Schools Foundation, you were right in the middle of your scholarship process when school was moved to an online environment.

In our case, luckily, the students had finished their applications and the review was already complete. We had to fumble through the allocation process via zoom and figure out how to offer and award scholarships electronically. Although challenging, it was achievable.

The next step is to celebrate. In a typical year, we host several scholarship receptions where donors and students can meet and visit. These are always joyous days that really fill the bucket for donors, students and families. In most cases this year, we had to cancel these receptions.

There was however, one exception. At the Grand Island Public Schools Foundation we offer every student who graduates Summa Cum Laude or Magna Cum Laude a scholarship of at least \$500. These scholarships are awarded at an Academic Honors Night complete with a dessert reception and students addressing the audience regarding their future plans. This reception and presentation seemed non-negotiable. We couldn't take that away from the Class of 2020. So...we put our heads together.

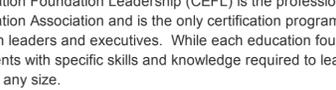
Last night, April 30, we hosted a Facebook Live Academic Honors Night. It was complete with the Star Spangled Banner, speeches, and a narrated slide show about each of our 65 honor graduates. But, that is not all! During the afternoon of April 30, a small army of Foundation Board Members, Staff, and High School Counselors delivered packages of goodies to each honor student's doorstep. The package included cake from our wonderful local Grand Island business The Chocolate Bar, a t-shirt, the program for the evening, and the student's scholarship award packet.

There were many smiles...on student faces and most definitely on the faces of our volunteer delivery squad. We have linked up the Facebook Live event to our website. You can watch the ceremony below.



As I told the students, this virus has hit the pause button on their life, but we were not going to hit the pause button on scholarships. Congrats to the Class of 2020! We celebrate them and we know they will be the most resilient and best yet!

Traci Skalberg
Executive Director, Grand Island Public Schools Foundation



Leadership for America's Education Foundations
schoolfoundations.org

Certificate in Education Foundation Leadership, CEFL

The Certificate in Education Foundation Leadership (CEFL) is the professional standard of the National School Foundation Association and is the only certification program designed exclusively for education foundation leaders and executives. While each education foundation is unique, this program provides students with specific skills and knowledge required to lead and manage an education foundation of any size.

The National School Foundation Association connects, informs and motivates education foundation leaders through the CEFL program as well as offers other education programs designed to help leaders manage and lead organizations for greater success.

You can sign up now to complete this course. Find out more information by clicking the button below. You can view the [CEFL Program Flyer](#) here.



NAPSF Membership Benefits

NAPSF Website

Don't forget to log into the NAPSF website and submit your school foundation success story. You can submit stories [here](#).

NSFA Membership

All members of NAPSF enjoy a NSFA membership. This includes free NSFA Webinars and discounts for NSFA conferences.



NAPSF Members

We are currently 30 members strong at the Nebraska Association of Public School Foundations. A list of our membership is below.

- Anselmo-Merna Schools Foundation
- Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools Foundation
- Aurora Public Schools Foundation
- Beatrice Educational Foundation
- Bellevue Public Schools Foundation
- Bennington Public Schools Foundation
- Cardinal Education Foundation (South Sioux City)
- Central High School Foundation (Omaha)
- Columbus Public Schools Foundation, Inc.
- Cozad Public Schools Foundation
- Creek Valley School Educational Foundation
- DC West Schools Foundation
- Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation
- Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools
- Gering Public Schools Foundation
- Grand Island Public Schools Foundation
- Hastings Public Schools Foundation
- Kearney Public Schools Foundation
- Millard Schools Education Foundation, Inc.
- Norfolk Public Schools Foundation
- Northwest Education Foundation
- Ogallala Public Schools Foundation
- Omaha Public Schools Foundation
- Papillion La Vista Schools Foundation
- Ralston Community Schools Foundation
- School District 145 Foundation for Education (Waverly/Eagle)
- Scottsbluff Schools Foundation
- Wayne Community Schools Foundation
- Westside Community Schools Foundation, Inc.
- York Public School Foundation

Haven't Become a NAPSF Member Yet?

The Nebraska Association of Public School Foundations is a state affiliate of the National School Foundation Association. This means that as a member of the Nebraska Association of Public School Foundations, you will get the discounted conference rate and all other full benefits of membership to the national organization as well as Nebraska. You pay one rate to Nebraska and get two memberships Statewide and National! What a deal!

[Learn more about NAPSF membership benefits](#)

NAPSF Event Calendar

Upcoming Meetings

NAPSF Board Meeting

When: Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 10:00am - 2:00 pm
Location: Zoom Meeting - Link to be shared when available

NAPSF Regional Meeting

When: July - Details to be shared when available
Location: Zoom Meeting - Link to be shared when available

Upcoming NSFA Webinars

Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 1:00 PM - Employee Giving From Start to Success
Trust. It is vital to so many of our relationships, and the one between a district's staff and their foundation is no different. In this webinar, we will discuss a few key tasks to accomplish on the road to building a strong rapport with your staff. Showing your staff that you are adding value on a regular basis of course meets your mission, but it also can lead to some real fundraising wins. The staff in Putnam City rank collectively in our top five donors! We'll learn how to execute a robust employee giving program step-by-step, and witness how investing in the staff-foundation relationship leads to big successes for students.

[Register Here](#)



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