



NAPSF

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATIONS

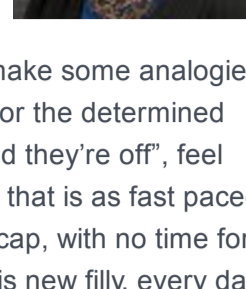
NAPSF News

April 2019

Hello Nebraska K-12 School Foundation Friends!

NAPSF Member Spotlight: Northwest Educational Foundation

Gian Baxter-Collins



"And they're off!"

In the spirit of our local horseracing season here in Grand Island, I'd like to make some analogies to directing a school foundation. Hearing the bell ring when the gates open for the determined and steadfast creatures to soar forward, and the race caller announcing, "And they're off", feel very familiar to what has recently become my everyday life. It's a superfecta that is as fast paced as a Derby, has a back stretch that is finely detailed, sometimes with a handicap, with no time for a scratch or objection, and always with a goal to win. But from the post for this new filly, every day is a new adventure in the learning curve of becoming a yearling, and then growing to become a respected mare by producing wins for my Foundation.

My name is Gian Baxter-Collins and I am the new Executive Director for the Northwest Educational Foundation in Grand Island. In my previous life I taught elementary school in San Diego, spent several years in the Insurance Industry, and then I spent over 20 years in the Pharmaceutical Industry talking to Medical Providers. There are some similarities in these industries that all come down to choices; choices based on needs, the cost of those choices, the privacy of those the choices are being made for, and the choice to match my product/service with the needs/cost/future of the client. Sound familiar?

Not only am I fortunate enough to be the new Director for the Northwest Educational Foundation, but I am the Foundation's first Director. The learning curve and adjustments have been exciting for me, and for the Foundation Board Members as well. There are many changes that occur when a Foundation brings on its first Director; a shift in responsibilities, and even priorities, that may take awhile to sort out in order to find what works best for YOUR Foundation. Every Foundation will be different to some degree, but we all share many of the same challenges and triumphs.

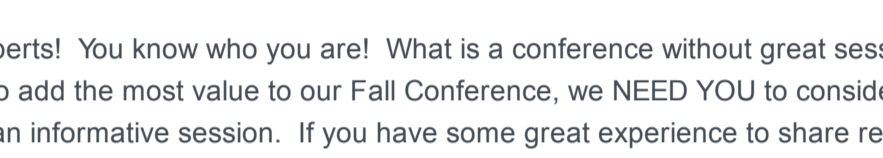
Here at Northwest, there were several things that we needed to address "right out of the gate", so to speak, that would help me to be successful as the first Director. We needed to purchase accounting software that fit our needs (which is a HUGE undertaking due to the plethora of options). We needed to come to an agreement on what our new administrative fees were going to be and how to handle implementing them. There was also a need to streamline and update processes that have been in place since the Foundation was created 26 years ago. We also prioritized finding ways to help the Foundation Board to become more engaged and involved.

I can now confidently say that to have success as an Education Foundation Director, it is critical to have support from your Foundation Board, the School Board, School Administration and District Staff. I am fortunate that I have had an outpouring of support since the first day I stepped into my office (another consideration that should be thought through when bringing on a Director). There are often "tools" that need to be purchased to assist the Director in being successful: accounting software, a service like Grant Station, maybe a donor tracking software, marketing materials to use when meeting with hopeful Donors, and the list goes on.

With all of that said, one of the most important support systems that I have is my peer Foundation Directors. I'm always relieved to find that no question is a dumb question and thrilled with how supportive and quick to respond my fellow Directors always are. My advice to any Education Foundation thinking about hiring a Director? Reach out to other Directors for guidance and assistance. They are your most valuable resource!

Though this is my maiden run, I now know that some days are a furlong and others are a marathon. Some days an Education Foundation Director may feel like they want to spit the bit, but we know the next day we will be determined to hop up in the saddle, put our feet in the irons, and focus on a good workout. In the end when we do this we will have success. Ultimately, we can all say the odds are it's a good bet we will run a fast track down the stretch to WIN for our Foundations!

•SAVE THE DATE•



2019 Statewide Conference

Thursday, September 26, 2019

7:00 am - 5:00 pm
Don Clifton Professional Learning Center
710 Hill Street • Lincoln, NE 68502

Request for Proposals

Calling all experts! You know who you are! What is a conference without great sessions? In order for us to add the most value to our Fall Conference, we NEED YOU to consider submitting a proposal for an informative session. If you have some great experience to share regarding any of the following topics, please submit your conference session proposal by **June 30, 2019**.

Suggested Session Topics:

- Engaging Alumni
- Board Development, Governance, and Best Practice
- Public, Private Partnerships and Foundation District Relationships
- Minding the Financials of the Foundation
- Capital Campaigns
- Sponsorships, Naming Rights and Ethics
- Time to hire a Foundation Director?
- Policies, procedures and legal questions for School Foundations
- Special Events
- Scholarship and Grant Administration
- Your topic?

[Forum Proposal](#)

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

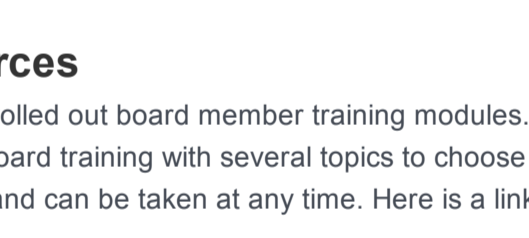
We can't have a great conference without you! If you would like more information on the opportunities available to sponsor the Nebraska Association of Public School Foundations Statewide Conference, please click below. There are opportunities at all levels to show your love for investing in Nebraska's students.

[Sponsorship](#)

Numbers, Numbers, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our numbers for this year are incomplete. We have created a form to collect numbers from our members and non-members and ask you to click on the link and fill out this form. It is an important part of our testimony to be able to share these numbers and collectively raise the bar and resources for both our Nebraska Association of Public School Foundations and for our own foundations on the local level. **Please help us by filling out the form below.**

[Click Here](#)



NSFA New Resources

Don't forget, the NSFA has rolled out board member training modules. These modules are a reasonable way to access board training with several topics to choose from. Each module is a 30-60 minute micro-credential and can be taken at any time. Here is a link to the [board training](#).

NSFA Webinars

All Nebraska Association of Public School Foundation members are also members of the National School Foundation Association. This means that you have access to several free webinars each year. The NSFA is building the schedule for next year and would like to know what topics are of interest to you. Please reach out to me at lskalberg@gjips.org or Robin Callahan at robin@schoolfoundations.org if you have ideas on this.

NAPSF Membership Benefits

NAPSF Website

Don't forget to log into the NAPSF website and submit your school foundation success stories. We have posted some stories from Lincoln, Columbus, Omaha, and Norfolk to name a few. You can submit stories [here](#).

NAPSF Members

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

- Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools Foundation
- Beatrice Educational Foundation
- Bellevue Public Schools Foundation
- Bennington Public Schools Foundation
- Cardinal Education Foundation (South Sioux City)
- Central High School (Omaha)
- Columbus Public Schools Foundation
- Cozad Public Schools Foundation
- Creek Valley School Educational Foundation
- Crete Public Schools
- 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 Educational Foundation, Inc.
- Oakland-Craig Public Schools Foundation
- Ogallala Public Schools Foundation
- Omaha Public Schools Foundation
- Papillion La Vista Schools Foundation
- Ponca Community Educational Foundation
- Ralston Community Schools Foundation
- School District 145 Foundation for Education (Waverly/Eagle)
- Wausa Public Schools Foundation
- Wayne Community Schools Foundation
- Westside Community Schools Foundation, Inc.
- York Public Schools 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 NSFA Webinars

All NAPSF Members are also members with full benefits of the National School Foundation Association, the oldest and largest K-12 full benefit organization in the U.S. NSFA webinars are free for NAPSF members.

Here is what's coming up:

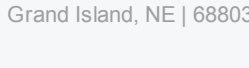
Reaching Beyond the Get: Smart Stewardship that Builds Relationships
Tuesday, May 21, 12:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

NSFA Webinars will be listed on the [NAPSF Event Calendar](#).



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