

YOUR EDUCATION RESOURCE

NEWS FROM THE LAWRENCE SCHOOLS FOUNDATION & LAWRENCE EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT PARTNERS

May 2007– September 2007

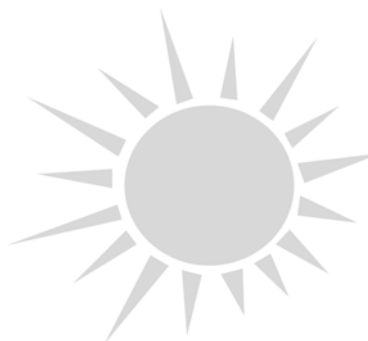
TOGETHER WE BUILD
RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES

Volume 2, Issue 1
Quarterly

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Rise & shine....



High School and Free State High School pep bands playing the National Anthem and their respective school songs. Art supplies, including crayons, pencils,

Friday, August 31, 2007 marked the sixth annual Community Education Breakfast. At 7:30 am, about 450 people, including business leaders, elected officials and educators, filled a record number of sponsored tables at the Lawrence Holidome. A majority of the nearly \$47,000 raised will be used to help fund the Early Childhood program at East Heights, but this year the Foundation also emphasized the need for support of District fine arts programs. The event was kicked off by the Lawrence

watercolors, glue sticks, paint brushes, and more decorated the 51 tables, all to be donated to the 22 schools in the District. Keeping with the arts theme, Superintendent Randy Weseman recognized 13 outstanding fine arts students who currently attend the Lawrence Public Schools. Chuck Mead, this year's keynote speaker, was also part of the arts theme. Chuck graduated from Lawrence High School in 1979, and is the front man for the alternative country band BR549 out of Nashville. His keynote address

was filled with humorous anecdotes of his school days. "I learned a whole lot by just showing up, and I was allowed to participate in what I was interested in," Chuck stated, which increased his involvement in music and lead him to his current career. He capped off his address by performing with Superintendent Randy Weseman. Each playing an acoustic guitar, they filled the room with energy and lively music. Following their performance, the four major event sponsors were recognized: Coventry Healthcare, Intrust Bank, Stevens & Brand and Cigna Healthcare. The final performance of the morning left everyone smiling, with a song from a class of four year olds from the East Heights Early Childhood Family Center.

PERFORMANCES AT THE BREAKFAST INCLUDED, EAST HEIGHTS EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER, RANDY WESEMAN & CHUCK MEAD AND LHS PEP BAND BELOW (L TO R)



From the LEAP Chair



**KAREN SCHUYLER, LEAP
BOARD CHAIR**

Karen Schuyler is the plant manager for ICL Performance Products in Lawrence, and is currently serving as the LEAP Board Chair. ICL has been a LEAP partner with Woodlawn Elementary School since the program began nearly 14 years ago. ICL supports the LEAP program with employee volunteers in the school, reading or grading papers, giving classroom tours of ICL's facility, and providing snacks during

student assessments. Karen has served on the LEAP board of directors since 2003. "I am excited about our upcoming school year," states Karen. "We are now settled in with our new staff and making great progress. We are making some shifts in our committee focus areas to allow the board members to get more involved in the partnership development efforts. Each board member will be serving on one committee: elementary, junior high, or high school. The committees will learn more about what each of the partners are doing in their respective schools and better understand the needs of the schools. Through this process, LEAP can share ideas with partners, identify/address gaps, and provide effective, consistent value to the schools."

From the LSF President



**PAIGE HOFER, FOUNDATION
BOARD PRESIDENT**

Paige Hofer is the 2007 Lawrence Schools Foundation Board President and is a mother of three boys who attend the Lawrence Public Schools. Having been on the Foundation Board of Trustees for nearly seven years, Paige is a former teacher herself, and says this about the Foundation:

"We are off to a great start this school year! We had an

inspiring retreat in June, led by Patrick Kelly, which the LEAP Board, Foundation Board and a few Board of Education members worked together to come up with some unique ideas of what else we can do that we are not already doing. For the Foundation, we are working on some strategic planning with short and long-term goals. We remain focused in

the areas we continue to support and look forward to challenging ourselves to do more. Our Community Education Breakfast had record attendance and got the year going for us. We kicked off our staff and family campaigns and hope the ball keeps rolling. Expect more great things to come from the Foundation—we have a lot of great ideas!"

Celebrate!

Trivial Trivia!

Q: Who was the first superintendent of the Lawrence Public Schools?

A: Carl Knox, the founder of the Lawrence Schools Foundation (originally called the Carl Knox Endowment) was the first official superintendent of the Lawrence Public Schools (post unification of USD 497) in 1965. Prior to unification, there were many school superintendents. Albert Newman was the first in 1867.

Monday, September 24 at 4 o'clock pm, was the 4th annual Lawrence Education Achievement Partners Kick-Off event at the Lawrence Arts Center. Community leaders, educators and LEAP partners were all invited to the event, which consisted of appetizers, cocktails and the announcement and celebration of the total LEAP partner contributions for 2006-2007. The 2006-2007

annual reports were mailed to all partners following the event. A four inch, round LEAP window decal was included in the envelope for all partners and schools to display in their businesses and schools.

LEAP partners also participated in the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce's fall mixer or "Taste of Lawrence," which was held on Wednesday, September 12, on the

grounds of Meadowbrook apartments in Lawrence. The annual event highlights area educators and local businesses, by offering discounted tickets to educators and giving everyone an opportunity to sample the culinary cuisine of 27 area eateries. 1,700 people attended the event, at which LEAP and the Foundation shared an informational tent along with the Lawrence Education Association.

Filling in the Gaps

From the Executive Director of LEAP and the Lawrence Schools Foundation, **Susan Esau** “There are a few individuals who still believe that paying their taxes is sufficient support for public education. Thankfully, the majority of people in this community understand that, if we want our students to receive an excellent education, it takes more than what state funding provides. That’s where the Foundation and LEAP come in. Recently, the Foundation helped schools with a shortage in art supplies, sending out everything from crayons to the preschoolers to drawing inks for the high schools. Funding for these supplies was available because of donations to the Foundation’s Arts Fund, one of its Funds for Excellence, which also includes funds for Academics, Athletics, Library/Technology, and Greatest Needs. These small funds have great potential. Our community partnerships through LEAP help fill many gaps as well. These ongoing

relationships provided our students with tutors, mentors, field trips, supplies, and more, with a dollar value of over \$800,000 in 06-07. And this community keeps stepping up to help. The Foundation’s 2007 “It all starts here” annual campaign was kicked off with a social at Coach Bill and Cindy Self’s house on September 18, where 14 families gave a total of \$15,000 to jumpstart giving for the 07-08 school year.”



SUSAN ESAU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LEAP & LAWRENCE SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

From the LEAP Board of Directors

Most nonprofit organizations tout their numbers, as they should, to demonstrate their accomplishments. We believe, however, that the Lawrence Education Achievement Partners (LEAP) is more than just numbers. LEAP is about the people involved and the relationships that are developed. It is about the students whose school experiences are enriched because of a special program funded by business partners, about the teachers

who greatly appreciate help from volunteers in their classrooms, and about the businesses and organizations in this community that give their time, talents, and financial contributions to the Lawrence Public Schools because they care. LEAP partners recognize the value of a high-quality public education system. They understand that when one classroom, or even one student, is impacted by their contri-

butions, the effect reverberates throughout the community. And what partners receive in return for their contributions is invaluable—goodwill for their business, excellent future employees, and, most importantly, heartfelt “thank you” from students, teachers, and parents. We hope you will join us in continuing to support possibly the most valuable investment in this community—the Lawrence Public Schools.

2007-2008 LEAP ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

VOLUNTEER HOURS
5,351
(VALUED AT \$81,646)

IN-KIND
\$654,131

FINANCIAL
\$62,711

TOTAL
\$798,488

PLEASE VISIT
WWW.LEAPFORLAWRENCE.ORG
FOR A LIST OF ALL LEAP PARTNERS



New School Scoops!

The perfect word to describe fall 2007, here in the Lawrence Public Schools is simply “new.” School began this August with three new elementary principals: Scott Cinnamon at Cordley, Jared Comfort at Schwegler and Debbie Tann at Quail Run. The district also welcomed three new members to the Lawrence Board of Education: Mary Loveland,

Marlene Merrill and Scott Morgan (along with the reelection of Rich Minder). In September, the District launched an all new interactive website (www.usd497.org) with a clean new look and user-friendly feeling. Full-day kindergarten programs also began in eight Lawrence elementary schools this fall. And, perhaps the most

monumental event this fall was the opening of the new South Junior High building (construction will be completed by the end of October 2007). Construction also wrapped up on Broken Arrow Elementary, Central Junior High, Free State High School, Lawrence High School, Southwest Junior High and West Junior High.



MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE NEW, TWO-STORY SOUTH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

Lawrence Schools Foundation
 Lawrence Education Achievement Partners
 Lawrence Public Schools—USD 497
 110 McDonald Drive
 Lawrence, KS 66044

www.lawrenceschoolsfoundation.org
 www.leapforlawrence.org
 office: 785-330-2790



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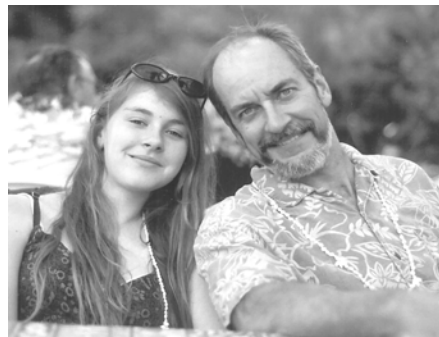
LAWRENCE, KS

PERMIT NO. 557

Amazing Alumni

Martin Moore, LHS Class of 1976, currently serves on the Foundation Board of Trustees. “I graduated from LHS a semester early, January 1976, and went straight to college at Colorado State University, where I earned a BS in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance/Real Estate in 1980. While at LHS, I participated in debate and theatre and also, Youth in Government, where I was appointed as the student representative to the Lawrence Housing Authority. I was also involved with Mountain Ventures the summer after my junior year, with LHS biology teacher Ken Highfill...we took a camping trip to Rocky Mountain National Park, and climbed Long’s Peak, and other mountains. I worked at Richardson’s Music all through high school (now Richard’s Music.) At that time, my goal was to be a studio musician, and I played guitar a lot....sometimes as much as 8 hours a day. As a matter of fact, when people ask me what I did in high school, I answer ‘played guitar.’ I

averaged 3 hours a day of practice. I was in a few bands at the time, but my band-playing experience didn’t really start until 1983, when I was part of a Motown band called ‘Shann and the Scams’. I have been in the real estate investment and development business since graduating from college...in fact, I got my real estate license while still in college, and held a Colorado Broker’s license



MARTY AND HIS OLDEST DAUGHTER, KENDRA

until I moved back here in December of 1981. We are involved in commercial real estate, land development, and multi-family housing.” Martin began his volunteer work in 1983, when he became a Big Brother for the Big Brother/Big Sister program which was administered through KU. Marty has also served on the boards for the Cottonwood Foundation, The Shelter, Lawrence Public Library, and the Horizon 2020 Steering Committee. He and his wife, Durand Reiber, both attended Lawrence Public Schools, and they have a daughter, Kendra, at West Jr. High, and daughter Jodi is at Deerfield. A little unknown fact about Marty, “I had a huge crush on my wife when we both attended West Jr. High....but she had no idea I existed! Years later, after we both had moved back to town, we started dating, but it took me several months before I worked up the nerve to tell her I had a thing for her in Jr. High!”