

2601 Grandview Blvd.,
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COMMUNITY REPORT 2015 - 2016

WILSON EDUCATION FOUNDATION: WHY & HOW?

When talking to friends and acquaintances, I am often asked three WHY's and two HOW's when describing the Wilson Education Foundation.

1. "Bernie, your children have graduated. WHY are you involved with the Education Foundation?"

2. "This is a relatively wealthy area, and our District is in good financial shape. WHY are you asking for public support?"

3. "WHY should I consider giving to the Foundation?"

4. "HOW will the money be used?"

5. "HOW has the Foundation helped the District?"

Let me tackle these one at a time. I'm a 1981 Wilson graduate, and I have a brother, sister, and two daughters who were educated in our District. Our Wilson education provided us the opportunity to continue our education and pursue our dreams. Being a part of the Foundation is my way of giving back and saying thank you. I want to ensure our students continue to receive an outstanding education that differentiates them from others pursuing the same dream.

While it's true that our District is better off than most, make no mistake, the amount of money from the state that has been used to support educational programs is shrinking every year. It has been said, "As the school district goes, so goes the community," so we ALL need to continue our mission "to support Wilson excellence."

If we are to remain competitive and continue to differentiate the educational opportunities our students receive, we are going to need the investment of parents, alumni, and businesses. We need to be able to continue to provide the kind of education that opens doors and allows our students to follow ambition.

The money will be used to support and assist the needs of the students, teachers, and community. We will look for ways to differentiate



the educational opportunities that our students receive at every level of their education at Wilson. During the past school year alone, WEF provided over \$7,000 to the **Venture Grant Program**. Read about the innovative

programs supported through this program on page 2. More than \$25,000 in **scholarships** were awarded to members of the Wilson High School Class of 2016 (see page 4 for a list of recipients). We also introduced the **WEF Student Scholars Program** to support academic excellence for Wilson students K-12 by rewarding outstanding applicants who exhibit some level of financial need, alongside impeccable scholastic standards. Funding will be awarded on a rolling basis.

Students can apply, or teachers can apply on a student's behalf. Thank you to the Wilson High School Class of 1960 for their reunion donation of \$1,000 towards this new fund! WEF helped spearhead a campaign to raise dollars to support the renovations at the high school to create a new **I-STEM Lab**. You can read more about this initiative on page 4. These are just a few of the ways Wilson Education Foundation is making a difference for Wilson students!

Our goal for Wilson Education Foundation's future is to make an even larger impact on our students' success. Benchmarks for successful foundations are stated as the dollars-per-student-raised (excluding EITC dollars). We have set an initial goal of raising at least \$20.00 per student, per year. Accomplishing this goal will put the Wilson Education Foundation on the top of the list of educational foundations in Pennsylvania, which is appropriate given the District's elite status overall in the state. Please find a donation form on page 4 and take a minute to help us achieve this goal. We need your continued investment in supporting Wilson excellence.

Sincerely,

Bernie Campbell, WEF Board President

WILSON IRON CHEF SUCCESS A THREE-PEAT!

Full trays, full stomachs, and a full house set the stage at Wilson's third annual Wilson Iron Chef Competition & Benefit Auction on April 10. The 1,200 attendees, made up of community members, chefs, and volunteers, were treated to an afternoon of indulgence and entertainment. While guests tasted a variety of treats on Vendor Lane, Wilson students performed live music, and other students showcased their cake-decorating skills. Other restaurants participated in the People's Choice competition where attendees sampled dishes and voted for their favorite. The main event is an intense timed cooking competition between three local chefs, which was held on the stage in the H.S. Auditorium. Chef Jason Hook, H2O Kitchen, took the title of Wilson Iron Chef for the second consecutive year!

New this year, WEF partnered with Sun Federal Credit Union on the Extraordinary Teacher of the Year! Wilson received 449 nominations! Congratulations to Wilson's 2016 Extraordinary Teachers of the Year: Mrs. Connie Aarons, a kindergarten teacher at Whitfield Elementary, and Mr. Tannen Summons, Wilson High School multiple disabilities support teacher! Each received a \$1,000 prize. Through this year's event, over \$35,000 was raised to support the WEF efforts. Please save the date for Sunday, March 26, 2017, from 1-5pm for the next Wilson Iron Chef! There are opportunities for area restaurants and food vendors to participate as well as sponsorship opportunities. For more information, please contact WEF Executive Director Kristin Kramer at 610.670.0180, x1111 or krakri@wilsonsd.org.



Wilson Iron Chef Champion for the 2nd year Chef Jason Hook, H2O Kitchen, working with Chef Tim Twiford.

WILSON EDUCATION FOUNDATION VENTURE GRANTS 2015-2016

The goal of the Venture Grant Program is to enhance and to expand educational experiences and opportunities for the students of the Wilson School District by providing grants to individual teachers, groups of teachers, departments, and other professional employees that support creative and innovative programs that would not normally be funded through the school budget. Grants are awarded semi-annually to enable unique programs, teaching strategies, and learning experiences to become a reality in the classroom or through support services where they can influence the learning climate and directly benefit students. During the 2015-2016 school year, the Foundation awarded over \$7,000 in Venture Grants to support the following programs/activities:

Fall 2015

Elementary Reading Olympics

Wilson School District hosted its 2nd annual elementary Reading Olympics! This exciting opportunity for 4th and 5th grade students in the District motivates students to read independently, and it then allows them to collaborate with their classmates to comprehend different aspects of books. The team format encourages students to share the challenge of reading a wide selection of books with their friends. The grant was used to purchase eBooks and audiobooks from the Reading Olympics' list and were available in each of the elementary school libraries. All students, including those who are not participating in Reading Olympics, have access to these books.



ISTEM Earthquake Testing: 9th grade students participated in a project about the construction of earthquake-resistant structures. Students designed and built structures to meet the needs of the society and the environment in which we live. This grant helped support the cost of the earthquake shake table, which allows for the testing, evaluation, and reflection of student-built structures. The goal is to expose students to an inquiry-based environment, where they are free to design and create without restriction, then observe and analyze the stability of their structures. Throughout this project, students also learned effective teamwork skills and problem-solving strategies.

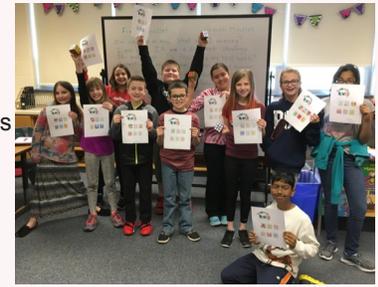
Project to Performance Long-Term Theatre Arts Residency (Whitfield/High School Drama Project)

In partnership with the Yocum Institute for Arts Education, Whitfield elementary students learn about science and language arts through watching and performing different theatre pieces guided by Wilson High School's drama students. This program allows students to work together in a positive ensemble and teaches them how to present their ideas in various theatrical ways. After watching the high school students perform, the elementary students reflect on what they have learned and create their own performance. In past years, elementary teachers have enjoyed seeing students collaborate and discover new ways to express their ideas. This program is also supported by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.



Rubik's Cube Challenge provides Wilson's QUEST elementary students the opportunity to figure out different techniques to solve the Rubik's Cube. Students use hands-on discovery and higher-level

mathematical skills to "unlock the solution" of the Rubik's Cube. They have to use critical thinking, as well as take risks and make mistakes, which are both obstacles that lead to solving the Challenge. Group and one-on-one lessons that correlate to Common Core Standards were available for students to discover the most efficient way to solve this problem by analyzing their mistakes. This grant covered the costs of three Rubik's Cube Kits for Gifted Support at Spring Ridge, Shiloh Hills and Whitfield Elementary Schools.



If a student's basic need is not being met, how can we expect him/her to achieve academically? **Wilson High School's Care Closet** provides everyday necessities like personal hygiene and clothing items for less fortunate students, and also encourages them to create a positive future, starting with their high school experience. This grant helped support the cost to design the Care Closet with bright paint and inspirational décor, as well as to purchase items to help stock the closet. The closet and its location is not advertised. Teachers can refer students to the Care Closet through counselors or administrators. Additional donations from high school faculty, staff and clubs as well as community businesses and organization help the Care Closet continue to serve as a comforting outlet for Wilson students.

Wilson High School Literary Magazine Publication Ink

provides aspiring writers and artists a voice, the opportunity to be published, and allows other students to read their classmates creative work. The production of the literary magazine teaches students the fundamentals of good writing and publishing and fosters a community of young writers and artists to come together and celebrate their accomplishments. Ink is comprised of short stories, poetry, photography, artwork, and personal essays. Published twice a year, each issue invites students from diverse backgrounds to submit their work, and staff use predetermined criteria to select which pieces to publish. This grant helps the magazine get published in a bound book form so that it can be kept in the library and be available for purchase by students, parents, and community members.

Spring 2016

3-D Printing for STEM: This grant supports the costs of a 3-D printer for students to use in elementary school classrooms. The purpose of this project is to provide students with STEM-based learning activities. Students will learn how to use computer software to design a given object while utilizing skills learned in math, science, reading, and technology.

Early Literacy Learners Summer Reading: This grant supported the costs of books at various reading levels allowing elementary students to continue to read over the summer. The purpose of this project is to have students increase their reading proficiency. Over the summer, reading workshops were held by reading specialists, and students were asked to keep reading logs.

Elementary Engineering Drone: One of the main goals of the Wilson School District is to empower students to create their own future. An ambitious third grader who loves technology wants to build his first drone with the help of his teachers and classmates. This student aspires to one day be an engineer, and he is determined to start his career early. This Venture grant will help to cover the costs of various parts needed to complete the drone as well as inspire students to create their future.

Kindergarten Reading Workshop: This program provides resources to implement a reading workshop for kindergarten students and to offer a variety of books to choose from based on their reading level, which will allow them to improve their reading achievement. This grant will benefit current kindergarten students and many upcoming kindergarten students. Studies have shown that the amount of time students spend reading strongly indicates vocabulary development and reading achievement gains. Money from this grant will be used to purchase RR Reading Books from level A to C that are visually friendly for beginning readers.

You Can Do the Rubik's Cube! Elementary: Elementary Quest students at Cornwall Terrace will now have the opportunity to use higher-level critical thinking skills, and they will also use hands-on discovery to solve the Rubik's Cube. The Rubik's Cube presents students with a challenge, allowing them to learn by trial and error. This venture grant supports the costs of the Rubik's Cube Kits and helps to ensure that all elementary Quest students receive equal opportunities.

You Can Do the Rubik's Cube Program Wilson West: Wilson's elementary and middle schools have held "in house" Rubik's Cube competitions where gifted students use their previous learning to complete the challenge. Wilson West has used Rubik's Lending Library, a program that lends Rubik's Cube sets to students for six weeks to prepare students for the competition. Because students have shown great enthusiasm when working with the Rubik's Cubes, this grant will allow West to purchase Rubik's Cubes kits for students to use throughout the school year. Solving the Rubik's Cube challenge encourages students to use critical thinking, collaboration, and advanced mathematical concepts.

Wilson High School Literary Magazine: Wilson High School's literary magazine *Ink* gives aspiring writers a voice while being published, and it allows other students to read their classmates pieces. This grant helps the magazine get published in book form so that it can be kept in the library. The magazine will also be sold to the community. *Ink* is comprised of essays, short stories, and poems from students who are eager to share their works with their peers who are looking to enjoy a good read.

Wilson Paw Print: This is an online school newspaper written about current events by students for other students and the Wilson community. This grant will support the costs of upgrading the website, memory cards, and competition entrance fees. Student writers of the *Paw Print* are given the opportunity to showcase their voice while learning about the writing process.

WEF PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO KEEP THEIR MINDS ACTIVE WITH ACADEMIC SUMMER CAMPS

For the second summer, WEF offered academic camps in a variety of subjects for elementary and middle school students. Planning began in the fall of 2015 and registration opened in February 2016. To offer continuity to the school year, many camps incorporated technology to enhance student learning. Each camp was offered as a one-week, half-day session, Monday through Thursday. Based on parent feedback from the prior summer, PM sessions were offered this year in addition to AM sessions. Some students took a session in one subject in



the morning and different topic in the afternoon to make a full-day of camp. Camps ran the weeks of June 20, June 27, July 11 and July 18. WEF employed eight Wilson teachers to lead the following WEF Academic

Camps that 80 students participated in:

- Art "APP" solutely
- Camp Kindergarten: Getting Ready for K the Fun Way!
- Inspiring the Innovator Inside: Camp Imagination (STEAM)
- Inspiring the Innovator Inside: Camp Creation (STEAM)
- Inspiring the Inventor Inside: Camp Inspiration (STEAM)
- Inspiring the Innovator Inside: Camp Innovation (STEAM)
- Mission Mastermind! (Lego & K'Nex challenges)
- Sports & Math Collide
- You Be the Baker!

THANK YOU TO WILSON IRON CHEF 2016 SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY & SUPPORT:

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RBC Capital Finance/ Municipal Finance

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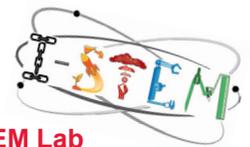
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Rieck's Printing
Scheid Produce Inc.
Singer Equipment
Terre Trophy



EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT (EITC) PROGRAM

The Wilson Education Foundation (WEF) continues to participate as an Educational Improvement Organization in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's EITC program. The EITC program offers substantial tax credits to eligible businesses that make financial contributions to approved organizations. Through EITC contributions, the Foundation received \$54,500 for the 2015-16 school year. With EITC funding, WEF was able to support the Wilson High School I-STEM Academy, a rigorous program for grades 9-12 that focuses on integrated Science, Technology, Engineering and Math concepts. WEF would like to thank the following businesses for their generous support through EITC for the 2015-16 school year:

- BB&T
- East Penn Manufacturing Co. Inc.
- E.G. Smith Jerome H. Rhoads, Inc.
- Fulton Bank
- National Penn Bancshares, Inc.
- Quadrant EPP USA, Inc.
- Tompkins VIST Bank
- Weis Markets, Inc.
- Riverview Bank



3rd Annual Wilson Back-to-School Bash Saturday, September 24 | 5:30-10pm

Enjoy an evening out with fellow Wilson parents, alumni and supporters at this more casual fundraiser that will include LIVE music, dancing, raffles, auctions and games! Have an opportunity to bid on several Wilson-exclusive items & experiences! New location this year: Green Valley Chateau Tent. Tickets are \$75/person, which includes food & beverages. To purchase tickets, please visit wilsonsd.org/backtoschoolbash or call 610.670.0180, x4842. Please note you must be age 21 or older to attend. Proceeds benefit WEF.

Wilson School Spirit Game at the Reading Royals!

Mark your calendar for Friday, January 6, 2017. WEF will host the first Reading Royals Wilson Spirit Game! All Wilson students and teachers will receive a ticket to the game thanks to generous sponsors. Additional Wilson employees, parents and community members can purchase tickets for \$16 to the game, and \$5 from each ticket will be donated to the Wilson Education Foundation. Game time is 7pm. Prior to the game, WEF will host a Wilson Alumni Mixer. Watch for more details on the WEF website.



Wilson Community Night at the Fightin Phils

Annually held in June, the Foundation provides free tickets for the game to Wilson students at all grade levels for academic achievement. Students are recognized during pregame festivities! Tickets are sold to Wilson community members, faculty, staff and alumni at a discounted rate of \$2 each. Sponsorships help make this evening of family fun possible!



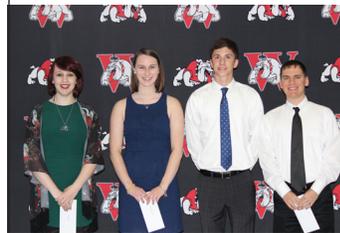
Support the Wilson High School I-STEM Lab

Wilson is in the process of renovating the former library space at the Wilson High School Lower House to create a new, innovative space that will expand instructional possibilities, and facilitate program growth and potential for I-STEM (Integrated Science, Technology, Engineering & Math). Thank you to Carpenter Technology Corporation for their contribution to WEF as our Instructional Lecture Hall Sponsor and Sherwin Williams, a Facility Funder. Wilson is still in need of contributions to complete the new I-STEM Lab and furnish it with all the equipment necessary to create a state-of-the-art facility. If you are interested in contributing to this important Wilson initiative, please contact Kristin Kramer at krakri@wilsonsd.org or 610.670.0180, ext. 1111.

Wilson Education Foundation 2015-2016 Scholarships

Each year, the Foundation provides scholarships for Wilson High School seniors. WEF works with families and organizations, and coordinates with the Wilson HS Counseling Office and Athletics staff/coaches to identify deserving recipients. The total amount distributed to the following students in 2015-2016 was \$25,100.

Scholarship Name	Recipient	Amount
The General (Ret) US Army	Meredith Miller	\$1,500
Fred & Denise Franks Scholarship for Public Service	Brodie Skrocki	\$1,500
Barbara Heckman Spirit of Wilson Scholarship	Amanda Boyer	\$1,000
Sun Federal Credit Union	Benjamin Connors	\$1,000
Michael J. Kase Memorial Math Scholarship	Harrison Tuckman	\$1,000
Scott Keenan Memorial Scholarship	Brodie Skrocki	\$1,000
Lorin Maurer Memorial Scholarship	Amina Chtourou	\$2,000
Reggie Weiss Scholarship	Christian Sload	\$7,500
The Hair on the Avenue Scholarship for the Arts	Madison Hand	\$500
Anne Douglas-Minnich Future Enterprises Memorial Scholarship	Sharon Niculcea	\$2,500
Wilson School Board Scholarship	Gabriella Audi	\$500
	Brendan Salyards	\$500
Wilson Football Tradition Club Award	Nick Kline	\$300
Wilson Football Tradition Club – Wilson Football Parents' Award	Ben Connors	\$500
	Nick Kline	\$500
	Charles Baltz	\$300
	Adam Close	\$300
	Austin Fernsler	\$300
	Jon Fox	\$300
	Jake Gehman	\$300
	Ben Harris	\$300
	Brett Kauffman	\$300
	Bailey McElroy	\$300
	Collin Powers	\$300
	Mackenzie Solok	\$300
	Peter Weidner	\$300



Please consider contributing to the Wilson Education Foundation and help meet our fundraising goal of raising at least \$20 per Wilson student, per year. For this year, the goal is \$120,000. Checks can be made payable to Wilson Education Foundation or visit www.wilsonsd.org/edfoundation to donate online. Please complete the following form and mail it with your contribution to Kristin Kramer, Wilson Education Foundation, 2601 Grandview Blvd. West Lawn, PA 19600. Questions: 610.670.0180, ext. 1111 or krakri@wilsonsd.org.

Donor Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Mailing Address: _____

Check Number: _____ Contribution Amount: _____