

# Governor News

A Publication of the Pierre Educational Foundation

June 2018

## Foundation Celebrates Students and Teachers at Evening of Excellence

The Foundation recognized 36 graduating seniors and the 24 teachers those students nominated as Educators of Excellence at the annual Evening of Excellence on May 3rd. Graduating seniors with a grade point average of 3.75 or higher were named the 2018 Scholars of Excellence. These students were all asked to nominate a teacher who made a difference in their education to be considered for the BankWest Educator of Excellence Award and \$1,500 grant.

"The Educator of Excellence nominees came from the grade school, middle school and high school levels this year," according to Jennifer Stalley, Foundation Executive Secretary. "The nominations included incredible stories of how these 24 educators made a difference in the lives of these students, starting as early as elementary school in some cases. These educators played a huge role in the academic success of these students and it was exciting for the Foundation to play a role in sharing that impact through the Evening of Excellence," said Stalley.

The 2018 BankWest Educator of Excellence, selected from the 24 nominees, was announced at the Evening of Excellence. John Kalda, T.F. Riggs science teacher, was selected as this year's winner. One of the nominations for Mr. Kalda noted, "Mr. Kalda has left the biggest impact on me. He is one of those teachers that you just don't forget. The first day I had class with him I was nervous because I had decided to double up on my sciences. But after spending just one day in his class I knew I was going to be okay. Mr. Kalda teaches quickly yet effectively, gladly answers your questions, and empowers you to be successful."



*Mike Gibson, Vice President of Operations for BankWest, awards the 2018 BankWest Educator of Excellence Award to John Kalda.*



*PEF board member Dennis James announces student scholarships.*

## 2018 Educator of Excellence Nominees

Terry Becker	T.F. Riggs High School	Kim Livermont	Kennedy Elementary School
Kim Bierle	T.F. Riggs High School	Jay Mickelson	T.F. Riggs High School
MacKenzie Blake	Buchanan Elementary School	Jayson Poppinga	T.F. Riggs High School
Charis Blanchette	T.F. Riggs High School	Shannon Poppinga	T.F. Riggs High School
Karla Blemaster	Kennedy Elementary School	Tom Rogers	T.F. Riggs High School
Ashley Boone	T.F. Riggs High School	Samantha Schuetzle	T.F. Riggs High School
Kelly Brandt	T.F. Riggs High School	Dan Snyder	T.F. Riggs High School
Guy Hunter	Georgia Morse Middle School	Adam Spoehr	T.F. Riggs High School
John Kalda	T.F. Riggs High School	Chris Swiden	T.F. Riggs High School
Jill Kokesh	T.F. Riggs High School	Cheryl Ulmen	T.F. Riggs High School
Pam Kringel	T.F. Riggs High School	Elizabeth Vogt	T.F. Riggs High School
Shawn Lewis	T.F. Riggs High School	Glenda Woodburn	Georgia Morse Middle

### 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

### Board Members

**Lindsey Riter-Rapp - President**

*At Large Trustee*

**Janelle Toman - Vice President**

*Capital University Center Designee*

**Nick Marso - Treasurer**

*At Large Trustee*

**Gina Schuetzle - Secretary**

*Pierre Chamber of Commerce Designee*

**Dennis James - Director**

*Pierre Board of Education Designee*

**Paul Turman - Director**

*Pierre Board of Education Representative*

**Wade Pogany, - Director**

*City of Pierre Designee*

**Mike Fugitt - Director**

*At Large Trustee*

**Deann Booth - Director**

*At Large Trustee*

**Betty Hanson - Director**

*Pierre Board of Education Designee*

*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

Lindsey Riter-Rapp



The Pierre Education Foundational recently celebrated its 2nd Annual Evening of Excellence where it honored those

T.F. Riggs High School Seniors that achieved a GPA of at least 3.75 or higher during their high school career and the teachers and staff who have made a difference in these students' lives. These 36 outstanding young men and women were honored not only for their high academic achievements but also for their involvement in their school and community.

During the event, the Pierre Educational Foundation also awarded six scholarships on behalf of families who have given endowments to the Foundation so students can continue their education. Those scholarships awarded were the Spilde Family Scholarship, the Charles "Lindy" and Shirley Feeney Scholarship, the James and Gertrude Mueller Scholarship, the Herbert and Irene Emde Scholarship, the Mortenson Family Scholarship and the inaugural Schliessman Family Scholarship. Bankwest, who was the Premiere Sponsor of this event, also awarded its 2018 Scholarship Winners that evening.

Each student honored during the Evening of Excellence had the opportunity to nominate a teacher that made a difference in their education. These elementary, middle and high school teachers were also celebrated during the event with the culmination being the selection of the 2018 Bankwest Educator of Excellence Award. This year it was awarded to T.F. Riggs High School teacher John Kalda. It was obvious from the comments that the students made about these teachers what a tremendous impact they had on their life.

It is events like these that are important to the Pierre Educational Foundation as it strives to maintain and enhance the tradition of excellence in the Pierre Public Schools. We hope to continue with the success of this event into the future with the support of the Pierre community. We are also thankful for the families that have invested in the future of these students with the establishment of scholarships. If you too are interested in giving back to your alma matter we would love to hear from you. It is your support that makes a difference in these students lives.

As another school year closes, we can be thankful for the tremendous teachers and staff in our Pierre Public School System and the top-notch education our students receive here on the beautiful banks of the Missouri River. We could not do it without you.

## Pierre School District Retirements

The Pierre School District celebrated the retirement of six district staff members with a combined years of service of nearly 180 years. The retiring staff members ending their careers at the end of the 2017-18 school year are:

Dan Frost.....	41 years
Fern Barnett.....	26 years
Barb Mitchell.....	34 years
Sheryl Nielsen.....	31 years
Martha Nystrom.....	28 years
Cindy Fiechtner.....	19 years

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

(continued on page 3)



# Evening of Excellence Celebrates Students and Teachers

## Scholars of Excellence

Alexandria Allison	Kade McTighe
Davis Anderson	Carsten Mueller
Jacob Beastrom	Grace Nedved
Kaylee Becker	Hudson Rohrbach
Erick Colman	Evan Rumrill
Addison Eisenbeisz	Cassandra Ryckman
Hannah Gates	Riggs Sanchez
Paige Gloe	Kailee Schultz
Samantha Gortmaker	Austin Senger
Abigail Gunderson	Josephine Slaathaugh
Anna Haberman	Logan Spelbring
Madysen Hammell	Molly Stulken
Melissa Hedglin	Kenzie Trujillo
Mary Howard	Carson Tschetter
Grace Jones	Lincoln Turman
Chloe Kaiser	William Turman
Emily Kist	Casey Williams
Arden Koenecke	
Judah McKinley	



*Wade Pogany presents the James and Gertrude Scholarship to Casey Williams*



*Projects submitted to the State Art Competition were on display at the Evening of Excellence*



*Mrs. Blemaster, Educator of Excellence nominee, reunited with her former elementary students. What a smart class that must have been!*



*John Kalda, 2018 Educator of Excellence, with students Chloe Kaiser and Carson Tschetter*



*The Jazz Band I students provided pre-dinner entertainment for the Evening of Excellence guests*



*Samantha Gortmaker receives her Scholar of Excellence award*



*PEF board member, Betty Hanson, gives the Emde Family Scholarship to Rilee Rowse's mother*

## Evening of Excellence Sponsors

**Presenting Sponsor**  
*BankWest*

**Supporting Sponsors**  
*BPro*  
*Brosz Engineering*  
*Capital University Foundation, Inc.*  
*Slumberland*  
*Capital City Florists & Gifts*

# 2018 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 \$11,500 to these students.*



**Erick Colman**  
*Schliessmann Family and Charles  
"Lindy" & Shirley Feeney Scholarship  
Recipient*

## Schliessmann Family Scholarship

The Schliessmann Scholarship was recently established by Donald and Judith Schliessmann to support a T.F. Riggs High School graduating senior planning to enroll in an accredited college or university to pursue a career in a science, technology, engineering or mathematics. This scholarship is in the amount of \$1,000 for up to 4 years.

Erick Colman is the inaugural recipient of the Schliessmann Family scholarship. Colman plans to pursue a mechanical engineering degree. He excelled at hands on training in the T.F. Riggs vocational classes, as well as advanced placement classes in mathematics and science. He has worked part-time during his high school career. He will also participate on the Hardrockers track and field team during his college career.

## Charles "Lindy" & Shirley Feeney Scholarship

Erick Colman received the 2018 Charles "Lindy" and Shirley Feeney Scholarship. This scholarship is offered to a T.F. Riggs High School graduating senior who is in need of financial assistance to further their education beyond high school.

The purpose of this scholarship is to assist a dedicated track athlete in his/her higher education costs. This student must have participated in track & field for at least three years, and must be accepted to an accredited college, university or technical school. This scholarship is \$1,000.

Colman will attend South Dakota School of Mine and Technology this fall and hopes to one day own his own business to design and manufacture useful things.



**Casey Williams**  
*James and Gertrude Mueller  
Scholarship Recipient*

## James and Gertrude Mueller Scholarship

The James and Gertrude Mueller Scholarship is offered to a T.F. Riggs High School graduating senior planning to enroll in an accredited college or university who intends to pursue a career in the medical field. This scholarship is in the amount of \$3,500.

This year's recipient is Casey Williams. Williams maintained a 4.0 grade point average while being active in a number of extracurricular activities, including being member of the

soccer, track, and football teams and National Honor Society. He is known for his hard work ethic and commitment to success. He plans to attend the University of South Dakota to pursue a degree in medical biology and then attend medical school.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2018!

The Foundation is proud of all the Class of 2018 accomplished. We look forward to what the future brings for these talented students.

*(continued on page 5)*



# 2018 Scholarships Awarded

(continued from page 4)

## Mortenson Family Scholarship



**Caleb Lusk**  
*Mortenson Family Scholarship Recipient*

Caleb Lusk received the 2018 Mortenson Family Scholarship. Lusk plans to pursue a career in physical therapy at the University of South Dakota. During high school he was selected as a Boys State representative, senior class president and co-captain of the T.F. Riggs Lakota National Invitational Quiz Bowl team.

The Mortenson Family Scholarship is for up to \$1,600.00 to a T.F. Riggs High School Native American senior who will be attending college/university or technical school. The recipient must demonstrate academic achievement and desire to pursue a post-secondary education.

---

## Spilde Family Scholarship



**Emily Trapp**  
*Spilde Family Scholarship Recipient*

The Spilde Family Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship offered to a T.F. Riggs High School graduating senior who is in need of financial assistance to further their education beyond high school. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist a dedicated student in his/her higher education costs.

Emily Trapp is this year's recipient. Trapp has done many things to make a positive impact on her community – from working with the elderly to being a role model in school to combat bullying. She plans to attend South Dakota State University.

---

## Herbert and Irene Emde Family Scholarship

The Emde Family Scholarship is awarded to a T.F. Riggs High School graduating senior who is pursuing a degree in education. The intent of the scholarship is to support a student's efforts to become a teacher in an elementary, middle school, high school or university setting. The recipient should model characteristics of honesty, trustworthiness, caring of mankind, and a passion for teaching.



**Rilee Rowse**  
*Herbert and Irene Emde Family Scholarship Recipient*

Rilee Rowse is this year's recipient of the Emde Scholarship. She plans to attend Black Hills State University to major in elementary education. In addition to her academic achievements, Rowse is President of the River 4-H Club, organized the Women in Science Conference and served as the youth representative for the Parents Matter Coalition. She is a member of the Discovery Center staff and has spent countless hours working with children ahead of her college plans.



### 50th Class Reunion of 1968

September 14-15, 2018

Contact: Helen Neuharth or  
Sheila Haddock  
shehadd@gmail.com

### 40th Class Reunion of 1978

August 3, 2018

The View at 5:00 pm

August 4, 2018

The Legion at 6:00 pm

Contact: Dan Sahr, Class President 1978  
Call or Text Dan at  
605-553-8247

*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](mailto: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](mailto:jennifer@pefgovs.org).**

# Mini-Grants Awarded to Support Classrooms

The Foundation awarded three grants to classroom teachers to support innovation during the Spring Mini-Grant Program. The objective of this grant program is to support efforts by teachers to bring new and innovative programs and activities to the classroom. The Spring grantees are:

## **Amber Stout** **Jefferson Elementary School** **I Survived Book Series** .....

This grant allows the elementary teacher to introduce students to a world of historical figures, historic places, and different eras through series of books that encourage reading. The series of books will not only promote reading but also provide lessons in overcoming problems, obstacles and criticism to succeed.

## **Jennifer Nedrebo** **Buchanan Elementary School** **Jackie Richie** **Jefferson Elementary School** **Break Outside the Box** .....

This grant will support the materials necessary for projects that promote critical thinking and teamwork in an Escape Room type activity. The project emphasizes reading, writing, math, science and social studies skills to allow the students to find a way out of the box.

## **Tom Rogers** **T.F. Riggs High School** **Logic Trace Digitizing System** .....

This grant supports the purchase of a Logic Trace Digitizing System that will allow students to trace any outline, template, object or part to be used in making plasma cuts, use with laser cutters and develop 3D printer outputs. The technology of this project will keep T.F. Riggs classrooms in the cutting edge of technology.

## Mini-Grants in Action

Students in Mrs. Todd's Family and Consumer Sciences class at Georgia Morse Middle School had the opportunity to learn cooking skills with kitchen equipment funded by a PEF Mini-Grant earlier this year. These students participated in an 8-week program to teach the importance of food safety, preparation and nutrition.



# Thank You

The following is a list of donors to the Pierre Educational Foundation from October 2017 – May 2018. 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](mailto:jennifer@pefgovs.org).

Mary Pritchett	In Honor of the Class of 1957	Nina & Lee Maxfield	In Honor of the Class of 1963
Tanya & William Hoppes	In Honor of the Class of 1957	James & Louise Coull	Foundation Fund
Sandra Baer	In Honor of the Class of 1957	Sue & Jack Kuhl	Emde Family Fund
Sandra Poindexter	In Honor of the Class of 1957	Mara Blakis-Eglajs	In Honor of the Class of 1960
Jay & Elizabeth Vogt	In Honor of Elizabeth Vogt	Rosemary Rounds	Foundation Fund
BankWest	Foundation Fund	Curt Mortenson	Foundation Fund
Naomi (Gates) Hughes	In Honor of the Class of 1957	Donald & Judith Schliessman	Schliessman Family Scholarship
Jeanette Enright	In Honor of Neil Lueke and the Class of 1957	Lyssa Shadrick	In Honor of the Class of 1965
Matthew Brakke	Brakke Family Fund	Siv Wheeler	Emde Family Fund
Michael & Shirley Schliessmann	In Memory of Mary Schliessmann	Marlowe Peters	In Memory of Mary Jo Pietrus Peters
		John Schliessmann	Schliessman Family Scholarship
		Mary & Richard Mattern	In Honor of the Class of 1967
Fred & Joan Tweet	In Honor of the Class of 1957	Paula Adam-Burchill	Foundation Fund
Fred Marso	In Honor of Neil Lueke and the Class of 1957	Susan Woodmansey	In Memory of Murieland George Ryan
Loretta Siwik	In Honor of Neil Lueke and the Class of 1957	Brosz Engineering, Inc.	Foundation Fund
Dennis & Patricia Germann	In Honor of the Class of 1964	Slumberland	Foundation Fund
Patricia Arndt	In Honor of Pietrus Gloe	Karen Hasek	Foundation Fund
Heather Shoup & Kermit Velder	Foundation Fund	Chameberlain Chiropractic	Foundation Fund
Thomas & Brenda Evans	In Honor of Joe Thorne 1958 and in Memory of Dick Bad Moccasin 1958	Verne Brakke	Brakke Family Fund
		Capital University Center Foundaiton	Foundation Fund
Randall & Dianne Ice	Foundation Fund	John Wellhouse	In Memory of Mel Chambers
Heather Hyde	In Honor of the Class of 1957		

Donations to the Foundation may be directed to a specific fund or the general fund of the Foundation. Donations made in memory or in honor of a person are acknowledged to the appropriate person by the Foundation to share your donation. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## Pierre Educational Foundation Contact/Donation Form

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Riggs Grad Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Riggs Grad Year \_\_\_\_\_

News or Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is in: ☐ memory of ☐ honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Designated toward: ☐ General Donation ☐ New Teacher Welcome Program

☐ Scholarship/Enrichment Fund (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Evening of Excellence Event

**Please make checks payable to Pierre Educational Foundation. Thank you!**  
**Mail to: Pierre Educational Foundation, PO Box 94, Pierre, SD 57501**



**Pierre Educational Foundation**

PO Box 94

Pierre, SD 57501

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PIERRE, SD 57501  
PERMIT NO. 123

# Governor News

A Publication of the Pierre Educational Foundation

June 2018



## In This Issue:

- Evening of Excellence Celebrates Students and Teachers
- Message from Foundation President
- District Thanks Retirees
- 2018 Scholarships Awarded
- Reunion and Alumni News
- Pierre Educational Foundation Awards Grants
- Thank You to Foundation Donors



Like us on  
Facebook

pierre-educational-foundation

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