

# Annual Report

2017-2018

## OUR MISSION

FLPS believes that all students should have what they need to reach their full potential. We engage our community to inspire students and educators, and create educational opportunities that enhance academic and personal success.



Distributed over  
**\$1,031,400**

To over  
**350 funds**

**3,174 Gifts**  
from our generous donors

## New Citywide Mariachi Ensemble Looks to Community



Lincoln Public Schools is proud to announce the citywide mariachi ensemble that kicked off last month, with the support of the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools. Los Mariachis de la Ciudad Estrella (The Mariachis of the Star City), gives all Lincoln students in grades 8-12 a chance to learn and perform mariachi music. The ensemble will be centrally headquartered at Lincoln High School.

“This has been a goal of our music department to expand the music opportunities for students in LPS,” said Lance Nielsen, supervisor of music at Lincoln Public Schools. “Mariachi is one of the wonderful musical traditions of Mexico. This serves not only our music students who are interested in becoming more culturally relevant through music, but it also benefits and supports our growing Hispanic community in Lincoln.”

Making the experience open to all is a priority to help students explore, learn and perform authentic mariachi music. “Los Mariachis offers meaningful choices for Lincoln students to increase student and parent engagement in schools,” said Brett Noser, director of the ensemble.

This project needs help from the community. Instruments and clothing are expensive, especially for families in need. The Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools has launched a campaign to support the project now and into the future. Gifts will help the Foundation offer this opportunity at little or no cost to students. “We hope to raise \$35,000 for instruments and clothing,” says Gary Reber, Foundation for LPS development officer. “We also hope to create a long-term endowed fund that will offer permanent support for instrument repair and maintenance. Lincoln is a diverse and tremendously supportive community. It will be fun to watch this new experience take wing.”

**To find out more or support this unique musical experience, go to <https://bit.ly/MariachiLPS>**



### STEP UP SURVEY:

Did you know that in 2017 the Foundation for LPS was ranked as the seventh best K-12 educational foundation in the nation? Find out more here: <http://bit.ly/FLPSSTEP>

### FUND a NEED

- 98 classroom needs met
- 44 schools served
- \$110,519 raised to support classroom needs

# Strong, Stable Families

Addressing basic and emergency needs so all students come to school ready to learn.

## 2Gen: Learning-Parents and Children Learning Together



2Gen (Family Literacy) is a nationally recognized and innovative educational approach with a powerful premise. It brings students and families together to learn. During part of the school day, adults new to our country receive basic lessons in language and literacy, as well as parenting skills. The rest of the school day, they spend time in their children's classrooms, learning math right alongside them.

Wells Fargo is a partner, and an important supporter of the 2Gen program, not only financially, but because they encourage their employees to volunteer. Over the past three years, Wells Fargo has given \$25,000 to support the program.

Tammy Peters, a Wells Fargo employee, teaches financial literacy to parents during the program. She teaches the basics, like how to write a check, what to look for when you receive a check, even how to do an entry into the register. "I am extremely passionate about personal finance," Peters said "It is so rewarding to give back to my community. People learn the basics about how to live in Lincoln, Nebraska."

Currently, there are about 3,100 English Language Learning Students in our district, and as Lincoln's refugee population grows, 2Gen makes a remarkable difference for those who participate in the program. 2Gen is currently in 11 schools, and programs have between 14 to 20 families in each school. The cost to get a site up and running is approximately \$50,000 or \$25,000 to add a new session at an existing school.

In addition to English language skills, parents also learn cultural proficiency, life skills, job skills, parenting skills, homework tips, support in raising bilingual children and many other critical skills to help families honor their cultural heritage while adapting to life in Nebraska.

For more information about the 2Gen program, go to <https://www.foundationforlps.org/2gen>.

- \$43,528 provided for emergency needs
- 193 families supported in times of crisis
- 196 families helped through 2Gen program
- \$34,502 provided for 2Gen program



*Now that I'm able and have the means to provide funds for the teachers at Lincoln High and the Foundation, the pleasure it gives me is so different than anything you could get from buying a thing. Any material object that I could ever get could never bring me as much pleasure as being able to give to these organizations that I so admire.*

- TRAVIS BERRY



*One of Wells Fargo's corporate priorities is to ensure all people feel respected and have equal access to resources and opportunities to succeed. The work the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools does on behalf of children and families in our community is aligned with that priority. We share some of the same values of diversity, inclusion, and equity. We believe in the need to provide quality education for all, as it is a catalyst for personal achievement and community growth.*

- CRISTINA CASTRO-MATUKEWICZ,  
VICE-PRESIDENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS,  
WELLS FARGO BANK





# Next Level Learning

*Partnering with the community to enrich student learning.*

## Building the perfect pitch: An opportunity of a lifetime for Lincoln students



It takes a certain set of talents and skills to become a builder of ideas, businesses and communities. Gallup's new BP10 (Builder's Profile) assessment helps reveal just that. If you think "Gallup's StrengthsFinder for Entrepreneurs," you will quickly understand the core foundation in Lincoln's **Future Builders Challenge**.

"As a society, we've become pretty good at identifying students with athletic, musical or academic talents at a very early age," said Prosper Lincoln developer and FLPS Honor Roll Society co-chair, Rich Claussen. "Why don't we do the same thing for students with 'builder talents'— those students who will be building the communities and businesses of the future." Claussen came to the Foundation for LPS with this idea, and the rest is history—in the making.

In 2018, more than 3,000 ninth graders and upperclassmen interested in business from all Lincoln public and private schools took Gallup's BP10 assessment to reveal their strengths as builders of businesses and ideas. Approximately 500 students who showed

the highest levels of strengths in business and entrepreneurship (what Gallup calls "Builders") were selected to participate in additional activities.

Philanthropy fueled the project with broad community support from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Gallup, Ameritas, Spreetail, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, Assurity, Don't Panic Labs, Lincoln Community Foundation, Foundation for LPS as well as several individual contributors.

"Student potential is at the heart of this project and the heart of our mission," says Wendy Van, FLPS president. "We are helping these great partners work with our schools to provide an exceptional opportunity for kids. It is a perfect use of our public school foundation. Working in partnership, and building on the unique contributions each entity brings, we can produce so much more together than we ever could as individuals—and it is apparent in the Future Builder's Challenge."

The next Future Builders competition will start up in early 2019.

- \$19,931 provided to library and media funds
- \$101,005 for Future Builders
- \$16,141 provided to science funds

*Every new idea needs not one, but several champions and the FLPS is a champion for Future Builders. Wendy and her team went above and beyond in helping us navigate the best possible collaborations in the schools and of course the funding distribution. They also rolled up their sleeves at the events. What a partner. So glad they are on the team to build this out even better in 2019.*

- RICH CLAUSSEN, PROSPER LINCOLN

OUR FOUR PILLARS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

# Beyond the Classroom

*Wrapping resources around extra-curricular activities.*



## Dawes Middle School leads the way

The first time Dawes Middle School Principal Angie Plugge heard about a possibility for the national engineering program “Project Lead The Way” to find a home at Dawes Middle School, she knew she would fight to make it happen. “Programs like these change the lives of students,” said Plugge. “Students are not only hearing, ‘Yes you can do this,’ they are gaining the experience to be confident in their abilities, knowledge, and skills. They have opportunities to see how to use these skills in the real world.”

Dawes is the first middle school in Lincoln Public Schools to offer Project Lead The Way.

The project came about because of a conversation between the Foundation and Dr. Ken Jones, an engineer and the donor who started Northeast High School’s Project Lead The Way program. “This is the part of my job that I love the most,” says Wendy Van, president of the Foundation for LPS, “matching donors’ philanthropic passions to real projects. None of this could happen without the donor and an idea.”

The well established Community Learning Centers (CLC) and extended-day program at Dawes serves around 130 students each afternoon which made it the perfect place to house the new curriculum.

“Having resources through gifts or time, is invaluable to changing the outlook and hope for a student’s future” says Dawes teacher Kristin Page. “I’m passionate about connecting students to the world around them through technology and giving them opportunities they might not get outside of school.”

Students love the design process and their faces light up when they see their 3-D designs on a computer modeling program turn into a physical model from the 3-D printer.

Plugge is grateful. “There are a lot of factors involved in creating a program of this size in the schools, and the Foundation navigated all of this for us,” she said. “This program will make students, schools, and the community even better.”

→ \$29,542 distributed to music programs

→ \$4,773 distributed to athletic funds



OUR FOUR PILLARS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

# College and Career

Helping students get ready to thrive.

## Scholarship Story: Nestor Hernandez



Over the years, many generous individuals, businesses, and organizations have established funds for scholarships at

the Foundation. Because we care deeply about the quality of education available to our students, we work together with the Lincoln community to help students achieve their educational goals. Last year, we were able to provide 105 scholarships to 90 college-bound students. Scholarships for 2019 graduating seniors will be open on December 17th and will be closing on February 22nd.

Recently, we heard from a 2016 winner of the Robert D Carstens Scholarship. "First off, I want to thank the Robert D. Carstens scholarship and the Foundation for LPS. My college experience would not be the same without this scholarship, and you have made it possible for me to have one less thing to worry about by attending college," said Nestor Hernandez, currently a Data Science major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Nestor has done well at UNL, making the Spring 2018 Dean's List. "The Robert D. Carstens scholarship has been a part of every year since I have begun my college years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It has been essential to my experience, and has been a motivation each and every year."

**Applications will be available here:**  
<https://bit.ly/FLPSScholarships>

### Scholarships

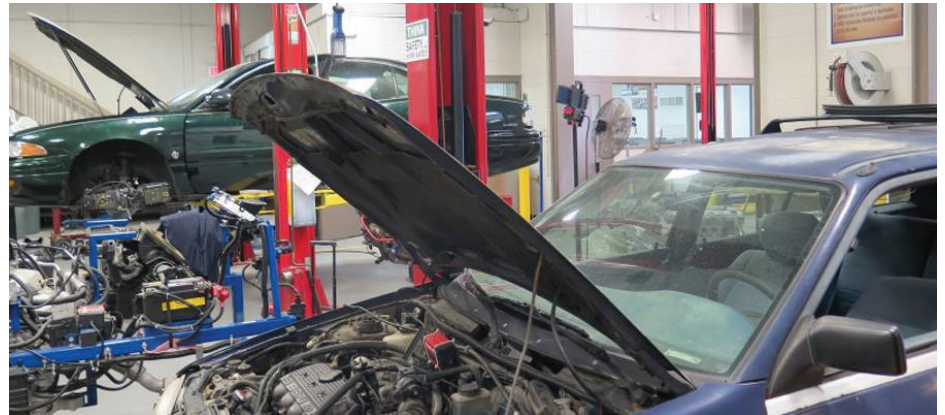
- 105 scholarships
- \$252,900 awarded
- 90 students served

## The Career Academy

- 19 tuition reimbursements awarded
- \$4,201 distributed for scholarships
- \$161,308 distributed to TCA student experiences

TCA is gaining traction with students, with 30% growth this year and a record enrollment of 525 students.

## Did You Know?



In 2018, LPS opened more pathways for career focused learning. Including Criminal Justice (at The Career Academy) and Automotive Tech (at Lincoln High & Northeast). There is considerable interest for both pathways with 52 signing up for Criminal Justice and over 230 students for Automotive Tech so far. Students will be able to earn dual credit with discounted tuition through Southeast Community College and can qualify for certification.

Donor funds have enabled students to take field trips, support tuition needs, fund capstone projects, and compete in local, state, and national student competitions.

"The total of these experiences allow students to go more deeply into their pathway and determine if their perception of

the path is in fact reality," said Dan Hohensee, director of the academy. He points out that many students find their "fit" and also gain confidence from the variety of experiences offered at TCA. "This is only possible through the funding of our generous donors," he said. "Those funds truly help build and support the future talent pipeline."

"Our community sponsors are a big part of this educational experience. Their engagement and funding assists in creating a robust learning environment," said Wendy Van, president of the Foundation. "We are very grateful to all of our sponsors and donors."

"Students find their fit in the world and gain confidence that they are capable of whatever they set their mind to," Hohensee said.

# Awards

## Inspire Awards



## Inspire School Award

IRVING ELEMENTARY



“

*Many thanks to the donors who created this award! It is humbling to be recognized for doing the important work that we do.*



**- TIM MUGGY, WINNER OF THE MARIE BOURKE LEADERSHIP AWARD**

”

## LPS Outstanding Educators

Amanda Mueller	Mickle Middle School	Florence J. Clark Middle School Award
Michalla Schartz	Lefler Middle School	Florence J. Clark Middle School Award
Patty Baker	Elliott Elementary School	Helen Krieger Outstanding Healthcare Provider Award
Denyse Hunsaker	Zeman Elementary School	John Prasch Health and Physical Fitness Award
Isau Metes	The Career Academy	Leola Bullock Multicultural Award
Yvonne Meyer	Lincoln High	Marian Battey Andersen/Charles Wheaton Battey Outstanding Teacher Award
Tim Muggy	Roper Elementary School	Marie Bourke Leadership Award
Johnna Graff	Lincoln Southeast High School	Mike Troester Outstanding Educator Award
Pat Janike	Lincoln High School	Myrtle Clark Outstanding Mathematics Educator Award
Lucas Varley	Lincoln High School	Nancy Muehlhausen Counseling Award
Nancy Bare	Prescott Elementary- District Office	R.L. Fredstrom Award
Sue Hedrick	Kahoa Elementary School	Ruth Eickman Early Childhood Award
Ross Dirks	Pound Middle School	Sawin 'Soul Work' Award
David Juiliano	Lincoln High School	Travis Berry Outstanding Lincoln High Educator Award
Nina Scheele	Elliott Elementary	Union Bank & Trust Financial Literacy Award
Diane Slaby	Lux Middle School	Union Bank & Trust Financial Literacy Award
Brian Wandzilak	North Star High School	Union Bank & Trust Financial Literacy Award
Rachele Stoops	Bryan Community School	Victor Vaughan Memorial Award
Jennifer Marvin-Steinheider	Elliott Elementary School	Victor Vaughan Memorial Award
Elizabeth Thomsen	Yankee Hill Program	Victor Vaughan Memorial Award



# Spark Summer Learning



At Spark Summer Learning we believe in the power of questions. Asking a question may seem like a small thing, but it opens the door to becoming a maker. Spark's purpose is to help young people ask a question and give them skills to explore their answers. Sparkler's (aka Spark student's) curiosity span all spheres of knowledge, so we study STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). This combination of fields allows students to follow questions wherever they lead. When we "make" at Spark we address problems through the 5 step design process, Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create, and Reimagine helps campers critically think about what they are working on, whether it is a giant paper airplane or a huge, student invented instrument known as the "triple-necked boom bass", the 5 step design process ensures they work together to solve a problem.

Every week our BIG question was: What will you make today? And each week our 50+ Sparklers came up with answers like screen printed electronics, pressure-powered rocket designs, a nano-treatment for a disease, a robot that draws pictures, a pterodactyl inflatable, and so much more.

Nobody has all the answers so we believe in asking others to join our exploration. Lincoln Electric System helped answer how we can design circuitry to accomplish tasks. BVH Architecture helped Sparklers develop ideas about what type of structure a bee



might enjoy living in and how that might look different from a tortoise's dream house. We explored biology and the architecture of the Lincoln Children's Zoo. The Nebraska Innovation Studio helped Sparklers explore 3D modeling. The Career Academy, Dream It Do It Manufacturing group, Oscar Poherieth, and UNL's Nanoscience department all helped students share their curiosity before the summer was over.

Although summer ended, the questions never do, so we will begin the curiosity, design, and creativity again next year on May 28th.

**Spark registration opens January 14th:**  
<http://bit.ly/steamSpark>



*One of Haris' favorite themes was Animal Engineers-Bioengineering. These experiences inspired the children to imagine and create new inventions based on animal adaptations. The boys loved their summer at Spark and I am confident that we chose the best summer program.*

- LAURA PLICANIC, SPARK PARENT



## Board:

Many thanks to our board for their dedicated support and effort in helping all LPS students to reach their full potential.

### 2018-19 BOARD

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## Honor Roll Society:

We are grateful to our Honor Roll partners, who make a difference for students and educators with their advocacy, involvement and patronage.

### Honor Roll Chairs:

*Ginna and Rich Claussen*  
*Leslie Gibbens and Brian Hefner*

Honor Roll Society is made up of parents and community members who are committed to maintaining and supporting a strong public school system in Lincoln.

Honor Roll Society partners can directly interact and be a part of Lincoln Public Schools and its commitment to providing high-quality education for ALL of Lincoln's students. Many projects may go unfunded or could not help students achieve that next level of excellence without the support of loyal community members like you.

Partners will enjoy many benefits including specialized communication, publications, invitations to events and activities as well as public recognition and

acknowledgment at Foundation events and on Foundation materials.

Some of the things to look forward to as an Honor Roll Society Partner:

- ▶ Small group discussion forums throughout the school year
- ▶ Giving circles to learn about and support projects of personal interest
- ▶ Volunteer opportunities in schools and with the Foundation
- ▶ Behind the scenes updates from LPS Leadership
- ▶ Communication from the Superintendent of LPS
- ▶ Opportunities to be a contributor to the FLPS blog, newsletters, and other community engagement activities
- ▶ The chance to meet and interact with like-minded parents and community members.

**Partnership starts with a gift to the Foundation for LPS Inspiring Dreams Campaign. Interested in learning more?**  
<https://bit.ly/FLPSHonorRoll>

## THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS:

### VISIONARY



### POINT OF LIGHT



### ENGAGING



### SUPPORTING:

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