

Change is in the air

Spring was a time of change and renewal. Fortunately, for our staff and students in 2022-23, the greatest change was finally “getting back to normal” at school. Students gathered again in person in classrooms and at school events. They participated in after-school activities, competed in sports, and went to prom. The seniors completed their graduation ceremonies at the NOW Arena. Our students have endured a few challenging years. We celebrate their resilience and accomplishments with them!

There has also been a change at the U-46 Educational Foundation – now in its 16th year. Dawn Curran, the Foundation’s first full-time coordinator, stepped down in October 2022 to take a new position. The board wished Dawn well and thanked her for her years of service as coordinator and board member.

New leaders in the ranks ...



In February, Jean Bednar began as the new U-46 Educational Foundation coordinator. Jean brings decades of experience in fundraising, communications, and volunteer work for foundations. She served as Director of Communications at Eder Financial, and Director of Advancement at Judson University.

Jean is a well-known advocate for our local community. She was recently re-elected to the Gail Borden Public Library Board where she has served for 18 years, eight as Board president. She and her husband have been “cheerleaders” for U-46 for 35 years and are proud parents of two U-46 graduates. Jean has been busy at work with the Foundation and its board members as they continue to increase resources and opportunities for our students.

... and a change of leadership at the top



Also in February, Dr. Tony Sanders, U-46 Superintendent, and ex-officio Foundation board member since 2014, was named Illinois State Superintendent of Education.

He arrived at U-46 in 2007, around the same time the U-46 Foundation

was established, and at his final meeting in February, its board members were able to say good-bye and thank him for his long-time support. Dr. Suzanne Johnson is the newly appointed District U-46 Superintendent, and now serves on the Foundation board.



U-46 Educational Foundation Board

as of July 2023

E.C. “Bud” Wilson, President
Michael Baggot, Secretary
Mike Lee, Treasurer
Marlene Daubert
John Devereux
Jaime Garcia
Lisa Medendorp

Melissa Owens
Matthew Punnoose
Velma Sept
Chandler Swan
Jerry Turnquist
Don Waters
Dr. Suzanne Johnson

Questions?

We’d love to hear from you!

You can reach us at

foundation@u-46.org

or 847-888-5000 x5040

Scholarship awards through the



gave these 2023 graduates a boost

2023 U-46 Foundation Scholarship Winners

ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL

*Alice Pragman Award & Scholarship for English Excellence
and the Dody Nesbit Scholarship*

Stephanie Skrabacz

David and Edith Cole Scholarships

Amylyn Chicas

Alexia Martinez

Fatima Pantoja Lara

Jessica Wong

EHS Maroons Leadership Scholarship

Sadira Ali

Elgin High School PTO Scholarship

Madeline Conter

Katherine Altergott

Frances Turnquist Scholarship

Tori Hinson

Gilbert I. Renner Scholarship

Madeline Conter

Wisdom Family Foundation Scholarship

Xixtlally Chavez

Diego Valdivia

SOUTH ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. Jean Bowen Scholarship

Ana Diaz

Elgin Breakfast Rotary G. Michael Greene Scholarship

Preston Harris

LARKIN HIGH SCHOOL

Lisa Mercado Memorial Scholarship for Bilingual Students

Giselle Naranjo

WINNERS FROM MULTIPLE SCHOOLS

Douglas Hoeft Scholarship

Gabrielle Flynn (South Elgin HS)

Ivan Hernandez (Elgin HS)

India Pipes (Larkin HS)

Diavyance Richardson (Streamwood HS)

Aaron Ryniec (Bartlett HS)

Malik M. Brown Memorial Scholarship

Imani Blanchard (Larkin HS)

Juan Andres Molano Ruiz (Elgin HS)

Michelle Soto (Elgin HS)

Ronald Raglin Teaching and Learning Scholarship

Kayleen DeLoera (Bartlett HS)

Jackie Benitez (Streamwood HS)

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Bartlett High School:

Montana Bil • Kayleen DeLoera • Shubh Mangrola

Karolina Olechna • Matthew Wojcik

Elgin High School:

Mia Ayala • Marisol Baeza • Xixtlally Chavez

Amylyn Chicas • Andrea Jimenez • Litzzy Melchor

Jonathan Miranda • Diana Moreno

Larkin High School:

Nelly Alvarado • Abby Casas • Nancy Cortez

America Magana • Makiya McClelland

Denise Moreno-Garcia • Giselle Naranjo

South Elgin High School:

Ayra Davuluri

Streamwood High School:

Jackie Benitez • Ximena Murguia • Jessica Rosales

Claudia Ruiz • Natalia Wlodarczyk

*You can see photos of the 2023 Superintendent's Scholarship reception,
attended by recipients and their families on our website — [CLICK HERE](#)*



A big thank you goes to the Seigle Foundation,

for the \$50,000 grant they awarded to fund the 2023 Superintendent's Scholarships. The grant provided the opportunity to present each of the winners with a \$2,000 scholarship. Both the Superintendent's and the Ronald Raglin Teaching & Learning scholarships are awarded to graduates who will be first-generation college students. Proud parents, proud teachers, proud donors!

It takes a village ...

Making scholarships available to students is an act of community support and a recognition of student achievement. Spring is "scholarship season" for high school seniors as they document their successes and their needs, and apply for funds to help pay for college. In addition, teachers, counselors, and other mentors write recommendations and letters of support for their students. As we all know, "it takes a village."

"I will be the first in my family to attend college. Achieving my degree is very meaningful to me and, of course, to my parents who have always supported my education. Education will be the key that prepares me for the future and allows me to achieve my ambition." ~ Mia Ayala, Class of 2023

We greatly appreciate the **37** volunteer graders that made up the Scholarship Selection Committee!



The U-46 Foundation received **424** scholarship applications this year!



The U-46 Educational Foundation manages the funds for several scholarships, provides a common application for 10 of them, and works collaboratively with donors to promote the opportunity for students to apply. This year, **52** scholarship awards provided nearly **\$80,000** for the graduating seniors of U-46.



Teachers' Wish Lists are GRANTED



In addition to scholarships, the U-46 Educational Foundation raises funds for a variety of projects, including mini grants for U-46 staff and schools. This year, the Board approved \$23,000 worth of projects across the District. The grants range from \$350–\$2,000 for projects proposed by teachers and other staff in need of funds beyond what the District and school can provide. Here are just a few of the projects that were funded with the help of grants in this past school year —

- ▶ The students in the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Program at Horizon enjoyed a variety of board and group games purchased with Foundation grant funds. Through “Game On!” students from preschool through sixth grade benefitted from having a variety of new games to share.
- ▶ Wayne Elementary School staff used grant funds to convert a former computer lab into a student learning center that fosters creativity and collaboration.
- ▶ Huff Elementary School’s project, “Desk Bells for Students” received bells for students through a Foundation grant. The music teacher said, “With desk bells as an instrumental musical resource, students will learn to differentiate between high and low pitches, the concept of left to right, and eye-hand coordination.”
- ▶ Creekside Elementary School 4th-6th graders received books through a grant. They now help guide discussions in “book clubs” while developing their leadership skills.
- ▶ Liberty Elementary School used U-46 Foundation grant funds to purchase books for the Ukrainian newcomers to our district so they could read and enjoy books written in their primary language.
- ▶ Willard Elementary School third-graders learned that some people look or think like them and some don’t. Grant funds were used to purchase books with main characters from various races and backgrounds. The books were also from different genres and reading levels; this helps students connect with the characters and also creates “mirrors” for them.

Other projects included: buying blank books for students to create their own stories, paying for students in the Future Problem Solvers Club to attend the state meet, supporting gardens or other outdoor learning environments, turning school walls and hallways into sensory paths, adding technology resources to Elgin High’s wrestling team training, and supporting U-46’s recent “Voices from the Heart” celebration for dual language schools.

Will you help support our staff & students by making a donation?

With enough funds, we can

- **increase the number of grants schools receive...**
- **offer more scholarships ... and**
- **develop even more partnerships with our community.**

We invite you to make a tax-deductible donation to the U-46 Educational Foundation so we can continue to provide scholarships and grants for our deserving U-46 staff and students.