



Poudre School District
FOUNDATION

*Uniting community resources
for excellence in
public education*



1630 South Stover Street Fort Collins, CO www.psdfoundation.org (970) 490-3292 Volume 1, Issue 1 April 2010

Poudre School District Foundation Goes Beyond Bridging the Gap in Funding

An excellent education and an excellent education system is something that as a parent I want to ensure for my child and that as a citizen I think is an important asset to a world class community. An excellent education is also something the Poudre School District teachers, administrators, and staff want to deliver and every year they identify strategies, tactics, and programs to reach and educate every child. I tip my hat to the great work that they do each and every day.

Through the State of Colorado School Finance Act Poudre School District is funded at the lowest level of Colorado's 178 school districts. In 2009-10, PSD received \$6,857 per student, compared with the state range of \$6,857 to \$15,430 per pupil (state average \$7,226). The formula for this funding level is based on several factors including the cost of living, personnel costs, district size and the percentage of students considered at-risk.

PSD has historically been one of the lowest funded



Christine Chin, President
Poudre School District
Foundation Board
of Directors

districts in the state and does an excellent job leveraging those funds to provide a quality education.

To bridge that gap in funding, The Poudre School District Foundation has provided funds to teachers to support innovation and ideas to engage students, foster learning and achievement. We acknowledge that basic educational needs are to be met through tax revenues and state funding and our focus is on the student and teacher needs that cannot be provided through traditional funding sources.

Currently, the Foundation focuses these three key programs:

The Supporting Partnerships in Innovative Education (SPIE) grant program provides resources to PSD staff for innovative educational projects. The Foundation has provided \$562,000 through 181 grants

to teachers from 2001 through 2009, funding ideas to increase student learning and achievement.

Through the Foundation's Technology Initiative we collaborated with the District to create and partially fund the Digital Educator Program (DEP) pilot. DEP is a staff development program to help teachers learn how to integrate technology into their lesson units in order to engage students, improve student achievement, and build 21st Century workforce skills for both teachers and students. This signature technology initiative program launched in May 2009.

The Excellence in Education Awards program each spring recognizes educators who demonstrate a commitment to learning and student achievement. Nominations are made by participating schools and reviewed by a

committee of community members and representatives from CSU and PSD.

The Foundation's mission is uniting community resources for excellence in public education. Our role is to build relationships with members of the community to create awareness, to connect them to the great works in the district, and to raise funds. We accomplish this through hosting school tours, speaking to community groups, grant writing, facilitating pass through donations and establishing donor funds, and hosting our Annual Community Breakfast.

For additional information about the Poudre School District Foundation or to receive information about how to make a personal donation, please contact Mike Demma, PSD Foundation Director, at (970) 490-3292.

We look forward to sharing with you how your support can fulfill needs that positively impact student achievement, making sure that every child learns to the best of their ability, regardless of their ability.

Recent Events

PSD Foundation Annual Breakfast

7:30am-8:30am
at the
Marriot Hotel
April 22

If you missed the breakfast, you can still donate online at www.psdfoundation.org or contact the PSD Foundation office to learn more.

SPIE/E3 Grants

Watch for the SPIE/E3 grant release of the online application available to all PSD personal in early May 2010. Applications will be available online at psdfoundation.org. Selection will occur in September 2010. For additional information, contact Mike Demma at the PSD Foundation office.

Teachers and Special Education Award Recipients recognized at Excellence in Education Banquet

The eight outstanding Poudre School District teachers selected for the 2010 Excellence in Education Awards and Mary Hull (Special Education program) Awards were honored at the Excellence in Education Awards banquet on Monday, March 1, 2010.

"The Poudre School District Foundation, whose mission is to unite community resources for excellence in public education, is pleased

to recognize, encourage and celebrate staff excellence in teaching at this event," said Mike Demma, director of the Poudre School District Foundation.

Formerly titled the Distinguished Teacher Award program, the Excellence in Education Awards has recognized teachers for more than 25 years. Twelve outstanding educators were nominated from across the district this year for the Ex-

cellence in Education and Promising Teacher awards as a result of their commitment to student excellence.

The Foundation helps fill the gap as the only comprehensive, district-wide advancement organization. The Foundation works as a partner to support programs and fulfill needs that positively impact student achievement, making sure that every child learns to the best of their ability, regardless their ability.

Excellence in Education Award

- P. Diane Williams, Irish Elementary
- Bonnie Cowen, Poudre High
- Judy Oakleaf, Boltz Middle
- Mary Sue Landrum-Ehrlich, Eyestone Elementary

Mary Hull Awards

- Debi Varoz, Fossil Ridge High
- Tom Lopez, Rocky Mountain High
- Sue Bartlett, Rocky Mountain High

Community Education Advocate Award

- Rotary Clubs of Fort Collins
- Promising Teacher Award
- Ericka Freed, Rice Elementary