

ENRICHING THE LIVES OF PENDLETON STUDENTS SINCE 1985



**EDUCATION
FOUNDATION
OF PENDLETON**

WINTER 2019-2020

www.educationfoundationofpendleton.org

PO Box 812 • Pendleton, OR 97801

35 Years of Giving

2020 marks 35 years since The Education Foundation of Pendleton was first established. According to Julianne Sawyer, who was a founding member in 1985, "When we set this foundation up, we had no idea how unique the concept was." Julianne and Susan Woodward had been members of the Pendleton School District's Task Force for Excellence in Education and saw a need for a public non-profit educational foundation to support the educational goals of Pendleton's educators and students. Sawyer and Woodward discovered that in Oregon, Salem was the only major city to have established a foundation for education. Eugene began organizing at the same time as Pendleton did, but it would take another three to five years for Portland, Lake Oswego and Beaverton to follow suit. Dr. A. Dale Brandt served as the first president of the Pendleton foundation, while Sawyer was vice-president and Woodward served as secretary. Several other community members volunteered their time as board members.

In order for the foundation to function, raising funds was a top priority. Jack Whitman, brother of local artist Betty Feves, played a critical role in helping to start the foundation financially. He offered to match every \$5000 raised with \$5000 of his own, leading to the initial \$40,000 that was raised to start the fund. In 1987, the Education Foundation awarded its first grant: \$50 in support of a Creative Arts workshop for a teacher. Since then, hundreds of thousands of dollars

have been granted to Pendleton's teachers for a wide variety of educational projects. EFP grants have allowed Pendleton students to visit the Pendleton Underground and the Tamastslit Cultural Institute. Trips have been funded to the Portland Art Museum, High Desert Museum in Bend and most major universities in Oregon. Funding has been provided to support everything from planting a flower garden to organizing Lego League competitions to artist-in-residence and author visits to local schools.

While donations still play a critical role in our fundraising efforts, in 2015 the Education Foundation of Pendleton held its first "Grillin' for Grants" event. The delicious tri-tip dinner and lively auctions have helped Grillin' for Grants become a popular fall event for many of Pendleton's citizens. Combined with the strong sponsorship support from dozens of Pendleton and Eastern Oregon businesses, the EFP has significantly increased their grant and endowment funds raised.

2020 finds the Education Foundation of Pendleton stronger than ever. Our 19 board members met in October with Pendleton teachers to hear their grant proposals and determine funding. We were able to offer 100% funding to all eight proposals, which touched the lives of approximately 1250 of our school district's students. We are excited to hear the next round of proposals in February, when we meet again!

OUR MISSION

The purpose of the Education Foundation of Pendleton is to encourage and support curriculum enrichment, supplemental learning experiences, and other projects which may be deemed necessary and timely for the benefit of students in the Pendleton School District 16R. Through its work, the Foundation promotes public awareness and seeks to broaden the support of the community for its public schools. Funds for professional development are not a priority but may be considered.

Contributions/gifts to the Education Foundation of Pendleton are tax deductible. Also, because the Education Foundation is a qualified Oregon Cultural Organization, you would be eligible to receive a tax credit on any subsequent matching gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust – a dollar for dollar reduction of your Oregon state income tax liability.

To utilize this tax credit, contact the Oregon Cultural Trust at 503-986-0088 or go to: www.culturaltrust.org.

2019 Fall Grants Total \$16,601.42

\$1,500

On October 23, 2019, approximately 800 students from Pendleton High School participated in a biannual Career Day, which provided an engaging opportunity for students to learn about a diverse array of professional, technical and skilled labor careers. Workers in several different career clusters offered presentations. Students were able to listen to keynote speaker Chris Thomas, a PHS graduate, who has established a successful career in music composition. Chris's dynamic and interesting message provided students with valuable insight into the career choice process.

\$500

Alice Thomas, Pendleton High School Art and Career Technical Education Instructor, invited 170 students to participate in several field trips to see the revolving art exhibits at the Pendleton Center for the Arts and at the Betty Feves Memorial Gallery at BMCC. Students participated in discussions and evaluations of art work that they observed and studied, met and conversed with gallery staff and wrote responses to questions about their experiences.

\$1,347

All fifty Hawthorne Alternative High School students were invited to participate in a school-wide School Mascot Grid Art Project. The project began this fall and will continue through March. Artist-in-residence Jan Peterson-Terjeson is working with students over many sessions to create a wolf, the school mascot, on individual wooden squares. The project will be completed in the spring, so that it can be displayed at the Pendleton School District's Art Show. Eventually, the piece will be permanently displayed at the PTECH building.

\$561

On January 17th-18th, 2020, three fifth grade students will attend the Elementary Honor Choir in Eugene, Oregon. The Honor Choir gives students the opportunity to participate in a music experience that is not available in Eastern Oregon. Students will be able to sing songs in two-part harmony, sing in different languages, experience mixed meter, cooperatively work in ensembles, learn under a qualified director, and much more. Elementary music teachers Andrea Dinkel and Cassandra Pinard believe this experience can serve as a great introduction to choir and future honor choir opportunities available in middle and high school.

\$800

First semester middle school drama students attended a production of Portland Center Stage's "In the Heights" on October 10, 2019 and the second semester students will travel to Portland on April 26, 2020 to see "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night." Due to the fact that Sunridge Middle School is a Title 1 school, John Summerfield, drama teacher, was allotted free tickets for his students to see the performances. Mr. Summerfield stated that these are high-quality theatre productions at a very affordable cost and the trip to Portland is always a highlight of the school year for his students.

\$1,513.42

On November 25th and 26th, Jill Gregg, program director for ASPIRE (Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone) accompanied approximately 40 Pendleton High School students on a two-day "college tour" to the Willamette Valley. Students visited University of Oregon, Lane Community College, Western Oregon University and Mt. Hood Community College. A second day trip to Eastern Oregon University in December allowed students to tour the campus, attend an admissions information session and meet current college students. Mrs. Gregg stated that for many students at PHS, this is their only opportunity to visit a college campus outside of BMCC, as they don't have the resources to travel to the valley and see college campuses on their own. In the past, these trips have really opened the minds of students and their options for post-secondary education and have inspired them to apply to college.

\$2,000

Kathryn Youngman, foreign language teacher at Pendleton High School, will be taking 30-40 students to Eugene, Oregon in May to attend the Foreign Language and International Studies Day. The event, attended by close to 1,000 high school students from throughout the state, provides students with the opportunity to explore possible foreign language careers and study abroad opportunities and exposes them to other languages besides the two taught at PHS. This will be the 20th year taking Pendleton students to this conference and Mrs. Youngman stated it is an event that they eagerly anticipate.

\$8,380

The Oregon coast will be the destination as over 80 Honors Biology II students from Pendleton High School travel across the state late in May of 2020. In preparation for the upcoming trip, classroom teacher Schelle Hand Bixler will spend considerable class time teaching her students about the ecological relationships between the animals, plants, and algae living in the sandy beach, rocky tidepools, estuary, and near-shore ocean habitats of the intertidal ecosystem. On the spring field trip, students will be expected to extend their learning as they tour Bonneville Dam, visit two marine aquariums, explore the sandy beach and rocky tide pool habitats, ride in a research vessel in Yaquina Bay, look for whales, and much more. It is Mrs. Bixler's hope that this field trip fosters an appreciation for marine ecosystems that students will carry with them into adulthood.

Grillin' for Grants A Huge Success!

Thank you to our Collegiate Sponsors (\$1000)



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The 5th annual Grillin' for Grants fundraiser, held in October at the Roy Raley Room in Pendleton, was a huge success! Attendees enjoyed a tri-tip dinner prepared by the Pendleton City Club, including Pendleton School District Superintendent Chris Fritsch. Sodexo donated several of the side dishes and the yummy cheesecakes for dessert. Students from the PHS culinary class helped serve the meal. We are also grateful to auctioneer Dennis Hunt, who always keeps the event entertaining. Thanks to our sponsors, attendees and volunteers, we raised over \$23,000.00 this year! That money will continue to support curriculum-based enrichment activities for Pendleton students. We look forward to next year's event and hope to see you there!

Thank you to our Academic Sponsors (\$250)

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THANK YOU to our contributors who have helped to make these programs possible!

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EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF PENDLETON

PO Box 812, Pendleton, OR 97801

Enriching the lives of Pendleton students since 1985.

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