

# Governor News

A Publication of the Pierre Educational Foundation

July 2021

## Foundation to Raffle Donated Chest

As the Class of 1971 prepares to celebrate its 50th reunion, you have a special opportunity to help support the Pierre Educational Foundation and win a one of a kind, handcrafted, blanket chest – a winning combination all around!

As part of the Class of 1971's 50th reunion, the Pierre Educational Foundation is raffling a Greene and Greene design inspired blanket chest, handcrafted and donated by Jim Thompson (TF Riggs Class of '71). The blanket chest is constructed of Cuban Mahogany, an extremely rare and expensive wood. The wood for this chest was acquired over 20 years ago when a tropical storm downed trees, allowing for the legal harvesting of the rare wood. Thompson spent over 150 hours handcrafting this beautiful chest, valued at \$4,000.



"This is a one of a kind piece," according to Jennifer Stalley, Foundation Executive Director. "I had a chance to speak with Mr. Thompson about the process he used for building this beautiful piece – from the single slabs of Cuban mahogany used to make the sides and top of the chest, to the heavy duty torsion hinges that open and close it, to the pedestal feet on the underside made by none other than Rich Nye, former Chicago Cubs Rookie of the Year – and this is a piece that is not only magnificent when you see it, but with a rich story of how it came to be." Stalley said, "The Foundation is so lucky to have this donation and it is exciting to offer a chance to win it to our alumni and supporters. Someone is going to be very happy when the raffle drawing takes place."

You can help support the Pierre Educational Foundation by buying raffle tickets for a chance to win this blanket chest. Tickets are 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$25. You can purchase your tickets from the Foundation or by contacting members of the Class of 1971 Reunion Committee. All tickets sold benefit the Foundation. You do not need to be present to win, but the cost of delivery is the responsibility of the winner. The drawing for the blanket chest will be Saturday, September 4, 2021, at 8:00 pm at the American Legion in Pierre, South Dakota. More pictures of the chest are available at [www.pefgovs.org](http://www.pefgovs.org).

### 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

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*City of Pierre Designee*

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*At Large Trustee*

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*At Large Trustee*

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*Pierre School District Board Representative*

**Katie Johnson - Director**

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*At Large Trustee*

**Ann Schwartz - Director**

*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.*

# Notes from the Foundation

Jennifer Stalley | Executive Director



Both of these funds were established in 2020 to memorialize the servant leadership of these families and create generous opportunities to support the university or technical college plans of the recipients. The Foundation is excited about these new scholarships and the opportunities to bring more support for our students in the coming year. Your support helps make those opportunities realities.

We were excited to be able to host the Foundation's Evening of Excellence in person this year to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating seniors and honor the educators who have help them succeed. Being in person for our first major event and getting to see firsthand the great students and teachers we have in the Pierre School District is extremely meaningful and motivation for the Foundation team.

We will welcome new teachers to the District for the upcoming school year. Your support allows us to welcome new teachers to the District and help them start inspiring their students on day one. The new teacher welcome program was one of many great steps the Foundation took with Janelle Toman and Deanne Booth as board members. We are extremely thankful for their contributions to the Foundation now and well into the future.

You can make a difference, too, by doing something as easy as buying a raffle ticket for a beautiful blanket chest or as significant as donating to start a scholarship in honor of someone who has inspired you. Any level of giving to Foundation makes a big impact – thank you for thinking big!

The last months have caused the Foundation to work differently to continue our mission to promote excellence in education. This refocus helped us do some things better than we had been doing them and allowed us to enjoy resuming some activities when the time was safe to do so. The Foundation is also excited about the generous donation of Jim Thompson, who spent the past months crafting the beautiful blanket chest to donate to us to support scholarships and teacher program. Be sure to get our raffle tickets for this one of a kind piece!

The Foundation is in the process of redesigning its website to be more user friendly for our educators, students This redesign will allow students to see a full list of our scholarships with applications. Educators will have access to our latest funding opportunities and history of the innovative projects the Foundation has funded. And, alumni will be able to share updates to their contact information, major milestones in their lives and reunion information. Watch for the launch of the new website later this summer.

The Foundation is also adding to our list of scholarships. We are very pleased to add the Shaw Family Scholarship Fund and the Edith and Richard Warder Scholarship fund to the scholarships the Foundation offers to graduating seniors.



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# Pierre Educational Foundation Awards Scholarships

The Foundation awarded over \$22,000 in scholarships to 10 students selected to receive scholarships endowed with the Foundation. These scholarships are donor directed and provide scholarships for students pursuing specific career goals or who accomplished specific achievements during their high school career. This year, the Foundation awarded the newly created Shaw Family Scholarship in memory of Mike and Marilyn Shaw, longtime Pierre residents who were impactful servant leadership their community to three students. The Foundation also awarded the first Warder Family Scholarship, established in memory of Edith and Richard Warder, for a student planning to pursue a career in law. The Foundation is proud of all the 2021 scholarship winners.



## 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. **Kenzie Gronlund** was awarded this year’s \$1,000 Charles “Lindy” and Shirley Feeney Scholarship. Gronlund is a member of the softball, volleyball, basketball and track teams. In addition, she has diverse and numerous volunteer experiences in the community including helping elementary children as a tutor, volunteer at youth sports camps and helping Feeding South Dakota and PARS to provide food for needy families. Gronlund plans to attend South Dakota State University to pursue a career in mathematics with a specialization in education and minoring in coaching.



## 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 \$1,000 scholarship is to support a student’s efforts to become a teacher in an elementary, middle school, high school or university

setting. **Seneca Hertel** was awarded the 2021 Emde Scholarship. Hertel plans to attend the University of Nebraska Kearny to major in communication disorders and minor in special education with plans to pursue a master’s in speech-language pathology. In addition to her academic achievements, Hertel is the secretary for national honor society, member of Governor to Governor, volunteer swim coach and youth leader at her church.



## The Pierre Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship

The Pierre Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship Fund was established in 2019 by the Pierre Hospital Auxiliary. This \$1,000 scholarship is intended to go to a graduating high school student who will enter the medical field. The scholarship may be awarded to a student attending

a college, university, technical or vocational school. The 2021

Pierre Hospital Auxiliary scholarship was awarded to **Emma Lusk**. Lusk plans to attend South Dakota State University to major in human biology and biomedical engineering. Upon completion of her undergraduate degree, Lusk plans to attend medical school. In addition to her school involvement, including Student Body President, Future Business Leaders of America, student council and varsity track, Lusk also volunteered in the community including as a Avera Helmsley Center greeter, teacher’s aide and Capital Area United Way board member.

## James and Gertrude Mueller Scholarship Fund

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. **Emma Lusk** is the 2021 recipient of the James and Gertrude Mueller Scholarship. Lusk plans to attend South Dakota State University to major in human biology, and biomedical engineering. Upon completion of her undergraduate degree, Lusk plans to attend medical school. In addition to her school involvement, including Student Body President, Future Business Leaders of America, student council and varsity track, Lusk also volunteered in the community including Avera Helmsley Center greeter, teacher’s aide and Capital Area United Way board member.



## Schliessmann Family Scholarship

The Schliessmann Scholarship is awarded to a T.F. Riggs High School senior who will be pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) from an accredited college or university. The intent of this scholarship is to support a student’s efforts to pursue a career in a STEM field. The \$1,000

scholarship is renewable for three additional years for a total scholarship award of \$4,000. The 2021 Schliessmann Scholarship was awarded to **Hannah Schochenmaier**. Schochenmaier plans to attend South Dakota State University and major in animal science along with completing her undergrad in pre-vet medicine. She is a member of the national honor society, leader for the cheer team and is a member of the FFA chapter where she serves as president.

# Scholarships Continued



## Spilde Family Scholarship

The Spilde Family Scholarship was established to assist a student with the costs of his/her higher education cost. There is one \$2,500 scholarship for a student attending a college/university and one \$2,500 scholarship for a student attending a vocational or technical school.

The 2021 Spilde Family Scholarship university recipient is **Taylee Agard** (pictured below). Agard plans to pursue a career in health sciences and kinesiology at the University of South Dakota. Her goals include working towards a doctorate's degree to pursue a career in the medical field, working with children and their health. The 2021 Spilde Family Scholarship technical school recipient is **Khia White Eyes** (pictured above). White Eyes plans to attend Lake Area Technical College to become an occupational therapy assistant. She was active in competitive cheer for three years and captain her senior year. She is a mentor for the Governor to Governor Program.

## Mortenson Family Scholarship

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.



**Taylee Agard** is the 2021 Mortenson Family Scholarship recipient. Agard plans to pursue a career in health sciences and kinesiology at the University of South Dakota. Her goals include

working towards a doctorate's degree to pursue a career in the medical field, working with children and their health.

## Warder Family Scholarship

The Edith and Richard Warder Scholarship was established in 2020 by Robert and Jo Anna Warder. The \$1,000 scholarship is intended to go to a graduating high school student who has an interest in political science or law. The inaugural 2021 Edith and Richard Warder Scholarship was awarded to **Nolan**



## Rounds.

Rounds plans to attend South Dakota State University. He is student body vice president, member of Governor-to-Governor mentorship program and national honor society president. He was a South Dakota Legislative page during the 2020 and 2021 legislative sessions. After obtaining his bachelor's degree, he hopes to attend graduate school.

## Shaw Family Scholarship

The Shaw Family Scholarship Fund was established in 2020 by the Shaw Family in memory of Mike and Marilyn Shaw, longtime Pierre residents who were impactful servant leaders in their community. The inaugural 2021 Shaw Family Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,500 was awarded to **Delaney Engbrecht, Levi McKinley and Paige Pollreis.**



**Engbrecht** plans to attend Southeast Technical College and obtain her invasive cardiovascular technologist degree. Engbrecht is Drumline Captain, student leader for Governor to Governor Program and President of Tri-M Music Honor Society. She is a youth leader at her church and has participated on two-week mission trips to Juarez Mexico for the past four summers.



**McKinley** plans to attend the South Dakota State University with plans to become a veterinarian. McKinley is active in cross-country, chamber and all-state choir; Governor to Governor team leader and secretary for the Tri-M Music Honors Society. He is an assistant teacher for children's ministry at his church and volunteer for Victory Center Bible Camp.



**Pollreis** plans to attend the University of South Dakota. Pollreis is a mentor for Governor to Governor, newspaper staff, national honor society and student senate officer. She is a religious education instructor for the 7th grade girls religious education class at her church. She plans to major in neuroscience and psychology in preparation for medical school and eventually a career in child psychiatry.

**SAVE  
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the  
—  
DATE**

Mark your  
calendar for  
the Evening of  
Excellence on  
**May 5, 2022!**

# 2021 Educators of Excellence

## T. F. Riggs Nominees

Rodd Bauck  
Terry Becker  
Kelly Brandt  
Vasthi Gibson  
Jenny Hodges  
Teresa Johnson  
John Kalda  
Shawn Lewis  
Mackenzie McKeithan-Jensen  
Jay Mickelson  
Brianna Postma  
Jay Schwartz  
Greg Starr  
Christina Staskewich  
Steve Steele  
Greg Stluka  
Elizabeth Vogt

## Elementary and Georgia Morse Nominees

Hope Armstrong  
MacKenzie Blake  
Karla Blemaster  
Megan Deal  
Guy Hunter  
Becky Kitts  
Chad Kringel  
Joseph Lehman  
Kim Livermont  
Amber Stout  
Becky Walsh  
Paula Weeldreyer

# 2021 Scholars of Excellence

Adeline Abernathy  
Andie Allison  
Regan Bollweg  
Collin Brueggeman  
Eleah Carda  
Joseph Cremer  
Bennett Dean  
Brooke Easland  
Morgan Eckert  
Cord Ellis  
Delaney Engbrecht  
Taylor Evans  
Andrew Gordon  
Kenzie Gronlund  
Devin Hemmelman  
Seneca Hertel  
Ajaye Hicks  
Miah Kienholz  
Arielle Kiepke  
Jacob Larson  
Zachary Letellier  
Gabriella Linn  
Houston Lunde

Emma Lusk  
Micheala Magner  
Levi McKinley  
Jordan Morley  
Morkeia Mutchelknaus  
Carlee Natvig  
Morgan Nelson  
Allison Ondricek  
Isaac Polak  
Paige Pollreis  
Tessa Putzier  
Conlan Rendell  
Nolan Rounds  
Christopher Schultz  
Malia Schumacher  
Savannah Shrake  
Alexandra Smith  
Gabriel Valle  
Luke Venner  
Aubre Westover  
Austyn Wiebe  
Raegan Wiebe  
Mesa Winder

## Teresa Johnson Named 2021 Educator of Excellence

BankWest, in partnership with the Pierre Educational Foundation, presented the 2021 BankWest Educator of Excellence to Mrs. Teresa Johnson, Project Skills teacher and leader of the Gov To Gov program at T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre. The honor was presented at Pierre Educational Foundation's Evening of Excellence in May. In addition to this symbol of appreciation, BankWest will also be providing Theresa with a \$1,500 grant to apply to continuing education.

Mrs. Johnson received several nominations and appropriately most of them mentioned her character, heart and ability to lead by example.

*"She has helped me build so much confidence and the drive to become a better leader."*

*"She will do anything and everything to ensure that everyone in the high school feels included and welcome, and she never fails to have a contagious smile on her face."*

*"She strives to help students become better people through giving and helping others and the community."*

Please help us congratulate Mrs. Johnson on this honor!

Congratulations to all of the teachers that were nominated as 2021 Educators of Excellence. Your work makes a positive difference in our world. Thank you for all you do. Teaching, during the best of times, is challenging. Teaching, during a



2021 Educator of Excellence Teresa Johnson pictured with Mike Gibson, COO of BankWest.

global pandemic, must have felt kind of like running an obstacle course while blindfolded. You never knew what the next hurdle was going to look like.

According to your students, you all took those hurdles like pros. You excelled in spite of the challenges placed in your path. And that might be one of the most valuable lessons you could have passed on to your students over the past two years. The pandemic shined a light on many types of heroes and our teachers were definitely among them.



## 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).*

## Class Reunions

*The Foundation can help you locate your class members for your reunion with class lists. Contact our office for information.*

### Class of 1970 (50th/51st Reunion)

Friday, September 3rd and Saturday, September 4th, 2021.

Mixer with the Class of 1971, Friday evening, September 3rd, at Drifters in Ft. Pierre.

Dinner function for the Class of 1970 at the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center on Saturday evening, September 4th

Attendance responses can be sent to Carol (Erbe) Harrmann by email at [erbe.carol@gmail.com](mailto:erbe.carol@gmail.com)

### Class of 1971 (50th Reunion)

Thursday, September 2nd – Saturday, September 4th, 2021  
Thursday, September 2nd – Early Bird Mixer at the Hitching Horse  
Friday, September 3rd – Mixer with Class of 1970 at Drifters in Ft. Pierre  
Saturday, September 4th – Food and Music at Legion Cabin

Contact Ken Shelbourne with questions at 605-280-4822

### Class of 1960 (50th/51st Reunion)

The Class of 1960 will hold its previously postponed 50th Reunion in Pierre on September 17-19, 2021 in Pierre. Contact Chuck Humphrey ([humphrey0426@pie.midco.net](mailto:humphrey0426@pie.midco.net)) or Connie Herseeth Jacobs ([cjjacobs@pie.midco.net](mailto:cjjacobs@pie.midco.net)) for more information.

## Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

The Foundation welcomed two new board members in July. Grace Beck joined the board to replace Janelle Toman, who previously served as the Capital City Campus representative on the board. Toman most recently served as the Foundation president. Ann Schwartz joined the board as an at-large member to replace Deanne Booth. Booth served on the board first as a representative of the school board and then as a 5-year at-large member. During her time on the board, Booth served in various roles, including president.



**Grace Beck** hails from Aberdeen and moved to Pierre after graduating from Hillsdale College in 2012. She briefly worked for the Governor's Office of Economic Development before moving to the Governor's Office. While working for Governor Dugaard, Grace earned her Masters in Public Administration from the University of South Dakota.

For the past few years, Grace has worked on the government relations team at Redstone Law Firm and spends time lobbying during the legislative session. Grace and her husband Bryan have two little boys: Kenny (2) and Arlo (1) – keeping them alive consumes the majority of her free time.



**Ann Schwartz** is a TF Riggs High School Class of 1995 graduate. Following graduation, Ann earned her BA in Human Services and Business from Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, SD and her Masters in Social Work from Boston College.

In 2010, Ann and her family returned to Pierre after living in Boston for several years. Ann held various positions with the State of South Dakota in the

Departments of Social Services and Human Services, including serving as the Deputy Director for the Division of Medical Services. Ann joined the team at Delta Dental of South Dakota in June 2017 where she is the Director of Government Programs and Professional Services.

Ann is married to Jay Schwartz, a teacher in the TF Riggs Math Department, and they have two children in the Pierre School District.

The Foundation is grateful for the contributions of Toman and Booth during their years of service to the Foundation. Welcome to Beck and Schwartz as they begin their terms on the board.



**Pierre Educational Foundation**

PO Box 94  
Pierre, SD 57501

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