

Summer 2024

# INSPIRATIONS

The Hillsboro Schools Foundation Newsletter



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The Future is Bright Indeed!

2024-2025 HSF Innovative Grant Winners

Incredible Donor Generosity

A Note from HSF's Executive Director

## *Look at the impact you have had!!*

What an incredible year!! Thanks to all of your generosity, the Hillsboro Schools Foundation was able provide valuable opportunities and resources to the students of the Hillsboro



School District. With support from donors like you, the Foundation has funded innovative programs that enhance STEM education, arts, career and college readiness, and has also provided a significant infusion of new books in every school library.

Thanks to your support, any high school student can work on their veterinary technician license at HilHi, receive their forklift certification at Glencoe, lead the way in nursing and health sciences at Century, and log flight simulation hours through Liberty at the O-ACE campus at the Hillsboro Airport!

Community engagement and support remain vital. HSF's successful fundraising events and generous donations drive impactful projects. Collaborations with local businesses, like Royal Moore Auto Group, have enabled facility enhancements, including new shot clocks in every high school gym.



Planned Giving to the Hillsboro Schools Foundation is a profound way to invest in the future of our community's public schools. The impact of Planned Giving is far-reaching and allows donors to contribute significant financial support through bequests, trusts, or other financial instruments. It helps the Foundation plan long-term projects with confidence, knowing there will be a steady stream of funds.



It can be as simple as providing our EIN (91-1779425) to your financial advisor. Contact Matt Brennan today at [mattb@wcchamber.org](mailto:mattb@wcchamber.org), or 503-726-2159 with any questions. Your legacy will be one of enduring support and transformative impact!

Your support fosters a nurturing environment for students to thrive. Thank you! As we look ahead, the Foundation remains dedicated to bridging educational gaps, inspiring creativity, and cultivating a love for learning, shaping a brighter future for Hillsboro's youth.

# BRIGHTENING *the future*

An HSF Night of Light  
February 24, 2024

Presented by:



**A tremendous THANK YOU to all of the sponsors, donors, guests, and volunteers involved with HSF's 24th annual Auction & Gala!**

**We are especially thankful to our presenting sponsor, Vernier Science Education; our contributing sponsor, NW Catering; cocktail sponsor, Tito's; prize sponsor, Forrit Credit Union; and our patron table sponsors: AKS Engineering & Forestry, Applied Materials, Banner Bank, Trudy Brennan & Bill White, DLR Group, First Tech Federal Credit Union, Hillsboro Hops, JH Kelly, Skanska, and Vames, Wang, & Sosa.**

**With over 230 people in the room on Saturday night, and nearly 350 people participating in the week-long online silent auction, HSF was able to raise over \$230,000! Your generosity and willingness to support the students and educators in Hillsboro's schools is inspiring. It is an honor and a privilege to be your partner in enriching the educational experience for our students!**



## President's Message-Kim Strelchun

As we wrap up the 2023-24 school year, it's a time of celebration and reflection. At HSF, we've been reflecting on bridge building. Bridges can be short, where we walk a few steps by foot. Bridges can span so long you can't see what's on the other side. Our Foundation builds a wide range of bridges to connect caring partners to Hillsboro students in order to create an endless number of opportunities that will take them as far as their dreams can imagine.

We have the unique ability to complement and support the goals of HSD. When the District began their plan to redefine career and college pathways, we dreamed of jump-starting middle school shops and bringing them into the 21st century. With the support of building principals like Jon Pede, we brought new life into dusty old spaces. And as the lights came on, and new technology filled the spaces, students began exploring career opportunities and bridges were built to our high school career courses.

As the District used the construction bond to build the infrastructure for these 62 career pathways, we looked to fill the gap between the infrastructure a bond can fund and the real tools and equipment professionals use. With ongoing support from generous business partners like Dave and Christine Vernier, of Vernier Science Education, we're able to bridge those gaps. This year we've funded programs in construction, engineering, and veterinary sciences.

As the diversity of the District's programming has grown, so has our community. The Foundation creates a bridge to the rich cultural diversity of our district. With partners like Mike and Laura McMurray's Hillsboro Hops, we raised funds that allowed us to infuse our K-12 libraries with thousands of books in multiple languages reflecting the diversity of our students and their families.

The first bridge this Foundation built was the connection between educators and innovation. With the help of long-time supporters like founding Board Members Mary and Kurt Koehler, we provide innovative grants annually to fund ideas that spark creativity and engage students in new ways. Please enjoy reading about this year's awardees in this newsletter. Our Board, staff and volunteers are all dedicated to bridging the gaps between what students need and what school budgets allow for. We facilitate ongoing in-kind donations from many organizations while also providing a place for community members to share their time and talents.

This spring, we completed a bridge we have been building for three years - our elementary career exploration kits through which students get to imagine the adventures that await them. This has been a three-year \$450,000 initiative designed for elementary schools to support career pathways. We know students can't be what they don't see, and we want every student regardless of their gender, background, or socio-economic status to know their potential is limitless. We added even more supplies and tools to the kits this school year based on feedback from teachers. We were thrilled to expand this bridge beyond its initial target.

Thank you for partnering with HSF. We're glad you're here! When we come together, we build bridges to success for all students.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kim Strelchun".



# Meet HSF's Newest Board Members!

The Hillsboro Schools Foundation has an all volunteer Board of Directors. Our amazing community members continue to get involved and support Hillsboro students! Interested in volunteering with HSF? Please contact us at [foundation@wcchamber.org](mailto:foundation@wcchamber.org).



**Dylan Alford**

Dylan has lived in Hillsboro since 2005, and both of his children are graduates of Minter Bridge, South Meadows and Hilhi.

He owns a Farmers Insurance agency in Orenco Station, and is active volunteering with youth basketball and baseball organizations, the Washington County Chamber of Commerce and Hillsboro Schools Foundation. He also umpires JBO baseball in the spring and summer.

He joined the HSF Board in 2023 because he wants to give back to the school community that has helped educate his children and given his family so much through the years.

Arturo Mendez is a 20 year semiconductor professional. He is an operations manager with Applied Materials managing a team of 40 semiconductor engineers working in the Epitaxy module.

He has a passion for community engagement where he has the opportunity to assist under-represented youth in the Portland Metro area. Arturo is a member of the board for the Latino Business Advisory Council through the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, sits on the board for the Oregon Startup Center and is the Chairman of the Board for Hispanics in Partnership through Applied Materials Foundation.

Arturo enjoys playing golf, reading, drawing/painting, riding motorcycles, working on old BMWs and spending quality time with his family.



**Art Mendez**

Tim grew up in Washington County, moved away for college and work, and returned home in the late 1990's. His family has lived in Hillsboro since 2001. All 3 of his adult children have proudly gone through the Hillsboro School District. Tim previously worked in Finance and Risk Management. Over the past 20+ years Tim has worked as an educator in various capacities at the college level but primarily at the high school level in the Beaverton School District.

He joined the HSF board in 2023 because he wants to give back to the school community that has helped educate his children. He strongly believes in the mission of public education and is proud to support an organization that helps HSD student be all they can be.



**Tim Moe**

Matt grew up in the Washington County area, graduating from Westview High School. Matt's journey started out as a teller at Washington Mutual right out of high school, eventually growing into his current role as Manager at the WaFd branch right here in Hillsboro.

His focus is being with his family, his wife Nicole, and his four beautiful kids: Asher, Lexy, Maddox, and Maddox. Yes, being a blended family, he has two boys named Maddox, calling them "Big" and "Little". His four kids keep him busy with sports all year as they are all active in wrestling, baseball, soccer, and basketball. Matt loves to cheer on the Ducks, Blazers, Mariners, and Seahawks, but most of all he enjoys spending time with his family adventuring. Matt and his wife want their children to travel and experience all the different cultures in the world.

Matt joined the HSF Board because he wanted to be part of this organization to make a difference for our youth.



**Matt Turner**

**2023 Champions-**  
Tim Duvall, Mark Ferris,  
Aaron Kellar, Mike Kellar



The third annual HSF Alumni Network Golf Tournament was played on Thursday, September 14th, 2023! It could not have been a more picture-perfect day as nearly 50 players joined fellow friends of HSF and alumni of HSD at McKay Creek. Thank you to all for your support!

We would like to extend our great appreciation to our hole sponsors: DLR Group, Dick's Auto Group, Millenium Graphics, and The Salazar Agency with Country Financial. Additionally, many thanks to Coyote's Bar & Grill for their support, and for donating the post-event food. Lastly, many thanks to McKay Creek Golf Course for prizes and swag.

Registration now open for our 4th annual event on Thursday, September 12th, 2024. Sign up at [www.hsfonline.org](http://www.hsfonline.org) today!



## Recognition of HSF Donors 2023-2024

With most sincere thanks, we acknowledge your generous contributions made from April 1st, 2023 to March 31st, 2024. We regret any errors or omissions. Please contact the HSF office at 503-726-2159 to report any corrections.

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Jordan Harpole  
Kimberly Harrison  
Christine Hart  
HART Theatre  
Marika Hartfeil  
Kimberli Harwood  
Eric Heit  
Helium Comedy Club  
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Janet Henrichs  
Ivan Hernandez  
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Damon Ogle  
Sarah Ogle  
Old Spaghetti Factory  
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Oregon Historical Society  
Oregon International Air Show  
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**HilHi Band**  
by Steve Carboni and Anita Cassarino

**Stanley J and Helen Miller**  
by Betsy and Jim Biller

**Taylor Howell**  
by Selma Attride

**The Class of 1978**  
by Tira Karlen

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by Gary and Jan Lusk

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by Kris Hoggard

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by Kim and Brad Smith

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by John and Rebecca McAllister  
by Gary and Joanne Gallagher  
by James and Julie Crofts



**HSF gave over \$319,000 to the Hillsboro School District during the 2023-2024 school year!**

**Thank you to all our donors for your generous support!**

***A note from Aron Carleson,  
HSF Executive Director***



**I had the honor of attending an event at Intel discussing Federal and State investments in the Semiconductor Industry in Oregon. The Governor announced our Silicon Forest is targeted as a “National Semiconductor Center,” sending a clear message that Oregon, and**

**Washington County, are where the innovation and jobs are. Dr. Adrien Bennings, President of Portland Community College, shared information about the PCC QuickStart program and apprenticeships. We learned that 44% of all semiconductor jobs require types of degrees that can be earned right here at PCC.**

**At the Hillsboro Schools Foundation, we continually work to help facilitate student discovery of the jobs that will be available to them in the future.**

**As we wrap up the K-6 career kits, we are asking ourselves what is the next way for us to make an innovative difference through collective impact for students in our district. We have begun to meet the huge needs for more library books from authors of color and in a variety of languages. PE teachers are requesting help while piecemealing equipment to engage students with their state mandated increase in class time. Some of our schools don't currently have parent groups and can't fundraise for these items. What about more college and career tech opportunities for our middle and high school students? Could we help them develop their interests and skills to point them toward their career or college vision after graduation?**

**The HSF Board is growing to reflect our community. Our funding depends on the incredible support of the community and we are grateful. This annual newsletter highlights the support from the hundreds of people that contribute to the Foundation and what we have funded. We continue to work with the District and community to make decisions for needs. We, too, are sending a clear message that our students will be ready for those jobs. And with your continued support, they will be.**



*Aron Carleson*

# 2024-2025 HSF Innovative Grants

You, the supporters of HSF, have once again provided educational opportunities for Hillsboro students. Thanks to you, HSF was able to award 18 exceptional grants. Totalling over \$75,000, these grants are a testament to the Foundation's mission to support innovative and impactful educational projects that foster academic excellence and inspire students across the Hillsboro School District. Thank you for your generosity!

## **A "Link" to STEM: Liberty HS: Steffan Ledgerwood**

Leverages gamification, inspired by a University of Maryland course, to engage students and increase the diversity in STEM classes by utilizing video games to teach engineering concepts through robot design.



## **Big Blue Blocks: Tamarack ES: Natasha Inafuku & Holly Goritz**

Provides 'Big Blue Blocks' for students to see and manipulate design thinking in the classroom. Provides an imaginative way to introduce force and motion and engineering to students. They also increase student engagement within a highly diverse school.

## **Books Supporting Students: Poynter MS: Kimberly Parrett**

Provides prose novels that students want to read to improve reading abilities in struggling readers and English language learners. "Own-Voice" stories are written about characters from diverse groups by authors of that same identity.

## **Buzzing with STEM: Tamarack ES: Riley Chun**

Tamarack is starting to build their student garden for their new school but do not have tools or seeds! Helps with hands-on learning for STEAM careers.



## **Creating a More Equitable Music Room: North Plains ES: MyKenzie Miller**

Supplies xylophones and mallets for music programs which teach collaboration, developing techniques for music, rhythmic improvisation and performing in front of peers. Will also provide students without access to music lessons and instruments an opportunity try 'band' before middle school electives are chosen.

## **Drumming Around the World: West Union ES: Samantha Schmidt**

Provides multicultural musical experiences with drums and curriculum. Inclusive for all students regardless of ability or individual needs. Introduces World Music Drumming and excites students to try percussion in high school.



## **Flight to the Future: Funding for Kestrel Nesting Boxes: Tamarack ES: Shannon Jones**

Students will build high-quality kestrel nesting boxes, fostering student engagement in wildlife conservation and habitat preservation efforts.

## **iPads and Communication Systems for Modeling: Orenco ES: Sara Kolbet, Angie James, Rachel Prevost**

Allows teachers to communicate with minimally verbal or nonverbal students who are learning to use a communication device. Aids in teaching students to use devices for both expressive and receptive communication.

## **Kindness Garden: Patterson ES: Amanda Jett & Jamie Lentz**

Connects students to the natural world through land stewardship, management of ecology, social awareness, and teaches students about the impacts humans have on our natural world. They will also study the Kalapuya Tribe, indigenous planting and how they stewarded the land we live on.

## **Liberty Fit – Run Free! Barbara Kraft**

Supports students' ability to participate in the Liberty Fit running program who cannot afford the gear to run. The club attracts students not involved in other school sports who are looking to better themselves and meet fellow classmates.

## **Liberty High School Fiber Arts: Amiiya Larrance & Alice Kelly**

Expands the Liberty Fiber Arts after-school club offerings to include sewing and embroidery with hi-tech sewing machines, Cricut makers and supplies.

## **Life Skillin' it: Century HS: Cynthia Paden-Matsuzaki and Danny Kernan**

Modifying the school weight room to enable Life Skills Classroom students to participate in fitness activities alongside general education peers. Provides lighter weights, weighted hula hoops, and agility materials.

## **Next Level Makerspace: Poynter MS: Kimberly Parrett**

Equitably improves student wellbeing, social connectedness and school engagement through a 'Next-Level Makerspace.' Adds jewelry making, painting, sewing, and more to broaden the makerspace engagement.

## **Orenco Elementary Playground Communication Board: Sara Kolbet, Angela James, William Wenzloff**

Purchases a communication board for near the playground so that all students can point to images relating to play and basic communication when verbal communication is difficult.



## **Our Future STEM Leaders: Jackson ES: Jennifer Brown PTA**

Inspires students to be STEM leaders by offering after-school LEGO robotics programs. Helps students to learn programming, development and engineering prior to middle and high school.

## **Sew Much Potential: Century High School: Cassandra Sauve**

Upgrades the Century Theatre potential with an investment in the costume shop. Purchases sewing machines and sergers to teach students sewing arts for the robust CTE theatre program.

## **Sparkling a Love of Reading: Liberty HS: Lisa Allen**

Spark of Love of Reading provides exciting classroom libraries for every Language Arts classroom at Liberty. Encourages high schoolers to read at every opportunity, books that are reflective of their home languages and cultures with exciting and engaging stories. Supports 11 classrooms, with 20-70 new books per classroom.

## **Transition Skills for Success: Peter Boscow Campus – Community Transitions: Krista Hanson**

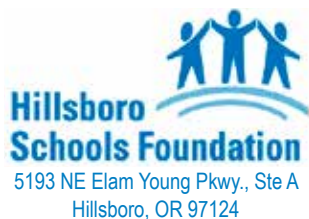
Creates a student-operated freeze-drying business. This grant will instill essential employment skills, boost confidence, and promote community inclusion for our students with intellectual disabilities.



## **Join us at the most exciting cultural celebration of the year!**

Join us at the HSF booth at the 18th Annual Washington County Chamber of Commerce - Unitus Community Credit Union Latino Cultural Festival on Sunday, June 30th at the Hillsboro Ball Park, home of the Hillsboro Hops. During a day full of joy and fun, nearly 10,000 event attendees will explore different areas packed with entertainment, art, and Latin culture. Don't miss this unique opportunity to experience Latin culture and community at its finest! Learn more at [www.washingtoncountychamberor.com/lcf/](http://www.washingtoncountychamberor.com/lcf/).





## LEARN MORE

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EIN: 91-1779425



### Mission

Cultivate community engagement and funding to inspire excellence in Hillsboro Public Schools.

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## On the calendar for HSF:



HSF at Hillsboro's Festivals & Markets!  
Latino Cultural Festival - June 30th

Tuesday Night Markets - June 18th, July 30th, & August 20th

Saturday Markets - June 8th, July 20th, August 17th, & September 7th



### HSD Alumni Golf Tournament

HSF's Alumni Golf Tournament returns for a fourth year! Scheduled for **Thursday, September 12th**, we'll be playing a fun 9-holes at McKay Creek, bringing HSF/HSD Alumni together. Sponsorship opportunities are currently available. Head to [hsfonline.org](http://hsfonline.org) for more details and to register!



### 7th Annual Fiesta de Tamales

Join HSF and friends at Hillsboro's very own M&M Market on **Saturday, November 23rd** for the 7th Annual Fiesta de Tamales. Please join us, support local businesses, and take home delicious, fresh, handmade tamales! More info under "Events" at [hsfonline.org](http://hsfonline.org).