

Governor News

A Publication of the Pierre Educational Foundation

June 2017

Evening of Excellence Celebrates Students and Teachers



The Foundation hosted its inaugural Evening of Excellence on May 1st to recognize the top students of the senior class and the educators who had an impact on their lives. Thirty-five students with a grade point average of 3.75 or higher were recognized as Scholars of Excellence. The Scholars of Excellence were recognized for their academic excellence and for the multitude of extra-curricular activities in which the students excelled. Each Scholar of Excellence was given a gift card from the Foundation.

The Scholars of Excellence were asked to nominate an educator who made a

difference in their education. Twenty-three teachers, from elementary school to high school, were nominated by these students as finalists for the BankWest Educator of Excellence Award. Jay Schwartz, T.F. Riggs High School math teacher, was selected as the BankWest Educator of Excellence and received a \$1,500 prize from BankWest. His selection was announced at the Evening of Excellence.

The Evening of Excellence also recognized the Foundation Scholarship winners (see pages 4-5 for winners) and the BankWest Scholarship winners.

Scholars of Excellence

Harrison Armstrong	Aarne Nixon
Evan Becker	Nolan Ortbahn
Hannah Booth	Meagan Potrzeba
Caryn Brakke	Amanda Pugh
Cassidy Carda	Matthew Pugh
Haley Dorschner	Madelyn Reinke
Shelby Guthrie	Sierrah Schlekeway
Carlie Hanson	Avery Schroer
Nathanael Hill	Hannah Shaffer
Aaron Hoelscher	Elena Svingen
Elizabeth Hopper	Moina Syed
Brody Hultman	Danielle Ullmann
Alyssa Iedema	Andrew Van Gerpen
Amanda Jandt	Jessica Weber
Hallie Jerome	Brooke Wiest
Madison Jones	Raegan Winder
Brooke Miller	Nathan Zimmerman
Stephanie Nelson	

2017 Educator of Excellence Nominees

Jayson Poppinga, T.F. Riggs High School (Former)
Samantha Schuetzle, T.F. Riggs High School
Jay Schwartz, T.F. Riggs High School
Chad Kringel, Buchanan Elementary School
Harvey "Skip" Kurth, T.F. Riggs High School
Kim Rogers, Georgia Morse Middle School
Kim Bierle, T.F. Riggs High School
Amber Stout, Jefferson Elementary School
Pat Cordell-Kramer, T.F. Riggs High School
Roger Edwards, Retired 2014
Tom Rogers, T.F. Riggs High School
Wade Kippley, T.F. Riggs High School (Former)

Dan Snyder, T.F. Riggs High School
Elizabeth Vogt, T.F. Riggs High School
Guy Hunter, Georgia Morse Middle School
Hyrma Zakahi, T.F. Riggs High School
Jay Mickelson, T.F. Riggs High School
Jeff Dykstra, Retired
Kate Olson, T.F. Riggs High School
Lisa Starr, T.F. Riggs High School
Mr. Kelly Brandt, T.F. Riggs High School
Mr. Kim Kahler, Retired 2015
Mr. Rodd Bauck, T.F. Riggs High School

Our Mission

The Pierre Educational Foundation promotes the further educational development of the Pierre Public School District students, staff and graduates through the delivery of quality educational opportunities and resources.



Pierre Educational Foundation

Pierre Educational Foundation

PO Box 94
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 224-9016
jennifer@pefgovs.org
www.pefgovs.org

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At Large Trustee

The Foundation was established in 1995 with a gift from the Cora London Estate. Cora London was a successful clothier business owner and operator for many years in Pierre. Her generosity will encourage additional grants, gifts and endowments for educational purposes.

The Pierre Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community based organization committed to academic excellence in the Pierre Public School District.

The activities of the foundation are directed by a Board of Trustees representing business, education and the community.

The funds of the Pierre Educational foundation are currently being managed and held by the community-based Oahe Foundation.

From the President

Wade Pogany



Honoring students and teachers, that's what the first Evening of Excellence was all about May 1.

This being the first time the Pierre Education Foundation hosted the Evening of Excellence dinner, no one really knew what to expect as students, parents, teachers, school board members and guests filed into the banquet room at the Ramkota.

Those in the room discussed what the evening would bring as the Rigg's High School Choir serenaded guests with beautiful music before dinner was served and the program commenced with the recognition of Riggs High School's top academic students.

As each student's picture was displayed and their names read, I watched the student's faces as they received a gift when their names were announced one by one and saw the anxious excitement in their tentative smile as a Foundation board member approached each of them with their envelope. These students probably weren't sure what to expect, but they seemed genuinely happy to be among the guests and I'm sure the \$50 gift card was a pleasant surprise too. They were proud to have been selected among the top students in their class.

Even more heartwarming was to watch their parents who attended along with them. They beamed when their student's name was called; so proud of their student's accomplishments and the welcome they received. The room was filled with a warm, positive energy. Twenty-three teachers were picked by

the students to join them at the event. From the elementary to high school grade levels, these were the teachers that, somewhere along the journey of these academically accomplished students, made a lasting impression.

These were the teachers who had never been invited to a dinner just to honor them. These were the teachers the senior students nominated to be considered for the Educator of Excellence award. They too received a gift envelope from a Foundation Board member when their names were called and they smiled with genuine appreciation.

The look of surprise on the Educator of Excellence award winner Jay Schwartz's face was so genuine, as his wife had to tell him, "That's you" and give him a nudge toward the podium. Jay's quiet humility was evident in a speechless moment before he addressed the crowd.

"It's an honor," he said. And it really was.

I'm so grateful to the Pierre community, who helped sponsor the event; especially BankWest, who agreed to underwrite the dinner, gifts and awards. The idea of the Evening of Excellence began as a fundraiser for the Foundation, but it became so much more.

The project was a year-long culmination of partnering with BankWest and the Pierre Educational Foundation to host a signature event that would honor our top students and serve as a way to select what was the BankWest Educator of Excellence award.

The Foundation's new event was a moment to wish our senior students the very best as they venture out into the

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Mini-Grants in Action



Governor Store

A Foundation grant assisted with the building materials for the Gov 2 Gov store, and helped students open the new store at the high school this spring. Teri Johnson was awarded a mini-grant to help jump start the project.



Thank You from Denise Harford, Kennedy Elementary School

Dear Pierre Educational Foundation members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the grant that allowed me to purchase the Listen and Learn Letter Sounds Activity Program.

I have been using it with small groups of students and they love it! It is a great tool to help the students learn and review their letter sounds.

I would like to thank you for giving my students a chance for this unique learning opportunity.

Foundation Awards Mini-Grants for Innovative Projects

The Foundation awarded over \$2,000 in grant funding to innovative classroom projects. The grantees for the Foundation's Spring Grant Cycle are:

All Eyes on Science

Jessica Carr | Georgia Morse Middle School

The grant provides funding for a teaching microscope. The teaching microscope has a built in digital camera and USB connectivity with an interactive whiteboard to help share what the microscope's view with the entire classroom.

Listen and Learn

Denise Harford | Kennedy Elementary

This grant provides funding for the Listen and Learn Phonemic Awareness Activity Program with step-by-step lessons to help students beginning or struggling with reading skills.

FlipShare in the Classroom

Amber Stout | Jefferson Elementary

The grant provides funding for digital video cameras to help increase student engagement and sustain student attention through student to student interactions like skits, recorded responses, or connections with other classrooms.

STEM-A-Novel

Hope Armstrong | Georgia Morse Middle School

The grant provides funding for STEM curriculum materials to integrate science, math, and history through a language arts program.

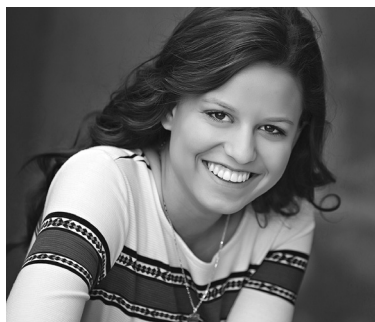
Visit the Pierre Educational Foundation's website at www.pefgovs.org or contact the Foundation at 605-224-9016 to make a donation.

CONGRATULATIONS *to the* CLASS OF 2017!

The Foundation is proud of all the Class of 2017 accomplished. We look forward to what the future brings for these talented students.

2017 Scholarships Awarded

The Pierre Educational Foundation oversees multiple scholarship funds and participates in the selection process of the recipients each year. This year, scholarships were awarded to five graduating seniors to help support their continuing education. Generous support for these scholarship funds allowed the Foundation to award over \$7,500 to these students.



Moina Syed
*James and Gertrude Mueller
Scholarship Recipient*

James and Gertrude Mueller Scholarship

Moina Syed is the 2017 recipient of the James and Gertrude Mueller Scholarship. Syed maintained a 4.0 grade point average over the course of her education. She plans to attend South Dakota State University to pursue a degree in nursing. Her goal is to work as a traveling nurse in pediatric oncology. She was inspired to pursue a career in nursing, and specifically oncology, following her mother's brain cancer diagnosis.

In addition to her academic achievements, Syed was active in band and fine arts during her time in high school. She participated in the

Cronin dance studio recitals and was active in Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Church.

The James and Gertrude Mueller Scholarship was established in 1997 by Mrs. Gertrude Mueller to recognize a T.F. Riggs senior who intends to enter the medical field. The scholarship committee considers the scholastic achievement, work experience, community contributions, financial need, and college plans and goals related to pursuing a medical career in selecting the recipient. The scholarship award is \$3,500.



Hannah Shaffer
*Charles "Lindy" and Shirley Feeney
Scholarship Recipient*

Charles "Lindy" and Shirley Feeney Scholarship

The Charles "Lindy" and Shirley Feeney Scholarship is awarded to a dedicated track athlete to assist with the costs of higher education. The recipient of the scholarship must have participated in track for at least three years, show determination, hard work and perseverance in the sport and be accepted to a college or technical school.

Hannah Shaffer was awarded this year's \$1,000 Charles "Lindy" and Shirley Feeney Scholarship.

Shaffer participated in varsity cross country and track for six years. She served as a member of the Student Senate in 2015 and 2016. Shaffer served on the Governor News and is a member of the National Honor Society. In addition to being active in dance, Shaffer is also active in Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Church.

Shaffer plans to pursue a career in physical therapy while attending the University of North Dakota.



Warrant Garreau
Mortenson Family Scholarship Recipient

Mortenson Family Scholarship

Warrant Garreau is the 2017 Mortenson Family Scholarship recipient. Garreau is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. He was a three-sport athlete, lettering in basketball, football and track during his high school career. Garreau will attend South Dakota State University in the Fall.

The Mortenson Family Scholarship is awarded to a T.F. Riggs Native American senior who demonstrates academic achievement, a financial need, and a desire to pursue a post-secondary education at a college or technical school. The scholarship awards up to \$1,600 to the recipient.

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2017 Scholarships Awarded

(continued from page 4)

Spilde Family Scholarship



Hannah Booth
Spilde Family Scholarship Recipient

The Spilde Family Scholarship is awarded to a T.F.Riggs senior who is in need of financial assistance to further their education beyond high school. The purpose of the scholarship is to assist a student in his/her higher education costs at a South Dakota university. The scholarship award is \$1,000.

The 2017 recipient is Hannah Booth. Booth plans to attend the University of South Dakota as a pre-law major. Booth served as the National Honor Society Treasurer, the Tri-M Music Honor Society President and a class officer. She was active in Future Business Leaders of America, Chamber Choir, Oral Interpretation, Drama, and Governor 2 Governor.

Herbert and Irene Emde Family Scholarship



Harrison Armstrong
Herbert and Irene Emde Family Scholarship Recipient

Harrison Armstrong received the inaugural Herbert and Irene Emde Family Scholarship. The scholarship of \$800 is awarded to a graduate pursuing a degree in education.

Armstrong participated in dance, chorus, Governor 2 Governor, Central Teen Court, Teens as Teacher and the St. Joseph afterschool program. She is a member of the National Honor Society. Armstrong served as a volunteer tutor and shadowing teacher during high school.

Armstrong plans to attend Black Hills State University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

Pierre School District Retirements

The Pierre School District celebrated the retirement of six district staff members with a combined years of service of nearly 130 years. The retiring staff members ending their careers at the end of the 2016-17 school year are:

Harvey "Skip" Kurth.....	40 years	Kristie Bradley.....	27 years
Bobbi Brown.....	21 years	Karen Christopherson.....	9 years
Susan Oligmueller.....	13 years	John Gruba.....	16 years

Thank you for your service and for the impact you made on so many lives during your time with the Pierre School District.



Class of 1997 20-Year Reunion

June 23-24, 2017

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/riggs1997/>

Contact: Nancy Ronning
605-222-2163

Class of 1962 55-Year Reunion

July 29th

American Legion, Pierre

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Contact: Bill Farnham
811 Siebert Place
Pierre, SD 57502
605-870-6844

Class of 1957 60-Year Reunion

September 8 – 10

Sylvan Lake Lodge, Black Hills

Call 1-888-875-0001 to make your reservations.

Tell them you're with our class!

Contact: Loretta "Murf" Siwik
(Loretts1@aol.com)

OR Heather Hyde (hhyde@igc.org)

Do you need help with ideas or who to connect with for your reunion?

Contact the Foundation office at 605-224-9016 or jennifer@pefgovs.org for information about possible reunion locations, class lists and other information to help begin your reunion planning.

Alumni News

The Pierre Educational Foundation would like to hear about marriages, births, and remembrances of alumni who have passed away. We will also be printing information about upcoming class reunions, so please keep us informed so we can help keep your classmates informed.

Please send your news to our offices at PO Box 94 Pierre, SD 57501, or via e-mail to jennifer@pefgovs.org.

From the President

(continued from page 2)

world, to honor our scholarship winners and an opportunity to say thank you to the teachers who touch the lives of so many young people. It truly was a wonderful night all of us will remember.

I also want to express my gratitude to Charles Burke III for collaborating with us and agreeing to allow the students to nominate the teachers, while still having BankWest select the new Educator of Excellence award winner.

I'm thankful for the Board of Directors and our Executive Director, Jennifer Stalley, and her staff for the countless hours it took to put this wonderful evening together. Thank you again to the community sponsors and BankWest for making it possible.

I hope you will consider joining us next year as it was, truly, an Evening of Excellence.

Evening of Excellence Celebrates Students and Teachers



Each Scholar of Excellence was presented with a BankWest gift card from the Foundation.



Jay Schwartz, T.F. Riggs High School math teacher, was selected as the BankWest Educator of Excellence and received a \$1,500 prize from BankWest.



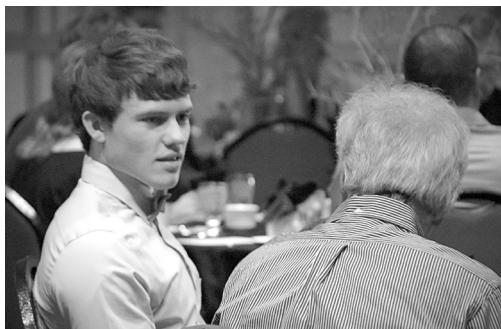
Thank you to the T.F. Riggs High School choir for providing music for the evening.



Harrison Armstrong was recognized for receiving the Herbert and Irene Emde Family Scholarship.



Evening of Excellence attendees had the opportunity to share advice with the scholars as they embark on new adventures and challenges.



The Foundation hosted its inaugural Evening of Excellence on May 1st to recognize the top students of the senior class and the educators who had an impact on their lives.



Evening of Excellence Sponsors

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Michael and Linda Rush

Thank You

The following is a list of donors to the Pierre Educational Foundation from December 2016 - April 2017. Every effort was made to ensure accuracy of the donor list. If your name was omitted or misspelled, please accept our apologies and contact the Foundation with corrections at 605-224-9016 or via e-mail at jennifer@pefgovs.org.

Matt Brakke	Brakke Family Fund	Mara Blakis-Eglajs	In Honor of Class of 1960
Dennis Germann	Foundation Fund	Wayne and Patricia Wise	In Honor of Class of 1958
Eileen Herrin	In Honor of Will and Betty Hanson	James Abbott	In memory of Colette Pugh Abbott
Jamie and Paula Heuizenga	Foundation Fund	Anton "Tony" Wegner	In Honor of Class of 1955
Bruce and Kathleen Bykowski	In Memory of Patricia Adam	Karen Hasek	Foundation Fund
Patricia Weeldreyer	In Honor of Paula Weeldreyer Class of 1992 and John Weeldreyer Class of 1996	John and Jill Wellhouse	In Memory of Maxine Torvik,
Bob & Pat Clark	In Memory of Barb Newman and Jane Sizer	Jim Steele, Margaret Gibson, Nancy Jahraus, and Gladys Benson	In Memory of Hyrma Zakahi
Thomas Evans	In Honor of Class of 1958	John and Jill Wellhouse	Foundation Fund
Delta Dental	In Memory of Barb Newman	Capital University Center	Foundation Fund
Connie And Steve Halverson	In Memory of Barb Newman	Fine Line Auto, Inc	Foundation Fund
JN Beemer	In Memory of Barb Newman	Stulken, Petersen, Lingle, Walti, & Jones LLP	Foundation Fund
Charles Feeney	Feeney Fund	Brosz Engineering	Foundation Fund
Sue Kuhl	In Honor of Class of 1961	Slumberland	Foundation Fund
Donald Schliessmann	Emde Family Fund	Aareon Miller	Foundation Fund
A.J. and Siv Wheeler	Emde Family Fund	Lance and Ruth Nixon	Foundation Fund
Jerry Parkinson	Foundation Fund	Michael and Linda Rush	Foundation Fund
Debra Parkinson	Foundation Fund	Lynne and Clark Guthrie	Foundation Fund
John and Judith Schliessmann	In Honor of Siblings	Curt Mortenson	Foundation Fund
Sally '52, Donald' 54, Mayren '57 and Suzette'67 and Myself '59	In Honor of Class of 1969	BankWest - Charles Burke III	Foundation Fund
James and Laura Hunt	In honor of Julie, George, and Emma Kay Ledbetter	Sanford Health	Brakke Family Fund
James K. Ledbetter		Verne Brakke	Emde Family Fund
Randall and Dianne Ice		Janice Grote	Emde Family Fund
		Fiona And Oscar Sohns	Foundation Fund
		John and Jill Wellhouse	Foundation Fund

Pierre Educational Foundation Contact/Donation Form

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Address _____

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Spouse's Name _____ Riggs Grad Year _____

News or Comments: _____

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☐ Scholarship/Enrichment Fund (please specify): _____

☐ Evening of Excellence Event

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