



DISTRICT 128

FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING

Libertyville High School - Vernon Hills High School

# Foundation Footnotes

[www.d128foundation.org](http://www.d128foundation.org)

Spring 2010

## Foundation Celebrates 2009-10 Innovation Grant Winners



District 128 Foundation for Learning Trustees gather with grant recipients at the Innovation Grants Presentation held Nov. 25, 2009, at the District 128 Administration Center. Pictured are: **Doug Schmidt, Dennis Manzardo, Jason Heath, Judy Nuernberger, Tiffany Heinlein, Meredith Tarczynski, Jodi Cusick-Acosta, Rebeca Garcia, Andrea Townsend, Bryan Wilcox, Sherri Rukes, Wendy Meister-Louria, Jeff Marnoch, David Widzisz, Judy Sugarman, Mike Starovich, Anne Landgraf, Prentiss Lea and Bill Skeens.** Read more about the exciting programs that will be funded by these grants on page 2. (photo by S. Cloud)

## VHHS Career Expo Sponsored by Foundation for Learning



VHHS students ask questions of career representatives at the October Career Expo. (photo by M. Todoric)

On Oct. 28, 2009, the Vernon Hills High School Field House transformed into a "trade show" atmosphere to host a career expo. VHHS students had the opportunity to talk with representatives from many different companies, entrepreneurs, non-profits and post-high school training schools, colleges or the military. The business community was most generous donating their time to have engaging career conversations with our students. The Expo was sponsored by the Foundation, through funds generously donated by Ace Hardware Libertyville.

Thank you to the following companies who participated: Abbott, Ace Hardware, Adriana Rosado & Bonewitz, Inc., Advocate Condell Medical Center, All Smiles Cosmetic & General Dentistry, American Cancer Society, American Hotel Register, American Medical Association, Ameriprise, AthleticCo, Barbizon, Benchmark, Aspen and Associates, Ltd., Bowman, Barrett & Associates Inc., CARSTAR Mundelein, Chicagoland Laborers Training & Apprenticeship Fund, College of Lake County, Community Chiropractic Care, Countryside Fire Protection District, Debra Kraft-Ramsey, Dr. Edna Martin, *cont. on p. 3*

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## Foundation Funded Projects in 2009-10

The District 128 Foundation for Learning is proud to announce the recipients of its 2009-10 Innovation Grants. The grants are awarded to teachers whose proposed projects actively engage students and impact student learning. Each grant is awarded a maximum of \$1,000. Foundation trustees awarded a total of \$7,750 in grants to recipients at a luncheon held November 25, 2009 at the District 128 Administration Center.

To date, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$20,000 in Innovation Grants to Libertyville and Vernon Hills High School teachers.

Foundation Chair **Anne Landgraf** noted, "It is through the generous donations of both the school community and the community at large that we are able to distribute these funds." Information about contributing to the Foundation can be found on the website, [www.d128foundation.org](http://www.d128foundation.org).

The following eight programs and projects will be funded through the newly awarded grants:

### **Latino Leadership Team**

Working with counselors from OMNI Youth Services, a full-day leadership team building event will be held to develop a Latino Leadership Committee. The training will include low and high ropes courses. Topics featured include working with others, reaching out to the community, finding commonalities among one another, and what it takes to be a good leader. The group will then work together to provide translation services at evening programs and events for parents.

\$1000 awarded to **Tiffany Heinlein, Jodi Cusick-Acosta, Rebeca Garcia** --VHHS

### **Social Thinking Curriculum**

Addressing the needs of students with social-cognitive deficits, this program will be introduced at both schools. The speech-language pathologist for the District will work with the Special Services social workers at the buildings to run groups that will teach this curriculum to the students. The grant

money will be used to purchase materials (books, posters, DVDs) for both schools.

\$1000 awarded to **Andrea Townsend** -- LHS/VHHS

### **Culture, Identity, and Knowledge: Ernesto Mejia Student Lunch & Learn and Latino Parent/Student Evening Program**

This program will cover issues of identity and culture and how they impact our lives. The student portion of this program will be open to all students. The primary audience is ELL students, students of immigrant parents, and/or students who are immigrants themselves. The keynote speaker will be **Ernesto Mejia**. Group discussion and activities will follow. An evening program for students and their families, delivered in Spanish, will discuss issues such as family and the importance of education. \$1000 awarded to **Wendy Meister-Louria, Tiffany Heinlein**--VHHS

### **Orchestra Collaborative Composition Project**

Orchestra students will work with a professional composer in multiple sessions during a classroom module on musical composition. The composer will write a piece for the orchestra, involving students in the step-by-step writing processes he uses. He will also listen to, evaluate, and offer guidance for group compositions created by the students. Groups will do creative video recordings of their compositions for CatTube and perform them live at a public concert.

\$1000 awarded to **Jason Heath** -- LHS

### **Good Eats: The Chemistry of Food**

Food chemistry is the study of chemical processes and interactions of all biological and non-biological components of foods. Students will be able to explore, learn and understand the chemistry behind preparing food through various lab activities and demonstrations. By adding food chemistry to topics already covered, the course content will be enhanced and students will be given additional examples of how chemistry is connected to so many aspects of life. The grant money will be used to purchase

equipment and food items necessary to provide the instruction.

\$1000 awarded to **Sherri Rukes** -- LHS

### **Introduction to Material Science Unit**

One of the fastest growing college majors, Material Science, encompasses metals, ceramics, polymers and composites. The project will allow the students to examine, test and understand the various types of materials and learn how chemistry relates to other subjects and jobs. Some of the topics will be additions to the existing curriculum. A separate two week unit will be developed to study some of the materials that have important uses in society but do not fit easily into the current curriculum. The grant money will be used to purchase equipment and materials to provide the instruction. \$1000 awarded to **Sherri Rukes** -- LHS

### **Illuminate in the Classroom: Using Synchronous and Asynchronous Virtual Meeting Space as Supplementary Education**

Using the software product Illuminate, students can log on as an entire class to a virtual classroom from their home computer in order to receive supplemental education, from review sessions led by the teacher to presentations given by the students themselves. Sessions are conducted in real time online, and then recorded so that students who might miss the session can recall the session at their leisure. Funding would provide licensing for one year in one classroom. This can be considered a pilot program for this type of teaching.

\$1000 awarded to **Meredith Tarczynski, David Widzisz** -- LHS

### **Safe Navigation: G.P.S. Units (Go Places Safely)**

The Driver Education Staff would like to utilize portable GPS units to enhance instruction. Students will be taught how to use the technology safely and how to utilize features that can help in case of emergencies. The units will also enhance classroom projects related to trip planning and map reading skills. The grant money will be used to purchase three Garmin Nuvi 1250 units.

\$750 awarded to **Bryan Wilcox** -- LHS

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## Abbott Employer Matching Fund Program Benefits Foundation

As part of the Abbott Fund Matching Grant Plan, the District 128 Foundation for Learning Endowment Fund received \$25,000. This was made possible through a generous contribution to the Foundation Endowment Fund by **John and Anne Landgraf**.

Is your employer a matching company? For a list of some area employers who offer matching programs, visit the Foundation for Learning website at [d128foundation.org](http://d128foundation.org) and click on "donors" link.

## District 128 Foundation for Learning Board of Trustees

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## Our Mission

To enhance and enrich the instructional program in Community High School District 128.

## Innovation Grant Funds "Moliere Than Thou" Project for French Students



The Foundation-funded project, "Moliere than Thou," was presented to District 128 French III Honors, French IV Honors and AP French V students on Nov. 6, 2009. The project gave French students an introduction to the seventeenth century French playwright, Moliere, and an overview of his work. Classes studied excerpts of his work and watched a French film called Moliere prior to the show. **Timothy Mooney**, pictured above with students, performed in the one-man show that used parts of thirteen of Moliere's plays to teach students about the playwright and his time. The project was relevant to the curriculum by supporting the educational goal of literacy, but also has cross-curricular appeal as students learned about history, theater, theater techniques, acting and literature.

(photo by S. Cloud)

## Career Expo *cont. from p. 1*

Edward Jones Investments, Endless Possibilities, First American Bank, Flashpoint Academy, FOCUS Products Group LLC, Geotome, Great Lakes Naval, Gross & Travis, Ltd., Harper College, Healthy Life Strategies, Inc., Heartfelt Charity Cards, Illinois Court Reporters Association, Improv Playhouse, IMRadio, INT Design, James Martin Associates, Inc., Joint Apprenticeship & Training Fund #93, Lake County Coroner's Office, Lake County Forest Preserves, Lewis University, Libertyville Dental Associates, Michael J. Singer & Co., More Thank Scores and Tests, Ltd., NAVFAC Midwest, Numerical Precision Inc., Plato's Closet, Proforma Trader Graphix, Robert Morris University, Rust-Oleum Corporation, Ryan Shultz, STR Partners LLC, Studio West, Timeless Creations, Inc., United States Army, United States Marines, Universal Technical Institute, VCA Hawthorn Animal Hospital, Vernon Hills Bank and Trust, Vernon Hills High School, Vernon Hills Police Department, VH20, Walgreens Co., and Window Designs by Diane.

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## 2009-10 Donors

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who contributed to the District 128 Foundation for Learning during its second year.

### Board Members

Anne Landgraf, Prentiss Lea, Scott Luce, Dennis Manzardo, Sr., Jeff Marnoch, Judy Nuernberger, Dr. Buzz Perry, Doug Schmidt, Bill Skeens, Mike Starovich, Judy Sugarman

### Corporate Gift Matching Donors

Abbott Fund Matching Grant \$25,000  
Cardinal Health Matching Fund \$1,000

### Senior Level Donors (\$2,500+)

John and Anne Landgraf

### Junior Level Donors (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Ace Hardware Libertyville  
The Kraemer Family  
Scott and Kaarn Luce  
Jeff and Heidi Marnoch  
Doug and Jodi Schmidt  
Bill and Sue Ellen Skeens  
Star Auto Authority  
Judy Sugarman

### Sophomore Level Donors (\$500-\$999)

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Al Fleming and Angela Latham  
Prentiss and Phyllis Lea  
Mary and Dennis Manzardo  
Dr. Buzz Perry  
Roger and Linda Sisterman

### Freshman Level Donors (\$100-\$499)

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James Wachenheim  
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Dr. and Mrs. James Whittington  
Joe and Sandy Wilson  
Jim Wirtanen

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## Foundation Provides Extraordinary Opportunities for D128 Students

The District 128 Foundation for Learning provides resources for innovative and creative instructional ideas that enrich the experiences and programs for students in Community High School District 128.

### When and how did the Foundation start?

The Foundation was founded in 2007 as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, autonomous, tax-exempt organization. It is led by a group of dedicated local community leaders in business and education who want to make LHS and VHHS the best they can be. The seed money for the Foundation was donated by the trustees.

### Why Do We Do This?

- ♦We believe in our students, teachers and our community.
  - ♦We believe in life-long learning.
  - ♦We want to provide the BEST quality education.
  - ♦We want to encourage creativity and excellence.
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