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SUPPORT OUR MISSION – SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS!

The mission of the Wilson Education Foundation (WEF) is “to support Wilson excellence,” which we do every day by executing the vision, stated as, “to engage parents, alumni and businesses to invest in the greater Wilson community to further differentiate a Wilson education and to enhance students’ opportunities.”

Thank you to the Wilson School District Administration, the WEF board, our volunteers and generous community support for making 2014-2015 another very successful school year. Since its inception in 2007, WEF has raised over \$900,000 non-tax support to assist the needs of Wilson students, teachers and community. This funding absolutely differentiates the educational opportunities that our students receive from Wilson schools!

In 2014, we raised \$75,000 from the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, along with \$127,000+ contributed through our various WEF-sponsored events and donations. In turn, \$200,000+ were distributed to the Wilson School District including \$35,000 to Fast ForWord, \$25,000 to the HS STEM Academy and \$40,000 to support the continued implementation of the 1:1 Technology Initiative.

An additional \$21,000 in scholarships were distributed to Wilson High School students through WEF. This summer a new academic summer camp program was launched by WEF, which hosted 11 elementary level camps serving 132 students.

Our goal for WEF’s future is to make an even larger impact on Wilson students’ success. Benchmarks for successful foundations are stated as the dollars-per-student-raised, not including EITC dollars. We have set a \$20 per student per year target, which equals \$120,000 per year. Accomplishing this goal will put WEF on the very top list of education foundations in Pennsylvania, which we think is appropriate given Wilson School District’s elite status overall in the state.

We look forward to your continued investment “to support Wilson excellence!”

Sincerely,

Stephen Fritz, WEF Board President

WILSON IRON CHEF COMPETITION & BENEFIT AUCTION KEEPS COOKING!

Wilson Education Foundation has created this exciting, family-friendly event as its signature fundraiser. This is truly a community-wide event that incorporates Wilson students, parents, faculty, staff, residents and the business community. Attendees sample a variety of tasty treats from 30+ food vendors and also get to sample competing dishes prepared by local restaurants for the People’s Choice Competition. The main event is an intense timed cooking competition between three local chefs. Throughout the event attendees enjoy performances by Wilson students and participate in auctions and raffles. This past year’s event was a huge success with a sold-out crowd and more than 1,000 people in attendance. Please save the date for Sunday, April 10, 2016, at 1pm for the next Wilson Iron Chef! There are opportunities for area restaurants and food vendors to participate as well as sponsorship opportunities. For more information, please contact WEF Executive Director Kristin Kramer at 610.670.0180, x1111 or krakri@wilsons.org.



WEF launched a new Academic Summer Camp Program.



During Wilson’s Iron Chef event, students demonstrated their use of technology in the classroom. WEF contributed \$40,000 through fundraising efforts to support the District’s continued implementation of the 1:1 technology program.



Iron Chef 2015 Champion Jason Hook and Sous Chef Tim Twiford plate their winning dish.

WILSON EDUCATION FOUNDATION VENTURE GRANTS 2014-2015

Wilson Education Foundation Venture Grants 2014-2015

The goal of the Venture Grant Program is to enhance and to expand educational experiences and opportunities for the students of the Wilson School District by providing grants to individual teachers, groups of teachers, departments, and other professional employees that support creative and innovative programs that would not normally be funded through the school budget. Grants are awarded semi-annually to enable unique programs, teaching strategies, and learning experiences to become a reality in the classroom or through support services where they can influence the learning climate and directly benefit students. During the 2014-2015 school year, the Foundation awarded \$6,100 in Venture Grants to support the following programs/activities:

FALL 2014

CNC Milling Machine: For their senior year project in the Engineering Design and Development (EDD) course, Wilson High School students decided to build a Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Milling Machine. The grant helped offset the cost of the machine. This tool increases efficiency in the engineering and technological department. As a result of this project's completion, students are able to mill materials such as wood, faster and more efficiently than before.



Elementary Reading Olympics:

This school year, Wilson School District unveiled the first elementary Reading Olympics competition in Berks County! This exciting opportunity for 4th and 5th grade students in the District encourages children to read more, to read a greater variety of books and to enjoy the excitement of reading and discussing books. The team format encourages students to share the challenge of reading a wide selection of books with their friends. The grant was used to purchase books from the Reading Olympics' list that are not adequately available in each of the school libraries.

The Memory Project: Wilson HS Painting II students participated in this philanthropic endeavor. Since 2004, organizer Ben Schumaker has worked with orphanages around the world to supply children with personalized portraits. Photographs are taken of the children then sent to partner schools where art students draw or paint an individual child. Each artwork is hand delivered to the orphanages, and a photo is taken of the child as he/she receives the gift. This program provided the opportunity for 32 Wilson students to share their gift of art with 32 children in the Dominican Republic. In addition to the grant, our students did fundraising to help offset the cost to participate in the program.

Project to Performance Long-Term Theater Arts Residency:

In partnership with the Yocum Institute for Arts Education, this program provides the opportunity for students to connect their language arts and science curriculum through devising and performing theater pieces. The program, which includes Whitfield Elementary 5th graders and High School Drama II students, creates a platform to transfer knowledge between grade levels in a meaningful, non-traditional format. The "Ensemble Environment" provides an opportunity for all students to participate in the process, as well as foster emotional growth. This program is also supported by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Southern Middle School Pre-STEM Academy RC Model Club:

The funds granted will help to maintain the various RC (radio control) vehicles owned by the Wilson Southern RC Club. In the past, the RC Club has received funding via Venture Grants to purchase an air drone, as well as an iPad to utilize "first-person view RC technology." The club operates and maintains RC drones, RC cars, an RC helicopter, and an RC plane. The purchase of replacement parts for the RC vehicles will allow the students the opportunity to repair and maintain the various RC vehicles as well as to operate them, which will add to their already extensive knowledge of these intricate machines.

Wilson High School Literary Magazine:

For the first time, Wilson High School students assembled a literary magazine "INK" that includes short stories, personal essays, poetry, and artwork. This Venture Grant assisted with the publication of the second edition of the magazine this spring in a book format to be kept in the library and to be sold to students, staff, parents, and community members.

"INK" provides students with a voice and an audience for their writing and art. The production of the literary magazine teaches students the fundamentals of good writing and publishing.



You Be The Chemist (YBTC)

Competition: The grant money was used to purchase equipment and chemistry kits that support the acquisition of knowledge and problem-solving skills required for YBTC, a club at Southern and West Middle Schools. Students in grades 6-8 have the opportunity to study chemistry in preparation for a local competition held at Penn State Berks. Students meet weekly after school to study together, to watch chemistry videos, and to perform experiments. The chemistry equipment and supplies enabled the meetings to be more meaningful and fun while preparing students for the competition.

SPRING 2015

Gaga Ball Pit: Green Valley Elementary will build a Gaga Ball Pit on its campus for use before, during, and after school. The physical activity and social aspects are the biggest benefits of playing this game, which includes several state standards within the physical and health education curriculum. The game can be played by a group of individual players or with teams, as well as in one-on-one matches. Once all materials are purchased and a location is designated on Green Valley's campus, students from West Middle School Tech Ed class will help with the construction of the pit.

JROTC Public Address System:

A PA System will enhance the public speaking experience for Wilson HS cadets. All 135 cadets must have a presentation to share with at least their respective class on a current topic or subject they are covering at the time. Each cadet will be in front of the class at least four times each school year. The PA system will provide familiarization with voice tone, deflection and electronic equipment. It will also enhance the audience's experience and provide a platform or baseline to critique the speaker. An additional benefit will be to guest speakers, many which are elderly and have difficulty speaking loudly.

LEGO Education Simple Machines:

LEGO Education designed several opportunities for students from the early childhood years to middle school years to explore science, technology, engineering and math through the use of LEGO pieces. The sets were created specifically for schools and provide students with the opportunities to learn about science while solving problems, collaborating and creating. They also build their critical thinking, creativity and higher level thinking skills by working, sharing and building with peers of similar ability. Gifted learners will become familiar with these scientific principles by exploring the scientific method, building models and solving up to four open-ended challenges while exploring the engineering process.

Parents as Partners in Reading:

The main objective of this initiative is to promote summer reading for students at Spring Ridge Elementary. Three parent/child meetings were held at the end of the school year and at two points over the summer. At each meeting, a chapter of a book is read aloud and appropriate parent/child discussion techniques are modeled. Each family receives the book and KidBlog login to continue the reading fun until the next meeting. Materials are provided to parents to help guide discussion. The purpose of this project is to increase or maintain struggling readers' skill and strategy use over the summer months through independent and student/parent shared reading and to increase parent involvement by facilitating shared reading.

Roots and Shoots Composting Initiative:

The Wilson HS Roots and Shoots Club will implement "Food Scrap Fridays" in the Lower House cafeteria during the fall and spring seasons. They will research and purchase or build a composting system in order to reduce the amount of food that goes to waste. The club is focused on sustainability and protecting the environment. Students want to work towards making our HS more eco-friendly. This is an inquiry project that gifted students as well as regular education students will complete under the guidance of the gifted support teacher.

Teaching Math with a Twist: This program will utilize the Rubik's cube as an extension and enrichment tool for mathematics in the gifted classrooms at Green Valley. The cube provides a rigorous activity that can be used as a cross-curricular tool. The twisting and turning of the parts can help children of all ages grasp important math concepts including area, perimeter, volume, and angles, among many other geometry and algebraic topics. The cube directly correlates to the Common Core standards as it involves concepts involved in mathematics. In addition, it utilizes the components of STEM.

SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF ACADEMIC SUMMER CAMPS!

This summer, the Wilson Education Foundation hosted an array of exciting academic-focused camps for Wilson students. Kristin Kramer, WEF Executive Director, worked closely with Steve Good, Wilson Child Care Coordinator, to organize the program. Planning began in the fall of 2014, when WEF worked with Wilson teachers to identify the types of camps they wanted to offer and that students would be



interested in attending. Dr. Amy Flannery, Wilson Director of Curriculum, provided input to ensure a variety of subjects were offered related to core curriculum. Registration began in February 2015.

Running from June 22 through the week of July 27, 11 different academic camps ran for our elementary students. Providing continuity to the school year, many camps incorporated technology to help enhance the students' learning experience. The camps were held on the Cornwall Terrace/ Wilson Southern Campus and each ran as a one-week session, Monday-Thursday from 8:30am-12:30pm. WEF employed 13 Wilson teachers to lead the various camps for 132 students! WEF looks forward to expanding the program next summer.

Wilson elementary students participated in the following WEF Academic Camps this summer:

- Adventures in ART: 3D Explosion
- Animation Studio
- Camp Kindergarten: Getting Ready for K the Fun Way!
- Camp RoboCode! Robotics and Coding Camp
- Diving into Great Reading with Technology, Art & Science
- Inspiring the Inventor Inside: STEM Challenges
- Junior Math Explorers
- Let's Write: A Creative Writing Academy
- Sports & Math Collide
- Storybook Art
- Wilson Science Splash



EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT (EITC) PROGRAM

The Wilson Education Foundation (WEF) continues to participate as an Educational Improvement Organization in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's EITC program. The EITC program offers substantial tax credits to eligible businesses that make financial contributions to approved organizations. Through EITC contributions, the Foundation received \$75,000 for the 2014-15 school year. WEF was able to support Fast ForWord, a reading intervention program geared toward improving language acquisition and reading skills for elementary students. The Wilson High School STEM Academy also received funding. STEM Academy is a rigorous program for grades 9-12 that focuses on integrated Science, Technology, Engineering and Math concepts. For the 2015-16 school year, WEF looks forward to again supporting the STEM Academy and is working with PA Department of Community & Economic Development to review additional innovative Wilson academic programs to support through the program.

WEF would like to thank the following businesses for their generous support though EITC in 2014:

Capital Advantage Insurance Co. (Capital Blue)
East Penn Manufacturing Co. Inc.
E.G. Smith Jerome H. Rhoads, Inc.
First Priority Bank
Fulton Bank
Phillips Facilities Management Group

Quadrant EPP USA, Inc.
Riverview Bank
Susquehanna Bank
Tompkins/VIST Bank
Weis Markets, Inc.

Wilson Back-to-School Bash

This annual fundraiser provides a more casual atmosphere of a clam-bake. The evening includes LIVE music, dancing, games, raffles, auctions and more! The 2nd Annual Back-to-School Bash will be held on Saturday, September 12, beginning at 5pm at Fish Pond West. Tickets are \$100 per person for Chicken or Steak or \$125 for Lobster. Ticket price also includes appetizers, dessert and beverages. To purchase tickets, please contact 610.670.0180 x4842. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.



Wilson Alumni & Homecoming Events

WEF plans and organizes events for Wilson Alumni throughout the year including quarterly mixers and Homecoming events. Homecoming will be held Friday, October 2, 2015.

Activities for alumni and their families will begin at 4pm prior to the football game. Check out a variety of food trucks. Enjoy games and music. After the game, head to the Beverly Hills Tavern to mix and mingle with fellow Wilson Alumni! Check out the new Wilson Alumni site! Visit WilsonBulldogAlumni.org and create your alumni profile.

Leave Your Mark on Wilson High School Campus!

Show your Wilson Pride for years to come by purchasing an engraved paver or tile from the Wilson Education Foundation! Pavers (8"x8") are \$175 each and will be installed in Gurski Stadium Plaza. Tiles (4"x8") are \$100 each and will be installed in the Hallway of Fame in Snyder Natatorium. Orders can be submitted through January 15, 2016. Tiles and Pavers make great holiday and graduation gifts! Please visit the Wilson Education Foundation website, www.wilsonsd.org/EdFoundation, for more information or contact 610.670.0180 ext. 4842.



Wilson Community Night at the Fightin Phils



Annually held in June, the Foundation provides free tickets for the game to Wilson students of all grade levels for academic achievement. Students are recognized during pregame festivities! Tickets are sold to Wilson community members, faculty, staff and alumni at a discounted rate of \$2 each. Sponsorships help make this evening of family fun possible! Contact the Foundation in 2016 for the date of this year's game.

"Networking at Night" Event with the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce & Industry

In April, the Foundation hosted an evening for members of the business community to network on the Wilson High School campus. Attendees enjoyed light refreshments while mixing and mingling with other community members. They also had an opportunity to tour the newly renovated Snyder Natatorium

& Gurski Stadium and see the new George Mack Stadium. A check presentation ceremony was held during the event, with the Foundation announcing a contribution of \$40,000 to the Wilson School District to support the continued implementation of the 1:1 Technology Initiative.



George Mack Stadium Dedication

In September 2014, the Foundation worked closely with Mrs. Brenda Mack to host a ceremony and reception for the dedication of George Mack Stadium.



George Mack spent his retirement years in service, volunteerism and commitment to the community. He was a proud supporter of Wilson, and served as a member of the Wilson School Board for 14 years, serving as president for four years. He was also a member of the Wilson Education Foundation Board. Mr. Mack passed away on November 28, 2013, after a courageous battle with cancer. During the dedication ceremony, family and friends of the Macks heard remarks about George from Dr. Rudy Ruth, Wilson Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Doug Dahms, Mr. Doug Myer, Mr. Roy Snyder and George's wife Mrs. Mack, who serves on the Wilson School Board and the Wilson Education Foundation Board.

Wilson Education Foundation 2014-2015 Scholarships

Each year, the Foundation provides scholarships for Wilson High School seniors. WEF works with families and organizations, and coordinates with the Wilson HS Counseling Office and Athletics staff/coaches to identify deserving recipients. The total amount distributed to the following students in 2014-2015 was \$21,350,

Scholarship Name	Recipient	Amount
The General (Ret) US Army Fred & Denise Franks	Jenna Lemelin	\$1,500
Scholarship for Public Service	Amari Gilmore	\$1,500
Barbara Heckman Spirit of Wilson Scholarship	Shannon O'Brien	\$1,000
Scott Keenan Memorial Scholarship	Nicholas Mahon	\$1,000
Lorin Maurer Memorial Scholarship	Matthew Guenter	\$1,500
Reggie Weiss Scholarship	Austin Lubas	\$7,500
The Hair on the Avenue Scholarship for the Arts	Connor Hargreaves	\$500
Anne Douglas-Minnich Future Enterprises Memorial Scholarship	Delvin Mercado	\$2,500
Wilson School Board Scholarship	Ian Roth	\$500 each
	Amari Gilmore	
Wilson Football Tradition Club Award	Jacob Templin	\$300
Wilson Football Tradition Club – Wilson Football Parents' Award	Connor Howell	\$500
	Dustin Miller	\$500
	Austin Rosa	\$500
	Jacob Templin	\$500
	Kyle Mawhinney	\$250
	Jake Walbert	\$250
	Chris Zerbe	\$250
	Joe Grim	\$150
	Connor Ritter	\$150



Get Involved! The Wilson Education Foundation is looking to grow its volunteer base. If you are interested in helping with planning events or serving on a committee, please contact WEF Executive Director Kristin Kramer at 610.670.0180, x1111 or krakri@wilsonsd.org.