

## Press Clippings 5/10/2022

### Daily Herald

#### Three local students to receive \$4,750 grants over next four years --- 5/6/2022

Submitted by Kim Gavigan

The Gamma Xi Chapter Foundation for Educational Pursuits recently announced the selection of three recipients for their recruitment grants. Each recipient will receive \$4750, which will be awarded over her four years of college as long as she remains in education.

The Gamma Xi Chapter Foundation for Educational Pursuits is a 501(c)(3) charity formed by members of the Gamma Xi Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, which is an honorary educational society for women educators.

This foundation has provided almost \$80,000 dollars in monetary support to young women, residing in the **Elgin Area School District U-46** and Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300 attendance areas, who are on career paths leading to teacher certification. Since the foundation's first grants in 2010, the foundation has assisted 23 high school students in reaching their goals of becoming educators.

This year three grant recipients were selected.

- Erinn Karis from South Elgin High School will be majoring in elementary education. She has always enjoyed school and loved children. "I distinctly remember my second-grade teacher, who taught English in a dual-language setting, putting me in charge of the class for ten minutes while she spoke to a fellow teacher. I got to watch over the class and finish reading them a story. Sliding into the throne that was my teacher's rocking chair, I remember picking up the book and enthusiastically reading the story, proudly showing off the pictures. I loved feeling like a leader and creating an environment where my class enjoyed their learning; it was a magical moment in my life."

- Jacey Lambert from Hampshire High School plans to major in elementary education at Harding University. "Educational workers play a crucial role in the development of future generations. I want to take this crucial role, and help students grow as people and learners, be a role model, help them understand the world, how to be respectful, and of course give them school work in order to succeed in the future. Overall, I strongly believe in the need for good teachers, and I want to enter the field of education so I can make a lasting impact on future generations to come."

• Dasani Johnson from Larkin High School will be majoring in elementary education. "I have a love and passion for learning and therefore also have a passion to teach and share skills and knowledge I acquire. I have a clear plan of action and a great desire to help develop the minds of students and to affirm their identities with a willingness to evolve my educational mission as necessary."

Monies for these grant opportunities are received from the EFS Foundation, the Gamma Xi Chapter, bequests, memorials and/or honorariums from local donors, and various individual supporters. Anyone interested in supporting The Foundation in its mission of Funding Tomorrow's Educators Today may contact Karen Phillips at [kphillips51@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kphillips51@sbcglobal.net).

## **Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News**

### **U-46 doing audit of its electronic equipment to determine how many items have been lost --- 5/6/2022**

By Mike Danahey

U-46 staff is conducting an audit of the district's electronic equipment, with a report expected to be shared with administration at the end of May.

According to an inventory report from October 2021, 918 items were considered lost from across all 57 district schools and programs. Those included:

- 819 Chromebooks;
- 54 iPads;
- 21 fitness tracker wristbands;
- 11 mobile hotspots;
- 3 laptop personal computers;
- 9 microphones;
- 1 camera kit.

"This is a cumulative list from the first year that the current inventory system was implemented, which was the 2018-2019 school year," district spokeswoman Karla Jiménez said.

A related report from last October also shows U-46 had the following items among electronic equipment in use:

- 33,250 Chromebooks;
- 3,738 iPads;
- 1,667 microphones;
- 836 fitness tracker wristbands;
- 181 mobile hotspots;
- 90 laptop personal computers;
- 8 camera kits.

U-46 has about 37,000 students. All students from second through 12th grades are issued Chromebooks. Students keep the same device for the life of the device, or until they leave the district, whichever occurs first.

Younger students are issued iPads, which are returned if they leave the district or when they move on to second grade.

In late March, the U-46 School Board approved a \$3.1 million contract with Lenovo to purchase 8,500 Chromebooks, which will replace older models that are at the end of their life expectancy.

Jiménez said the district does monthly reports to verify that students no longer attending U-46 schools have returned equipment assigned to them.

“If they haven’t turned in all the equipment, it is considered lost, and a bill is sent to the parent or guardian,” Jiménez said.

Missing equipment is defined as items assigned to a specific room or building that cannot be located, she said.

“This equipment can be an interactive board or a camera in a classroom or monitors assigned to a room. Equipment can be determined as missing when we do an end-of-the-year physical inventory of all the items in the building,” Jiménez said.

After a physical inventory is complete, staff members compile a list of items that are missing and ask for help from the building leadership in locating them.

“Often equipment is found in a room that it wasn’t originally assigned to,” Jiménez said.

If a staff member or student has had a device stolen, they must submit a police report in order for it to be marked as such, she said.

## **Daily Herald**

### **U-46 awards Accent on Achievement to staff nominated for Kane County Educator of the Year --- 5/9/2022**

**Submitted by Elgin Area School District U-46**



Juan Figueroa

On Monday, May 9, the **Elgin Area School District U-46 board** will host the "Top Two Percent" ceremony at South Elgin High School to honor the academic success and accomplishments of graduating seniors. The students are the top-achieving graduates from the district's five comprehensive high schools and are featured on the U-46 website in the district's Class of 2022 section.

Also Monday, May 9, the board will recognize Elgin High School's Juan Figueroa, who received the Regional Superintendent Award during the Kane County Regional Office of Education's annual Kane County Educator of the Year awards banquet on April 29, as well as three other nominees from U-46.

Figueroa teaches college-level Dual Credit courses in Spanish in addition to Spanish Language Arts for Elgin High School students in the Dual Language program.

"Mr. Figueroa's dedication to our students and school community is an example of excellence for our profession," said Elgin High Principal Jamie Crosen.

Teaching is Figueroa's second career; he had worked in the banking industry for more than 25 years when the Great Recession hit, and he decided to change careers to teaching, earning a master's degree in education and special education and a bilingual/ESL certificate. He has taught in U-46 since 2009, first at Channing Elementary, then at Ellis Middle School, and then at Elgin High School starting in 2017.

Figueroa said he strives to create a classroom that is a safe learning space for students where they can develop a sense of community, express themselves, and learn to embrace the differences of others. "I use teaching strategies that encourage students to contribute with what they bring and in the way they can. My role as the teacher is to assist each student in developing their own potential," he said. "I promote a curriculum that incorporates different learning styles, as well as make the content relevant to the students' lives."

The Kane County Regional Office of Education hosts the annual award ceremony to recognize and celebrate educators within the region. School districts, staff, and administrators nominate exceptional individuals who demonstrate a love for learning and a commitment to education. The April 29 event marked the 46th Kane County Educator of the Year banquet.

Three other educators for U-46 were nominated for an Educator of the Year award. Along with Figueroa, they will be recognized with an "Accent on Achievement" certificate during the 6 p.m. special board meeting in the auditorium at South Elgin High School, 760 E. Main St.

- Faviola Ximena Escobar, a Dual Language teacher of Spanish Language Arts and Social Studies at Larsen Middle School in Elgin, who was nominated in the Middle School Teacher Category
- Dr. Steve Tucker, Assistant Principal at South Elgin High School, who was nominated in the Administrator Category
- Sandy Ritter, a special-education teacher at Tefft Middle School in Streamwood, who was nominated in the Middle School Teacher Category

Following the awarding of an Accent on Achievement to the four teachers, the Board of Education will honor the students who have finished in the top two percent of their graduating class.

"Congratulations to our top two percent of the class of 2022," said Superintendent Dr. Tony Sanders. "We are proud of their dedication to academic achievement."

The top two percent of graduating seniors are as follows:

- Bartlett High School: Agilan Gunashankar, Anthony Martin, Asmita Shah, Carter Eid, Desiree Oliveros, Evan Bulatek, Jillian Murdoch, Lorenzo Marasigan, Marcos Sanson, Ronit Nagarapu
- Elgin High School: Yahya Arastu, Nicole Babiarz, Shweta Dhar, Sarah Erickson, Emily Flores, Sofia Heinrich, Abby Joyce, Maia Lesniak, Michelle Maslon, Vanessa Medrano, Angeline Nato, Jenny Nguyen, and Alejandra Rodriguez-Garcia
- Larkin High School: Jackson Baker, Ximena Bermudez, Alberto Bonilla, Emma Hahn, Lilah Hanson, Joana Hernandez, Sarah Leardi, Leah Mack, Ella Nail, Alejandro Ramirez, Luca Tendy, and Jordan Vopat

South Elgin High School: Abigail Choi, Anna Creagan, Ashlin Lee, Caroline Croft, Ella Winterhalder, Emma Hunter, Gino Santini, Liliana Ernandez, Loreal Wilson, Michael Walczuk, Rachel McCLOW, Salvi Patel, and Yuri You

- Streamwood High School: HeeRan Yang, Jennifer Voravong, Joshua Manzano, Kaitlyn Esteban, Katelyn Nguyen, Kayla Ticherafi, Mishael Mazhar, and Vanessa Pitsenbarger

The board of education meeting will also be streamed live on the district's YouTube channel.