

We Are
U46



Annual Report

2016



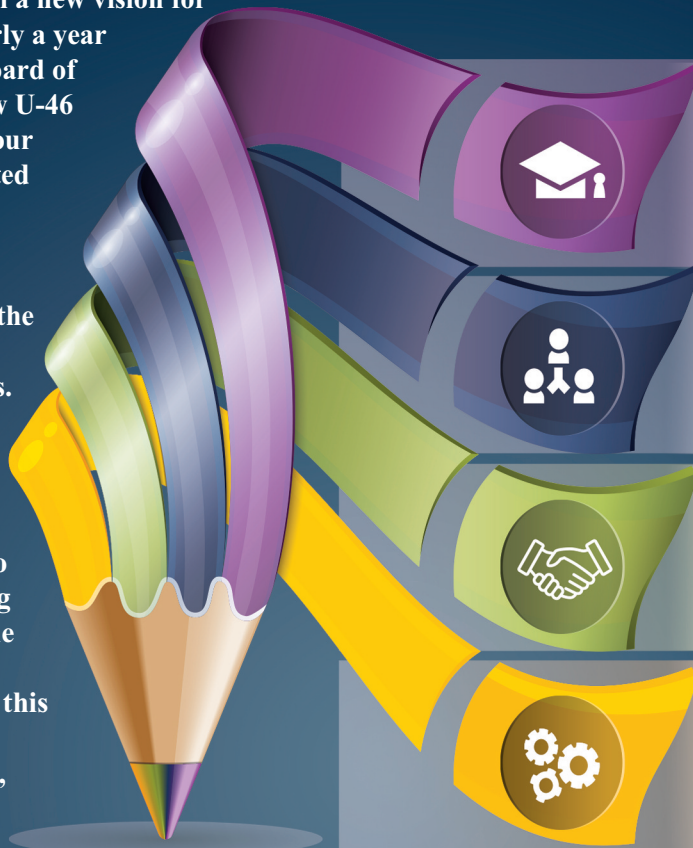
Strategic Plan	3
Our U-46 Board of Education	4
CEO's Message	5
Full-Day Kindergarten	
Class of 2029: Ready to Shine	6
Elementary School Spotlights	8
U-46 by the Numbers	9
Middle School Spotlights	10
High School Spotlights	12
Educators Who Go Above and Beyond	16
We Are U-46	18
U-46 Educational Foundation	22

District Finances	23
Better Together.	24
Big District, Bigger Heart	26
Building New Roads at U-46.	28
Building Safe School Cultures, Inside and Out	30
Technology Changing the Lives of Our Students	31
U-46 Celebrates Staff Milestones and Thanks Retirees	32
Our U-46 CEO's Cabinet	33
Communication 101	34
World Champs Past and Future	35

Strategic Plan

In 2014, a Strategic Plan Steering Committee made up of staff, parents, and community members, put pencil to paper and began working to establish a new vision for School District U-46. Nearly a year later, in April 2015, the Board of Education approved a new U-46 Strategic Plan featuring four aspirations and eight related priorities. Since then, the Strategic Plan Steering Committee developed measurable goals to meet the aspirations and priorities over the next several years.

The graphic on the right reflects the vision and values of employees, parents, students, and community members who participated in developing this plan. We will continue to share our progress as together we work to turn this plan into reality for our community, our staff and, most importantly, our nearly 40,000 preschool through twelfth-grade students and their families.



Student Achievement

Aspiration: We will educate the whole student by providing an enriched, high quality experience that empowers all graduates to be competitive members of the global society.

Effective & Engaged Staff

Aspiration: We will value, develop, and recruit a forward-thinking, highly qualified, and diverse workforce.

Community Engagement

Aspiration: We will engage in meaningful and effective relationships with all families and the greater community.

Excellence, Efficiency & Accountability

Aspiration: We will advocate for and utilize systems and resources that promote operational excellence, efficiency and accountability.

Student Achievement



Priority 1: We will implement and support a challenging, standards based curriculum across all content areas.

Priority 2: We will coordinate our efforts to provide a nurturing and safe learning experience and a flexible approach in meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of each student.

Effective & Engaged Staff



Priority 3: We will value our collective differences and develop and recruit a high quality workforce that honors and reflects the diversity of our students.

Priority 4: We will encourage collaboration and provide differentiated support to all staff members to grow as professionals throughout their career.

Community Engagement



Priority 5: We will partner with families and the greater community to foster shared ownership and aligned support for our priorities.

Priority 6: We will support and empower schools to be welcoming centers of family and community engagement.

Excellence, Efficiency & Accountability



Priority 7: We will advocate for and utilize systems and resources that promote operational excellence, efficiency and accountability.

Priority 8: We will clearly and effectively communicate our use of resources to the greater community.

Our U-46 Board of Education

The U-46 Board of Education typically convenes every other Monday night to review and determine District policies related to curriculum, materials, the annual budget, construction, and maintenance facilities. Tune in to the School District U-46 Board of Education meetings on YouTube or attend during open session beginning at 7 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago St., Elgin.

Two U-46 administrators join the Board at the table during meetings: Chief Executive Officer Tony Sanders and Chief Legal Officer Miguel A. Rodriguez, who serves as the Board Secretary.



President: Donna Smith
Resident of Hanover Park.
Term expires 2017



Board Member: Cody Holt
Resident of Elgin.
Term expires 2017



Vice President: Sue Kerr
Resident of Bartlett.
Term expires in 2019



Board Member: Veronica Noland
Resident of Elgin.
Term expires in 2017



**Secretary Pro Tempore:
Phil Costello**
Resident of Bartlett.
Term expires in 2019



Board Member: Jeanette Ward
Resident of West Chicago.
Term expires in 2019



**Board Member:
Traci O'Neal Ellis**
Resident of Elgin.
Term expires in 2019



**Student Board Advisor:
Eric Loera**
Streamwood High School senior

Eric Loera

Streamwood High School senior Eric Loera serves as the Student Advisor to the U-46 Board of Education. Eric provides a voice for his peers and encourages community involvement through various extracurricular activities and leadership roles.

Eric aspires to provide services and programs to families and youth as a local government official following college.

"Without my experience at School District U-46, I would not be on the path to success," Eric said. "It is my firm belief that I am a product of the opportunities that the District has created for its students."

Eric is President of Latinos Unidos, Vice President of the National Honors Society, Vice Chair of the Youth at Hanover Township Committee, and Chair of the Principal's Student Advisory Council. He participates in the Advancement Via Individual Determination program and promotes a college-bound environment. Upon graduation, Eric plans to enroll into the Capital Scholars Honors Program at the University of Illinois at Springfield to major in public administration and minor in political science.

CEO's Message

U-46 CEO Tony Sanders visited students at Nature Ridge Elementary School in Bartlett during Insect Project Day.



Middle: Elgin High School Class of 2016 graduate Anthony Ruiz (right) networked with CEO Tony Sanders (left) during the Superintendent's Scholarship reception.

Bottom: (from left to right) CEO Tony Sanders, Board member Veronica Noland and Board Vice President Sue Kerr celebrated with a student at the Special Education graduation in May.

Dear U-46 Community Members,

School District U-46 continued to celebrate many achievements and develop new pathways to better prepare our students for college and careers. Below is a list of just some of our 2016 accomplishments:

1. The District launched Full-Day Kindergarten in August 2016 across all elementary schools, serving approximately 2,700 students.
2. Our graduation rates in May 2016 reached an all-time high of 86 percent and exceed the state average.
3. Local and national organizations recognized our stellar principals and teachers, including Holly Yee of Ellis Middle School, who was named 2016 Kane County Educator of the Year, and Gary Cotie of Bartlett High School, named 2016 High School Teacher of the Year by the Technology Education Association of Illinois. Hanover Township named Laurel Hill Elementary School Principal Luis Fernando De León as its Principal of the Year.
4. Our schools earned national and local recognition for their academic achievements. Chicago Magazine named Glenbrook Elementary as one of the top 10 elementary schools in the suburbs. For the third consecutive year, U.S. News and World Report listed Bartlett High among the nation's best high schools. Finally, the Illinois Civic Mission Coalition named Streamwood High one of 13 Illinois Democracy Schools in 2016.
5. Our Dual Language Program continues its trajectory of expansion, and we are excited that our Gifted Education is now offered at all middle schools.
6. Working together, our Citizens' Advisory Council and the Alignment Collaborative for Education hosted Explore 2016: A Community, Curriculum, and Career Expo that attracted nearly 1,000 people.
7. More schools continue to be recognized at the platinum level for implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports: Larkin High School, Ellis Middle School, and Glenbrook, Highland, Laurel Hill, Lowrie, Ontarioville, and Washington elementary schools.
8. We've continued to expand our national accreditations in some of our Career and Technical Education programs, including automotive and precision manufacturing.
9. We launched the DREAM Academy as an alternative program for secondary students focused on social emotional support and maximizing each student's individual potential.
10. We as a District and community are changing the image of U-46. More than ever, we have collectively demonstrated we are a family that supports our students, their families, and our communities. #WeAreU46

Thank you for all you do, whether you are a dedicated Board Member, administrator, teacher, bus driver or other employee, parent, community member, or one of our amazing students. I am honored to serve you in my tenth year at School District U-46 and my third year as Chief Executive Officer. Please enjoy this 2016 Annual Report as well as our accompanying annual report video, both posted on our District website.

All my best,
Tony

Full-Day Kindergarten Class of 2029: Ready to Shine

Full-Day Kindergarten launched across all 40 elementary schools in the 2016-17 school year after much work within the District and in collaboration with the Board of Education, Citizens' Advisory Council, parent leaders, and community partners. The Class of 2029 entered school doors in August ready to shine.

Teachers are reaching kindergartners through a play-based curriculum that meets young learners at their level – a critical juncture of growth and brain development. The U-46 Full-Day Kindergarten classroom fosters students' growth through hands-on, interactive, and full sensory classroom experiences. Research shows kindergarten-aged children experience tremendous development mentally and socially. Kindergarten students learn the basic building blocks of math and literacy, but they also enjoy plenty of time interacting with each other and naturally acquiring their social and emotional skills.

The additional classroom time in Full-Day Kindergarten – six hours, compared to the two-and-a-half hour, half-day program – affords U-46 teachers the time and greater flexibility to work with children and assess their skills. Teachers can use the extra hours to help children, especially those from low-income or non-English speaking homes, achieve skills that will provide the foundation for educational success.

U-46 spent nearly a year preparing for Full-Day Kindergarten instruction with a special committee along with additional professional development before and during the first year. Elementary principals oversaw leadership planning sessions and attended the professional development sessions with teachers so that they were prepared to lead the implementation of this ambitious program at their sites.

"We know that the most important work happens at the school level and within our classrooms," said Dr. Ushma Shah, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools, Instruction and Equity. "The principal plays a key role in supporting teachers and effective instruction."

Teachers across the District continue to share best practices, inviting each other to their classrooms to see special creative play-based stations and meeting throughout the year for after-school "Kindergarten Kafés" to discuss common issues and celebrate accomplishments.

The District encouraged our Full-Day Kindergarten parents to commit to involvement in their child's education. The new "U-46 Parent Promise" looks to engage these parents in various involvement opportunities for at least five hours by the end of the 2016-17 school year. The Promise includes home-based activities such as reading with a child, school-based opportunities such as chaperoning field trips, and District-wide opportunities such as attending a Board of Education meeting. Five hours gives parents the opportunity to sample the various forms of involvement at home, school, or the District, and many parents volunteer additional hours.



Zara Martinez, a Full-Day Kindergarten teacher at Coleman Elementary School, prepared her classroom before students arrived on the first day of school.



Ronald D. O'Neal Elementary Full-Day Kindergarten students engage in play-based learning by acting as a patient and doctor.



Full-Day Kindergarten students at Oakhill Elementary School stack blocks.



“Brain research shows this is the most critical time for children to explore and learn new things. The more time they have to learn, the better served they will be.”

- Peggy Ondera, U-46 Director of Early Learners Initiatives.



“With a full day, we have the time to really target the students’ needs. Without the extra time, we wouldn’t be able to give them the solid base of knowledge they need to transfer to another language.”

- Zahidee Marciano, Full-Day Kindergarten Dual Language teacher at Ronald D. O’Neal Elementary School.



“We worked alongside our principals in professional development sessions that helped us hone our philosophy and approach to the play-based curriculum. That collaborative work made all the difference.”

- Karen Smith, U-46 Full-Day Kindergarten Teacher Leader.

Glenbrook Elementary School Named One of the Top 10 Best Suburban Elementary Schools

Chicago Magazine recognized Glenbrook Elementary School in Streamwood as one of the top 10 best suburban elementary schools. Glenbrook’s mission means working together to create an environment with high expectations where all students develop the skills and strategies needed for lifelong success.

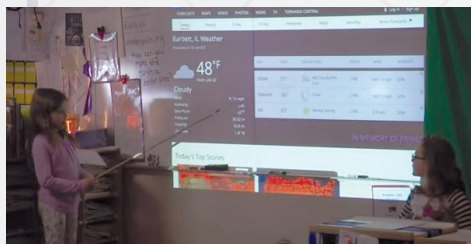


Elementary School Spotlights

Students Gain Multimedia Experience

Elementary students in several School District U-46 schools are developing their multimedia skills as they present news packages, videos of daily announcements, weather and more at their schools.

Fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders at Parkwood Elementary School meet twice a week to write scripts, practice lines, and tape weekly video sessions to present the “Panther Press” in their converted studio, formerly an unused planning room in the Hanover Park school. Completed videos are shared each morning with staff and broadcast within each classroom. Parkwood students



Liberty students broadcast the weather during Liberty Live.



The Parkwood Press team at ABC 7 Chicago.

recently toured the ABC 7 Chicago studios to gain a better understanding of journalism and television production skills.

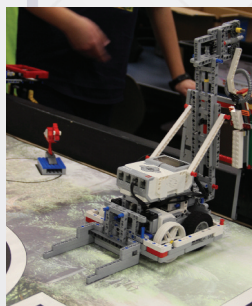
Bartlett's Liberty Elementary School students broadcast “Liberty Live” each morning, beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance and continuing with the Liberty Pledge, student birthdays, the weather, and other special announcements.

Laurel Hill Robotics League Builds Their Way to Success

Fifth-grader Javier Romero and his Laurel Hill Elementary School friends took their LEGO®-building skills to a whole new level as they crafted a LEGO robot for the Illinois FIRST® LEGO® League Regional Tournament in Batavia. Through several computer crashes and Saturday reprogramming sessions, these Hanover Park students created a powerful LEGO robot with support from their principal and a group of dedicated Laurel Hill teachers, including Mr. Armando Torres.

“At times, we got frustrated trying to figure out how to make the claw work properly around the LEGO gecko,” Javier said. “Mr. Torres reminded us to calm down and think about it.”

The league, created in 2012 by Principal Luis Fernando De León, boasts more than a dozen after-school participants ranging from fourth through sixth grade, and aims to help students develop a passion for science, technology, and



The winning robot “Crazy Grape.”

engineering through the creation of LEGO-based robots.

“The Laurel Hill Robotics League gives our students the opportunity to design, build, and program while having lots of fun,” Principal De León said. “It gives them the teamwork and critical thinking skills to succeed outside the classroom.”

The League worked on their robot, named “Crazy Grape,” from September to just before the regional LEGO tournament in December when they won best design. The judges cited the robot’s functional claw, composed of axles and gears, as the primary reason for the award.

“At first, I didn't know what to expect, but I was pleasantly surprised,” said sixth-grader Kaylee Martin. “I learned a lot by working together with our team through the ups and downs.”

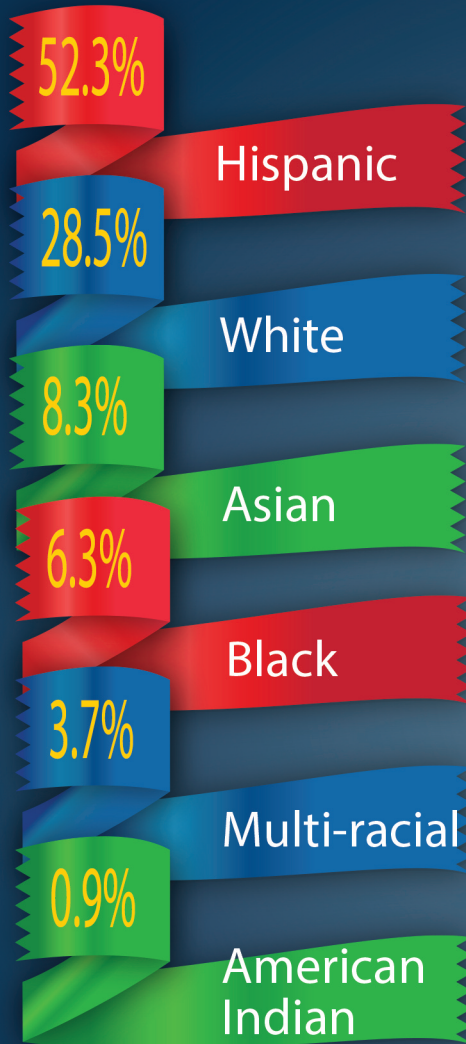


The Hanobots with their regional award for best design.

U-46 by the

Numbers

Student Profile Based on Illinois
School Report Card 2016 Data



Low-income
students

57.8%

50% Statewide

English
learners

28.4%

11% Statewide

Languages spoken
by our students
at home

103

Total Staff
(excluding substitute teachers):

2,880

Number of Teachers:

2,489

Number of Teachers who have National
Board Certification:
(four of them are administrators)

76

39,963 Enrollment

School District U-46 covers 90 square miles

Number of communities that
our District serves: 11

Number of bus routes: 291

Number of students transported daily:
29,078

Number of miles driven daily: 26,685

Middle School

Larsen Middle School Reconstructs its Koi Pond



Larsen Middle School students can now enjoy their completed koi pond.

School District U-46 schools are home to several koi ponds, including those at Larkin High School and Harriet Gifford Elementary School, but the pond at Larsen Middle School, first developed in 2010, had not been maintained for several years.

The student body and staff wanted to change that. In summer 2016, Martha Guihan, Larsen Middle

School English and reading teacher, led more than 20 students in an enrichment program to rescue the koi pond behind the Elgin school.

Illinois Water Features, a Lombard company that constructs and maintains ponds and waterfalls, donated two koi once the pond was complete in the fall. Students help maintain the water quality as well as the surrounding landscaping.

“All of our teachers are encouraged to bring their students to the pond for science activities to learn about fish and their environment,” Guihan said. She noted the area lends itself to reading or sketching the pond in art class, saying, “We hope that all of our Larsen community takes advantage of its peaceful beauty.”

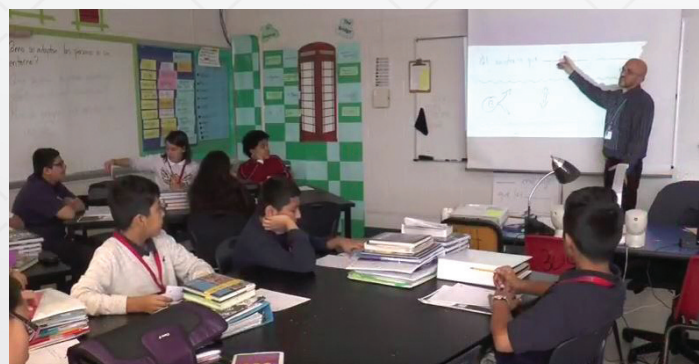
80:20 Dual Language Program Expands to Five Middle Schools

The District’s Dual Language Programming expanded to the middle school level in 2016-17, continuing a virtually unmatched rollout of Spanish/English instruction that has earned the District attention from dual language experts and districts across the country.

Abbott, Ellis, Kimball, Larsen, and Tefft middle schools implemented an extension of the 80:20 Dual Language Program during the 2016-17 school year. The numbers “80:20” refer to the fact that in U-46, the youngest students start out with 80 percent of their instruction in Spanish and 20 percent in English, reducing the Spanish-language portion by 10 percent each year from kindergarten through third grade, when the split in languages becomes 50/50 and where it remains through sixth grade.

Already more than 9,200 Dual Language students in U-46 are on their way to becoming bilingual and biliterate in Spanish and English. Over the long-term, biliterate students are expected to meet or exceed their peers on a range of metrics, including overall academic achievement, problem-solving ability, self-esteem, and cross-cultural understanding.

Parents of preschool through seventh grade Dual Language students attended the District’s first Dual Language Parent Academy on a Saturday in November. The Academy aimed to inform and better prepare parents in supporting their children for bilingualism and biliteracy through our renowned program.



Ellis Middle School Dual Language students participating in the classroom.

Spotlights

Ellis Middle School Receives Award for Positive Influence on Students

The Renz Center, an Elgin-area organization dedicated to empowering individuals to lead healthier lives, awarded Ellis Middle School Principal Perry Hayes and Assistant Principal Bertha Torres the 2016 Operation Snowball Outstanding Support from a School Award.

The Ellis school staff earned the award for its work with the Youth Empowering Students (Y.E.S.) program. Renz Center selected the Elgin middle school from 70 participating Illinois schools for its efforts to model positivity and substance-free choices.

“Principal Hayes and Assistant Principal Torres have believed in the purpose of Snowball and welcomed Y.E.S. with open arms,” said Ricardo Gasca, prevention coordinator for Renz Center. “The Ellis staff is always approachable and rallies to find the resources to continue the Y.E.S. program in a low-income area.”



Ellis Middle School Principal Perry Hayes and Assistant Principal Bertha Torres were presented with the 2016 Operation Snowball Outstanding Support from a School Award from Ricardo Gasca, Renz Center prevention coordinator.

Gifted Program Expands to All U-46 Middle Schools

U-46 expanded the Gifted program in 2016-17 to all middle schools. Due to rising enrollment levels of seventh- and eighth-graders in the program, Gifted students now attend the same classrooms with their neighborhood peers.

Prior to the 2016-17 school year, Gifted programming was offered at Eastview, Larsen, Kenyon Woods, Kimball, and Tefft middle schools, requiring many students to take school buses to and from school.

Gifted students follow a regular Monday through Friday schedule. The program includes Gifted English, social studies, and science classes. Based on how students test on a local assessment, students also are placed in math classes such as Algebra and Honors Geometry.

High School Spotlights

Class of 2016 Fall College Attendance

1,559
(60%)

Number of students enrolled immediately into college (fall semester)

86%
Same as State

Four-year graduation rate for 2016

2016 Post-Secondary Results (percentages)

12-month enrollment after graduation:

66%

16-month enrollment after graduation:

70%

Top three institutions where U-46 students are enrolled in the fall immediately following graduation:

1. Elgin Community College
2. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
3. University of Illinois at Chicago

Advanced Placement Program

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program offers several AP Scholar Awards to recognize high school students who have demonstrated college-level achievement through AP courses and exams. In 2016, 390 students qualified for AP Scholars Awards, up 12 percent from 2015. More than 350 students took five exams or more.

239

AP Scholars - Students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. The number of students who qualified for this award represents a 10 percent increase over 2015.

82

AP Scholars with Honor - Students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. The number of students who qualified for this award represents a 32 percent increase over 2015.

69

AP Scholars with Distinction - Students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams

5

National AP Scholars - Students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams

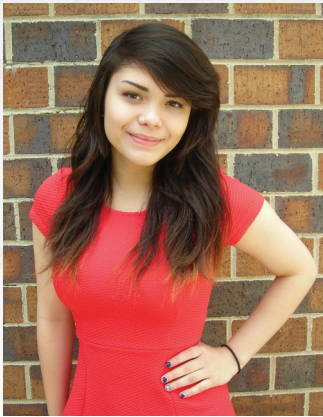
2016 National AP Scholars

Bartlett High School: Caitlin McGrath

Elgin High School: Taha Ahmed, Anna Bouchaleun,
Heba Qazi and Maximilian Troyke

Vanessa Szul: Elgin High Class of 2016

When Vanessa Szul was 15 years old and a sophomore at Elgin High School, she received an Associate Degree in



Science from Elgin Community College. Vanessa completed three years of high school with more than 40 credits, allowing her to graduate as a junior. The 2016 Elgin High graduate attends the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and majors in biochemical engineering.

Her ambition for academics included enrolling in the Gifted and Talented Academy, taking Advanced Placement courses, and being part of the National Honor Society. She spent her freshman and sophomore years at Elgin High School during the day and at Elgin Community College during the night.

Vanessa is glad that she had the opportunity and flexibility to experience high school and take college-level classes that interested her.

“If I wanted to do something out of the ordinary, I had the support from everyone at Elgin High School,” Vanessa said. “Principal Cook and my teachers and counselors helped me formulate a plan that was best suited for me where I could manage my time and achieve my goals.”

Marcos Delgado: South Elgin High Class of 2016

Just weeks after graduating South Elgin High School in May 2016, Marcos Delgado demonstrated his skills in Computer Numerical Control Milling Programming Setup & Operations. Marcos earned his second credential from the National Institute of Metalworking Skills. He is the first U-46 student to earn this advanced credential.

Upon graduation, Marcos began a 30-month apprenticeship at Armin Tool in South Elgin. Once he completes his apprenticeship, Marcos plans to become a full-time tool and die maker.

One of Marcos' proudest moments was helping the South Elgin High School manufacturing program earn the National Institute of Metalworking Skills accreditation, a seal of approval for excellence in metalworking training based on industry standards in 2015.

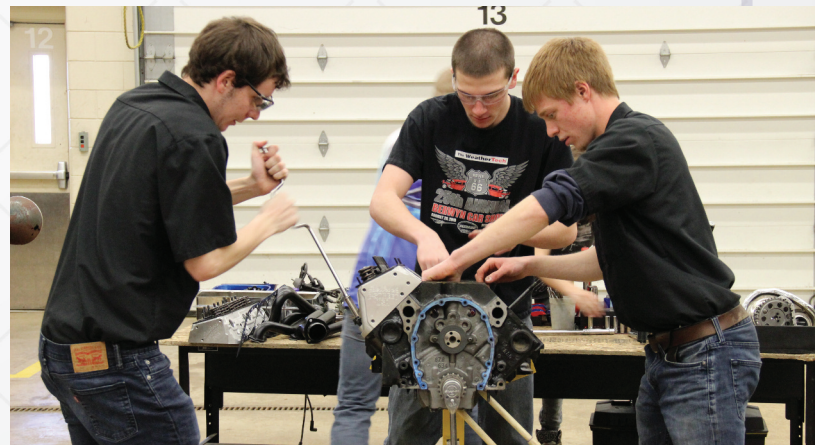
“If it wasn't for South Elgin High School, I wouldn't have known about pursuing a career in manufacturing,” Marcos said. “I am grateful for my manufacturing class and teacher Mr. Bartz, because he motivated me to grow as a machinist. I'm proud I spent my high school career at South Elgin.”

Auto Programs Earn National Accreditation

The automotive education programs at Bartlett, Elgin and South Elgin high schools earned accreditation in 2016 from a national standards organization, certifying that students gain access to high-quality instruction that meets industry standards and making it more likely they will be ready for employment.

The National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation approved the programs for accreditation after completing a three-step process, which included a program self-evaluation by instructors and administrators.

In the District's automotive technology courses, students begin by learning the fundamentals of engine operation, electrical functions, and vehicle maintenance. By the time students become upperclassmen, the course combines lab work and related instruction in National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation areas that focus on electronics, brakes, steering, construction, and performance. A variety of equipment and diagnostic techniques prepare U-46 students for Automotive Service Excellence testing, which certifies professionals and shops in the automotive repair and service industry.



Students at South Elgin High School race to beat the clock as they reassemble a car engine and put it back together.



Marcos Delgado operates a Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machine.

High School

Elissa Yu: Bartlett High Class of 2016

With an impressive list of awards to her credit, including three first-place honors in the Bartlett High School Art Show, it's no surprise Elissa Yu was the visual arts department's senior award winner for drawing and painting.

Elissa received top awards throughout her time at Bartlett High School. She earned first place in drawing at the Upstate Eight Conference Art Show, the Vision Art Show, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriotic Contest. While participating in various competitions, the 2016 graduate was also involved in the school's choral program.

Elissa, who now attends the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, said Bartlett High School helped her grow. "Every day I felt like I was becoming a better person, or molding myself into a more mature person for the future."



Elissa Yu creates a self-portrait.

Emilio Lopez: Streamwood High Class of 2016

Streamwood High School Class of 2016 graduate Emilio Lopez grew up speaking English and Spanish at his home in Elgin. He took Spanish classes in middle school but chose to focus on Japanese while in high school. Emilio enrolled in the World Language and International Studies Academy at Streamwood High.

Emilio went to Japan with his classmates during the summer of 2015, spending six days with a family in Shimane and visiting Tokyo, Hiroshima, and Kyoto before returning home. As a senior, Emilio took Advanced Placement Japanese and can now speak conversational Japanese.

After graduating from U-46, Emilio joined the United States Army Reserves, completed basic training and began his Advanced Individual Training (AIT) in Army Intelligence, reporting informational operations in Arizona. Upon finishing his AIT, Emilio will attend North Central College in the fall of 2017 to study education and Japanese. When his six years of service are completed, Emilio hopes to return to Japan and teach English.

"It's a great thing to do because it opens a lot of opportunities in your life," Emilio said of learning another language. "Anyone who thinks taking a language is a waste of time, it's not, it really opens a lot of doors and makes it possible to connect with other people."



Spotlights

Superintendent's Scholarship Class of 2016

Chief Executive Officer Tony Sanders hosted the fifth annual Superintendent's Scholarship awards ceremony in April for 25 outstanding first-time college-bound graduates who each received a \$1,000 scholarship. Eligible students submitted applications for the program, which supports promising seniors who will be the first in their family to attend college or a post-secondary institution.

Former District Superintendent Dr. José Torres established the Superintendent's Scholarship fund in 2012 through the U-46 Educational Foundation. During the awards ceremony, students networked with U-46 Board members, donors, and administrators to help prepare them with tips and techniques to make a good first impression.

The 25 recipients of the Superintendent's Scholarship from the Class of 2016 attend post-secondary institutions such as Bradley University, Elgin Community College, Illinois State University, Loyola University, Northern Illinois University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Iowa State University, and Michigan State University.



2016 Superintendent's Scholarship recipients celebrated their awards with donors in April.



D'montrelle Mardis:

Larkin High Class of 2016

First in his family to go to college, D'montrelle "Trell" Mardis, was one of 25 recipients to receive the Superintendent's Scholarship. Trell enrolled at Illinois State University in the fall, majoring in international studies.

While at Larkin High School, Trell played varsity basketball and was accepted into the National Honor Society, finishing in the top 10 percent of his class. Succeeding in athletics as well as academics, the 2016 Larkin graduate was named an all-conference player for track.

"Being accepted into the National Honor Society was probably my biggest accomplishment," Trell said. "I was able to give back to the community I called home, and I plan to continue to give back the best way I can so that I may influence others to do something positive."

Educators Who Go

Kane County Educator of the Year

The Kane County Regional Office of Education hosted its 41st annual award ceremony to recognize and celebrate education within the region. Ellis Middle School science teacher Holly Yee was named the 2016 Kane County Educator of the Year with judges recognizing her passion for teaching, her love for learning, and her commitment to education. School districts, staff and administrators nominated exceptional individuals who demonstrate a commitment to education and a love for teaching and learning. The competition



Holly Yee (middle) celebrates her winning title with Kane County Regional Superintendent Patricia Dal Santo (left) and Assistant Regional Superintendent Deanna Oliver (far right).

recognized nine categories of education personnel, from the top individual among student support personnel to a top school administrator from Kane County. The District nominated four additional educators who were recognized at the ceremony:

- Otter Creek Elementary School Principal Jeff Bragg
- South Elgin High School band teacher Kurt Dobbeck
- Washington Elementary School fourth grade teacher Lisa Kees
- Streamwood High School Associate Principal Brian Moran



Left to Right; Administrator Brian Moran was nominated for his leadership. Kurt Dobbeck celebrates his nomination. Principal Jeff Bragg was recognized for his nomination.

Lisa Kees with her award at Washington Elementary School.



National Biodiversity Teach-In

Thousands of environmental science enthusiasts and students from around the globe logged in to Elgin High School's National Biodiversity Teach-In. The series of webinars featured more than a dozen experts, from environmental activist and actor Ed Begley Jr. to 2013 North American Goldman

Environmental Prize recipient Kimberly Wasserman. Elgin High School environmental science teachers Deb Perryman and Brigid Trimble organized the free webinars in February 2016 with help from their students. The event generated more than 35,000 registered participants from five countries and represented more than 100 public schools and 15 colleges and universities.

"The Teach-In is a great way for students to see the work they do can have a real-world impact," Ms. Trimble said. "The students drive the webinars and they are connecting scientists in the field with interested people around the world."



U-46 environmental science teachers Deb Perryman and Brigid Trimble.



Ellis Middle School science teacher Holly Yee assists a student.

Above and Beyond

2016 Technology Education Teacher of the Year

The Technology Education Association of Illinois named Bartlett High School teacher Gary Cotie the 2016 High School Teacher of the Year. Mr. Cotie, a teacher at Bartlett High School for 15 years, was the co-initiator of the school's Project Lead the Way implementation in 2007-08. Project Lead the Way provides pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science while engaging students in hands-on activities, projects, and problems. The award acknowledges an outstanding technology teacher with at least five years of teaching experience who keeps abreast of developments in technology education and frequently upgrades classroom curriculum and activities.

"Mr. Cotie's hands-on method of teaching Project Lead the Way courses helped me get a feel for what work would be like in the engineering field," said Bartlett High School senior Jayam Shah. "He provides mentoring and guidance to students as they look at future careers, which has led me down the path of computer engineering."



Gary Cotie named 2016 High School Teacher of the Year.

***"Mr. Cotie's hands-on method of teaching Project Lead the Way courses helped me get a feel for what work would be like in the engineering field."
—Jayam Shah, Bartlett High School senior***



Laurel Hill Principal Named Hanover Township's Principal of the Year



Laurel Hill Principal
Luis Fernando De
León.

Hanover Township named Laurel Hill Elementary School Principal Luis Fernando De León the 2016 Principal of the Year. This award, part of the township's Committee on Youth annual Celebration of Leadership, is given to a principal from a township-area school. Nominees for Principal of the Year must serve as an example to others, create positive change, be actively involved in the community, and take initiative. Principal De León was one of eight community youth and adult leaders who were recognized for their leadership and service as role models.

"Principal De León provides great leadership that is positive and has a 360-degree focus on students' learning with meaningful engagement of their families and the surrounding community to support and enhance learning," said Hanover Township Trustee Craig Essick, liaison to the Committee on Youth. "He has rebranded Laurel Hill Elementary School and created new systems and structures to advance learning through increasing parental involvement, growing all-staff professional development opportunities, and linking community resources to his school to support the whole child in the learning process."

We Are U-46

WINTER

High School Students Earn Highest State Musical Honor

The Illinois Music Educators Association named six U-46 high school students as All-State Musicians, representing the top musical achievement for high school students in Illinois. Students from Elgin, Larkin, and South Elgin high schools participated in an audition to earn the Illinois All-State Musicians honor. They also performed at the association's annual music education conference in Peoria. The Board of Education recognized the following students for their musical talents:

Elgin High School

- Walker Demel, junior, All-State Choir - Bass I

Larkin High School

- Brandon Berg, senior, All-State Band - Trumpet

South Elgin High School

- Alisha Jury, senior, All-State Musical ("Rent") - Ensemble
- Connor Murray, senior, All-State Honors Choir - Bass II; All-State Musical ("Rent") - Mr. Jefferson
- Kailie Ryan, junior, All-State Honors Choir - Alto II
- Abby Wheatley, senior, All-State Choir - Alto I

Willard Elementary
School paraeducator
Debra Williams.



Glenbrook Elementary
School social worker
Monica Rivera.



U-46 Employees Honored for Commitment to Students

Two School District U-46 professionals were among 11 individuals to earn the "Walk the Talk" awards from the Crisis Prevention Institute Midwest Chapter of Certified Instructors. The award is presented to staff members for their commitment to care, welfare, safety and security of all students and staff. Glenbrook Elementary School social worker Monica Rivera and Willard Elementary School paraeducator Debra Williams received the recognition.

U-46 Illinois State Scholars

The top 10 percent of high school seniors were named Illinois State Scholars. The annual list recognizes students for outstanding academic achievement. More than 250 seniors from the District's five high schools made the list, an increase of 39 students from 2011. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission selects students who perform in the top one-half of their high school class at the end of the third semester prior to graduation or score at or above the 95th percentile on the ACT or SAT.

SPRING

Bartlett High School Makes U.S. News & World Report Best High School List

For the third consecutive year, Bartlett High School made the 2016 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools list. U.S. News & World Report awards high schools with gold, silver, and bronze medals; gold medals reflect the greatest level of college readiness. Bartlett High School earned a silver medal, ranking 81st in Illinois and 1,974th in the nation. Bartlett High School is home of the Science, Engineering, and High Technology Academy within School District U-46 and offers 16 Advanced Placement Exams and about 70 organizations and clubs. Bartlett opened in 1997. A staff of about 230 faculty members and support staff serve 2,600 students on a 22-acre campus.

Culinary Arts Students Rank First in State

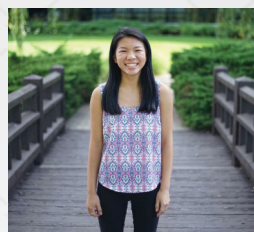
Elgin High School culinary arts students took home two first place trophies at a state culinary competition. The students run Clumsy Chef, a restaurant and catering company, from a kitchen in the high school. After months of after-school and weekend practices, eight Elgin High School juniors and seniors were invited to compete in the 16th annual Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation ProStart Student Invitational in February at Chicago's McCormick Place.

The Elgin High School restaurant management team placed first in developing a Moroccan-themed proposal for the next promising restaurant concept. The team also placed first by developing a three-course menu. The judges evaluated the students on organization, teamwork, knife skills, chicken fabrication skill, and flavor of food. The U-46 Board of Education recognized the two culinary teams in April.



Elgin High School culinary arts students celebrate their two first place trophies.

Student Journalist Wins First Place at State Competition



South Elgin High School junior Anna Lee Ackermann placed first in the broadcast news category of the Illinois High School Association's state journalism competition at Eastern Illinois University. Anna

Lee was among 20 students who needed to record a press conference and generate an audio news clip within a set period of time. She is enrolled in the BEACON Academy, which provides students with hands-on experience in audio and video production, broadcast, journalism, and webcasting. Anna Lee plans to attend Columbia College in Chicago and major in interdisciplinary documentaries with a minor in journalism. The Board of Education honored Anna Lee in May.



Bartlett High School staff and student received an Accent on Achievement from the U-46 Board of Education.

We Are U-46

SUMMER

Elgin High School Gymnast Places First in State Competition

Elgin High School gymnast Nolan Williamson brought home a first place win for the Maroons at the Illinois State High School Association's gymnastic competition. As a junior, Nolan qualified for the state competition in every event during sectionals, where he placed first in vault, high bar, and all-around. He placed second on rings, third on pommel horse, and fourth on parallel bars. His winning routine at state included a double dismount that launched him 12 feet into the air. As a senior, Nolan continues to compete in gymnastics and participates in track and field. Nolan's plan after graduation is to study architecture and apply to cheer or gymnastic programs.



Five Students Compete at Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games



Gwen Cerami and Tina Hondros with their 25M freestyle gold medals.



Matthew Kennedy, Ian Fergus, and Hope Buechner at Illinois State University competed in the 2016 Special Olympics downstate.

Five U-46 students showcased both heart and muscle at the 2016 Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games, where children and adults with intellectual disabilities celebrate their power, joy, and human spirit through training and athletic competitions. Students competed in swimming and running in June at Illinois State University in Normal. Gwen Cerami and Tina Hondros from Centennial Elementary School competed in the aquatics 25M and 50M freestyle and both took home gold. Ian Fergus, a seventh-grader from Kenyon Woods Middle School in South Elgin, earned bronze in the 200M race. In the same event, Matthew Kennedy, a sixth-grader from Horizon Elementary School in Hanover Park, placed fifth and Hope Buechner, a freshman from Elgin High School, placed sixth.

FALL

Proactive Behavior Program Aims to Improve School Culture

Eight U-46 schools achieved platinum-level status for their implementation of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program. PBIS helps build a positive school community and culture. Platinum level signals that a school meets the highest implementation level in the national program, which is designed to improve school culture and safety. The Midwest PBIS Network annually reviews each school's practice and data.



Staff from Lowrie Elementary School in Elgin join Principal Kelly O'Brien (second from right) in accepting the Accent on Achievement for their work on improving school culture and student behavior.



Elgin's Washington Elementary School Principal Lori Brandes (third from right), students, and staff are all smiles after the Board of Education recognized their work to implement a positive behavior program.

Two U-46 Elementary Schools Win 2016 Summer Reading Challenge

For the fifth year in a row, Highland Elementary School in Elgin generated the most devoted readers in the Summer Reading Challenge, sponsored by School District U-46 and the Gail Borden Public Library District. Sycamore Trails Elementary School in Bartlett saw the most improved participation in the challenge. Each year, the contest encourages students to continue reading during the summer to maintain and further develop literacy skills.



Highland Elementary School students raise their trophy in celebration.

The following eight schools earned platinum-level PBIS status:

- Glenbrook Elementary School in Streamwood
- Highland Elementary School in Elgin
- Laurel Hill Elementary School in Hanover Park
- Lowrie Elementary School in Elgin
- Ontarioville Elementary School in Hanover Park
- Washington Elementary School in Elgin
- Ellis Middle School in Elgin
- Larkin High School in Elgin

FALL

Bartlett High School Booster Club Supports New Football Field

Bartlett High School hosted its homecoming game on its own turf in October thanks to \$60,000 in donations from the BHS Booster Club. For five years, the Booster Club has raised funds to build an activity complex. Community volunteers, leaders, and students helped put down sod and collegiate goal posts during the summer. The Rotary Club of Bartlett donated \$25,000 for the school to install a scoreboard.

The homecoming game, which Bartlett won 42-7 against East Aurora, was designed to kick start a fundraising campaign for the activity complex. The Bartlett High Boosters have asked donors to raise \$200,000 to pay for bleachers, a special entrance, and concession area. Their goal is to complete the complex by the onset of the 2017-18 school year. The boosters are selling 200 founders bricks at \$250 each through bhsboosters.org.

Elgin High School Recognizes Notable Alumni



Elgin High School alumna and Tony Award-nominated actress Sara Melissa Hart joined a dedication ceremony for the Alumni Hall of Fame wall, where she is among those honored.

Adler Planetarium; Sara Melissa Hart, a Tony Award-nominated actress and leading character in the traveling production of "Cabaret;" Daniel M. Brewbaker, a renowned composer; and Hal Getzelman, a retired capsule communicator chief engineer for NASA. Dozens of alumni attended with their friends and family to celebrate their alma mater, achievements, and place on the wall. Others were posthumously inducted.

The Elgin High School Alumni Association celebrated the accomplishments of some of its most distinguished graduates during a dedication of the school's Alumni Hall of Fame. The celebration coincided with Homecoming Week and recognized the contributions of 38 Elgin High School graduates, including Max Adler, benefactor of the

Educational Foundation

The 2016-17 U-46
Educational Foundation
Board members and
CEO Sanders.



The U-46 Educational Foundation, established in 2008, aims to cultivate educational programs and activities not typically financed with tax dollars, from U-46 Observatory and Planetarium shows to college scholarships. The 16-member Board oversees this non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, which has distributed nearly \$500,000 to District programs and students in the past decade.

The primary means of fundraising is through individual and corporate donations. The Foundation will not replace or duplicate any of the U-46 parent groups or business partnerships. In some cases, projects may be collaborative. While many organizations support specific schools, the Foundation aims to support initiatives that impact, enhance, or complement the District's educational offerings for as many schools and students as possible.

In 2016, the Educational Foundation was pleased to award a number of grants, including the following:

- **\$5,000 to the School and Community Relations Department for the ParentLink communications app. This mobile app now has nearly 11,500 downloads.**
- **\$5,000 to the Planetarium for classroom materials to support the new sky show, "The Moon." This marks \$20,000 in grants awarded to the Planetarium since the Foundation's inception.**
- **\$5,000 to Illinois Science Olympiad, supporting U-46 middle school and high school teams competing in the international STEM-based academic competition.**

District Finances

The Board once again approved a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2017, which began July 1, 2016. The \$512.1 million FY17 budget projects \$18.1 million in additional revenue over the amount budgeted during Fiscal Year 2016.

School District U-46 again earned the Illinois State Board of Education's top financial profile rating, called "financial recognition," in Fiscal Year 2016 for the third consecutive year.

The Fiscal 2017 budget projects \$512.1 million of revenues and \$511.4 million of expenditures, for a net increase in total fund balance of \$0.8 million. The operating funds' projected revenues and other financing sources exceed projected expenditures and other financing uses by \$0.2 million, creating a slight budget surplus.

The budget, made up of federal, state, and local dollars, supports the financial investment in the education of nearly 40,000 students in School District U-46. The Illinois School Funding

Reform Commission undertook an analysis of school funding in 2016, concluding once again that the school funding formula in Illinois is broken. CEO Sanders continues to be among those calling for bipartisan legislation that ends the chronic underfunding of low-income schools and gives all students the education they deserve. The work to move to a more equitable and adequate state funding system is expected to continue through the spring of 2017.

Meanwhile, U-46 remains committed to an open and transparent budget-developing process that begins each spring with public hearings before Board approval each fall. Current and past District budgets are posted on the District's website along with other financial information and related Board presentations.

Revenue



Local Sources
\$316,791,928 (62%)



State Sources
\$158,126,456 (31%)



Federal Sources
\$37,207,796 (7%)



Total Revenue
\$512,126,180

Expenditures



Salaries
\$264,032,755 (51%)



Employee Benefits
\$95,498,141 (19%)



Purchased Services
\$34,887,101 (7%)



Supplies and Materials
\$26,760,455 (5%)



Capital Outlay
\$29,382,903 (6%)



Other Objects
\$60,789,808 (12%)



Total Expenditures
\$511,351,163

Better Together

Community Members Step into Principal Role

In the first week of May 2016, more than 50 community leaders stepped into principals' offices in schools across the District to celebrate the eighth annual Principal for a Day event. The program offers local businesses, government, and nonprofit leaders a behind-the-scenes look at all the responsibilities of a principal and day-to-day routines and demands.

Later in the year, the District for the first time hosted Principal for a Day in December. Moving the event to earlier in the school year promotes a long-term partnership and allows time for schools to foster connections. More than 70 community leaders participated in the December 2016 event. Streamwood High School graduate and ABC 7 reporter John Garcia visited his alma mater to serve as Principal for a Day. Garcia shared stories and observations as the keynote speaker during the luncheon at Villa Olivia in Bartlett. Marco, a leading technology services provider, sponsored the luncheon. The Elgin High School Clumsy Chefs baked desserts, and Kimball Middle School orchestra students performed during the luncheon.



Principal for a Day Ron Bellack of Marco, left, begins his day with Otter Creek Elementary Principal Jeff Bragg.



ABC 7 reporter John Garcia, left, spent the morning at his alma mater, Streamwood High School, before speaking to other guest principals at a special luncheon.

Alignment Collaborative for Education

The Alignment Collaborative for Education continues to work to support the District's Strategic Plan. In April 2016, ACE worked with the District staff to give 50 local business, government, and state education representatives a close-up look at how the District high schools prepare their students for the working world and post-secondary education. The Career and Technical Education spring tour welcomed community partners to its business, culinary arts, early education and teaching, and healthcare services programs, as well as its precision manufacturing, welding, and automotive courses. The tour supports the District's ongoing work to build educational pathways.



ACE coordinates community resources to support the District's Strategic Plan with priorities focused on work to:

- Approach students through the lens of Trauma-Informed Care.
- Strengthen and expand Early Childhood Education.
- Support Career and Technical Education and build educational pathways for the 21st century.



U-46 Shines a Light on Community Volunteers

U-46 recognized more than 500 volunteers who gave their time and talent during the 2015-16 school year. During the volunteer reception, CEO Tony Sanders named the Citizens' Advisory Council's Enrollment & Facilities Committee Co-Chairs Roger Wallace and Carol Dimitroff, along with other members of the Enrollment & Facilities team, as the 2016 Volunteers of the Year. Mr. Wallace and Ms. Dimitroff led work for more than two years on the District's elementary school boundary changes.

The Enrollment & Facilities Committee reviewed the District's elementary school boundaries and current enrollment projections to determine the best and most efficient use of the schools. The committee hosted three town hall meetings where they shared the proposed changes with U-46 families and the community. They then considered feedback and brought a final proposal to Citizens' Advisory Council for a vote before sending it to the Board of Education, which approved the new boundary lines in December 2015.

CEO Sanders recognized several other U-46 volunteer groups, including the Alignment Collaborative for Education; the African American and Bilingual Parent Advisory Committees; the Citizens' Advisory Council; the Clergy Advisory Committee; Parent Teacher Organization and Parent Teacher Association leaders; the School Safety Advisory Task Force; and the Student Advisory Council. Magicians Trenton Williams, a 2016 South Elgin High School graduate, and Alec Dylo, a senior at South Elgin High School, performed at the reception.



Citizens' Advisory Council Chairperson Melissa Owens (center) celebrated the dedication of Enrollment & Facilities Committee Co-Chairs Roger Wallace and Carol Dimitroff.



Realtor Breakfasts

The U-46 Citizens' Advisory Council Family and Community Engagement Committee hosted two Realtor Breakfasts to provide real estate agents with an overview of the District in preparation for the spring selling season. CEO Tony Sanders, parents, and community leaders presented information on the District's programs at Elgin High School in February and Bartlett High School in April. Dozens of real estate agents attended, asked questions, and toured the schools.



District Receives Awards for Community Engagement

U-46 received two awards in November. Reflejos, the Daily Herald's Spanish newspaper, gave a plaque to commemorate the District's work to engage community agencies and businesses through the Alignment Collaborative for Education. Meanwhile, the Elgin Hispanic Network gave U-46 its Organization of the Year Award.

Big District, Bigger Heart

Education Services Staff Wears Red Noses for a Cause

The U-46 Educational Services Center celebrated Red Nose Day to raise awareness and money to help lift children out of poverty.



Students Get Cardiac Screenings to Raise Awareness

In partnership with the Young Hearts for Life and the Elizabeth Grace Kunce Memorial Fund, Streamwood High School hosted a cardiac screening event to identify high school students with cardiac issues. More than 70 volunteers helped screen more than 600 students.

This event honored Beth Kuncie, an Elgin High School Class of 1999 graduate who died of sudden cardiac arrest in 2003.



Students gather in the gymnasium at Streamwood High School to participate in cardiac screenings.

Project Backpack Helps Students in Need

School District U-46 families were invited to a Back-to-School Supply Fair in August at Elgin Community College. U-46 teachers, administrators, and staff members donated 58 filled backpacks for the annual fair. The event, known as "Project Backpack," provides students in need with school supplies for the upcoming academic year. Before receiving school backpacks and supplies, families visit agency booths to learn about after-school programs and resources for family health and wellness. Through community and corporate donations, more than 10,000 backpacks have been distributed since 2010.





United Way Employee Giving Campaign

School District U-46 employees contribute to the District's communities throughout the year with fundraisers and special events designed to help our neighbors in need, but one of the District's oldest relationships is with the United Way of Elgin. For more than 90 years, teachers and staff have donated to the United Way of Elgin, an organization that helps fund local social service agencies and shape a stronger community.

In 2016, United Way of Elgin provided more than one million meals, distributed free books to 4,379 children, and provided 431 people with 13,590 nights of safe shelter. The organization funded two Born Learning Trails, one at

U-46 employees raised \$31,000 for United Way in 2016.

Channing Elementary School and another at Illinois Park Center for Early Learning.

In three weeks, District staff raised more than \$31,000 during the 2016 U-46 annual Employee Giving Campaign in October.



U-46 Staff Lends a Hand

U-46 staff donated more than 800 presents to more than 200 students in need during the 2016 holiday season.

Building New Roads at U-46



DREAM Academy teachers and staff greeted students with positive messages on the first day of school.

U-46 Provides Newly Revamped Secondary Alternative Program

The DREAM Academy, which stands for Dedication, Responsibility, Education, Attitude, and Motivation, launched upon the start of the 2016-17 school year. The DREAM Academy focuses on social and emotional support for U-46 middle and high school students to help them achieve their highest individual potential.

The school replaced Gifford Street High School, which was focused on a dated premise of providing credit recovery courses. The DREAM Academy features class sizes ranging from 15 to 20 students, daily circle time with a blended curriculum of group instruction, as well as online courses. U-46 students are eligible to enroll in the DREAM Academy at any time during the school year as the program offers an open entry and exit policy. In order to be considered for admittance into the DREAM Academy, students must be enrolled at a U-46 high school and referred by their home school.

A referral for the student is submitted by the school with parental approval. A committee then reviews the referral before accepting a student into the program. Weekly intakes occur every Thursday, and the staff, along with the student and their parents, determine when a student is ready to return to their home school.



DREAM Academy students working together to complete a science project.



Three Elementary Schools Welcome New Additions

Coleman, Highland, and Laurel Hill elementary schools collectively welcomed 250 more students this school year with the help of new building additions that added much-needed classroom space. Construction crews ensured the additions were ready for students by the first day of school as the District launched Full-Day Kindergarten for more than 2,700 students.

The three schools celebrated their additions with ribbon-cutting ceremonies in August. Board of Education members, CEO Tony Sanders, community leaders, parents, and students enjoyed music from Elgin High School marching band members and tours at each school.

The additions added 26 classrooms total with 10 at Coleman, 10 at Highland, and six at Laurel Hill.

The new space at each building, along with boundary changes that went into effect during the 2016-17 school year, allows the District to use elementary school space more efficiently and will help the District remove about 12 mobile classrooms over the course of the year.



Coleman, Highland, and Laurel Hill elementary schools made way for new additions during ribbon-cutting ceremonies before the first day of school.

U-46 Provides Concussion Management for All Students

In 2015, Illinois passed the Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act (Public Act 099-0245) for student athletes. In response, School District U-46 developed and implemented the Return to Learn Protocol for all students. The previous policy applied only to athletic play in programs sponsored by the District. The Return to Learn Protocol offers concussion management for every student.

The Return to Learn Protocol takes a student through four phases of recovery at their pace:

1. Complete rest. Recovery from a concussion involves two critical components: cognitive and physical rest. Continued research has shown cognitive rest to be essential in the quick resolution of concussion symptoms. Physical activity such as physical education, recess, athletics, and strength or cardiovascular conditioning should be avoided completely during recovery from a concussion.
2. Return to school with half-day school attendance for a period of time.
3. Full day of school attendance.
4. Full academic and athletics and physical activity participation.

Full-Time Social Workers in Every Elementary School

School District U-46 made a focused commitment on the social and emotional development needs of all elementary school students in 2016 by ensuring a full-time social worker in each school. In recognition of the addition of Full-Day Kindergarten and the continued Strategic Plan focus on nurturing the whole child, social workers provide an important resource to our U-46 students and families. Social workers enhance the ability of a school to help bridge the gap between a student's home life and their school life.

"As our schools continue to implement the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports model, the social worker's impact has become an integral component in our schools," said Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools Instruction and Equity Steve Burger. "When we serve the whole child, we are better able to ensure their academic success."

Building New Roads at U-46

Explore 2016 Expands Options for Students After High School

School District U-46, in partnership with its Citizens' Advisory Council and the Alignment Collaborative for Education, presented Explore 2016: A U-46 Community, Curriculum, and Career Expo. The expo, an annual U-46 event, showcased class offerings to build college and career readiness as well as highlighting local employers and jobs in the region that require the skills taught in the District's classes. This event featured U-46 staff and students as well as about two dozen organizations and local industry experts leading students in discussion and hands-on activities.

Alignment Collaborative for Education, a non-profit community organization, works with the District to organize and expand community awareness and participation in support of the District's Strategic Plan. The expo supports the Plan's aspiration for student achievement, helping students make important connections between classroom work and careers. By aligning the community's education, workforce, and economic development efforts, Alignment Collaborative for Education aims to increase the intellectual capital and workforce capacity of the region.



Students learned about future careers at the District's second curriculum and career expo.

Building Safe School Cultures, Inside & Out

Volunteer Group Funds Bartlett Area Schools

The Bartlett Volunteer Fire Association donated \$9,000 to purchase base station radios for all Bartlett schools. Director of School Safety and Culture John Heiderscheidt met with members of the Bartlett Volunteer Fire Association in April at Bartlett Elementary School to prepare and discuss the new efforts for school safety that the donations will provide.



John Heiderscheidt, right, director of School Safety and Culture, receives a check from Mike Dexter, president of the Bartlett Volunteer Fire Association.



The Raptor visitor check-in system

Technology Changing the Lives of Our Students

Level 10 Donates Technology to Elgin Area School

Students at Ronald D. O'Neal Elementary School now can turn to a few extra digital tools thanks to a generous local business. Level 10, a Hoffman Estates information technology company, donated \$10,000 worth of equipment to the Elgin school in January to assist with resources for students. The donation included open-source object storage servers, known as Minio; interactive



Ronald D. O'Neal Elementary School Principal Marcie Marzullo shares new technology for students to use in school.

whiteboards; Osmo educational game systems; iPad minis; Chromebooks; and digital cameras. Ronald D. O'Neal Principal Marcie Marzullo converted storage space with the donations from Level 10 and Title 1 funds to create a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) center. The center boasts a weather station and green screen, LEGO® robotics, digital microscopes, a 3D printer, and more.

More Elementary Schools Learn Fundamentals of Coding

More U-46 schools are finding a way to introduce coding, the practice of arranging instructions in a computer program.

Ellen Smith, a fourth grade teacher at Streamwood's Glenbrook Elementary School, gathers her students weekly for their own private coding lesson. The class learns how to manipulate characters through various coding instructions, using popular video games such as Minecraft and Star Wars for inspiration.

Mrs. Smith's students also can log in from their home computers using their online accounts to gain more understanding on

hourofcode.com or Scratch, a free computer programming destination. Glenbrook Elementary also offers a coding club for additional hands-on opportunities.

Students cultivate computer science talents such as creativity, collaboration, persistence, and problem-solving.



Bartlett Chief of Police Kent Williams (left) honors the dedication and skills of school resource officer Rich Bosh, (holding certificate). Bartlett police Cmdr. Chuck Snider and Sgt. Geoffrey Pretkelis are on the right.



Raptor Program Ensures Student Safety

The 2016-17 school year welcomed Raptor, a visitor check-in system to verify that individuals visiting U-46 schools are not on any registered sex offender list. This comes on the heels of last year's implementation of the Electronic Access Control system at all schools. The system provides District staff with keyless entry while ensuring visitors do not access U-46 buildings without permission. The Raptor system is logging nearly 450 visitors daily to U-46 schools and the Educational Services Center.



School Resource Officer Honored for Work at Bartlett High School

The Cook County Sheriff's Office honored Rich Bosh with a certificate of merit in November for his services as a Bartlett High school resource officer, Bartlett police officer, and juvenile officer. Bosh also received the Bartlett Police Officer of the Year Award.

"Rich has an outstanding approach to his work with students and staff. As a seasoned school resource officer, he brings a proactive and preventive approach to safety and security," said Director of School Safety and Culture John Heiderscheidt. "Rich brought education and restorative approaches to working with students who commit offenses at school and in the community. This work keeps students out of the criminal justice system while teaching them a life skill. The students know he is there to help them with any issue and to improve their decision making."

Celebrates Staff Milestones and Thanks Retirees

District Gives Thanks to Dedicated Employees

The Board of Education honored more than 100 employees who retired in 2016 and individuals who reached their 25th, 30th, or 35th year of service with School District U-46. More than 90 employees celebrated 25-plus years, totaling more than 1,000 years of service. Eight retirees were also alumni, such as Jane Ambroso, former eighth grade science teacher at Larsen Middle School who attended Harriet Gifford Elementary School, Abbott Middle School, and Larkin High School. The knowledge and commitment of all District employees has helped shape U-46 schools and lives of children throughout our 11 communities.

U-46 recognized Patricia Rosiejka for 35 years of service at the annual 2016 Service Recognition Ceremony. Patricia retired as a third grade teacher from Clinton Elementary School. She is honored to have had a happy and fulfilling teaching career and to have worked in six schools in the District. Her fondest memories revolve around the fabulous musicals her classes performed at the end of each school year.



Third grade teacher Patricia Rosiejka celebrated her 35th year with Interim Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Arndt at the 2016 Years of Service Recognition Ceremony.

The following employees also celebrated their 35 years of service:

Nancy Gore
John Musial

Eleanor Howard
Elizabeth Riley

Cynthia Lange
Melissa White

Elizabeth Bouvier Stoughton

Elizabeth “Betsy” Bouvier Stoughton retired in 2016 from being a fifth-grade teacher at Centennial Elementary School. During her 24 years at U-46, she coached Battle of the Books for 10 years and took first place four times. When she told her class she was retiring, one of her students said, “Just think of all the students who will never get to have you as their teacher!”

William Troka

William “Bill” Troka retired as a school psychologist for the Special Education department. During his 20 years in U-46, Bill enjoyed visiting the classrooms and interacting with students. He received many certificates of recognition and appreciation, from Parent Teacher Organizations to community organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters and Boy Scouts of America for coaching youth soccer, basketball, and baseball.



CEO Tony Sanders thanked retiree Robert Keck for his service.

Robert Keck

Robert Keck retired from teaching gifted science at Kimball Middle School in Elgin. His fondest memory was establishing Blazingstar Prairie, an outdoor living laboratory at Streamwood High School. Students grew native plants under lights in the classroom from seed, planted the prairie, and learned about the natural history of tallgrass prairies in Illinois. In 2003, Robert received the Illinois Science Teachers Association’s Exemplary High School Science Teacher of the Year award.



Centennial Elementary School retiree Betsy Bouvier Stoughton (middle) celebrated her retirement with U-46 CEO Tony Sanders and Board Member Traci O’Neal Ellis.



Bill Troka (middle) celebrated his retirement with CEO Tony Sanders and Board Member Traci O’Neal Ellis.

Our U-46 CEO's Cabinet



Tony Sanders
Chief Executive Officer



Dr. Jeff King
Chief Operations Officer



Dr. Terri Lozier
Assistant Superintendent of Secondary
Schools, Instruction & Equity



Dr. Ushma Shah
Assistant Superintendent of Elementary
Schools, Instruction & Equity



Ron Raglin
Assistant Superintendent of Educational
Support Programs & Alignment



Dr. Kenneth Arndt
Interim Superintendent



Miguel Rodriguez
Chief Legal Officer



Steve Burger
Assistant Superintendent of Elementary
Schools, Instruction & Equity



Dr. Suzanne Johnson
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching
& Learning



Melanie Meidel
Assistant Superintendent of Human
Resources

U-46 Cabinet members oversee the District's preschools, elementary, and secondary schools; lead our academic, fiscal and operational initiatives; and drive the implementation of our Strategic Plan with our students, staff, and community members.

Communication 101

Facebook:
School District U-46
11,700 likes and growing

Twitter: @sdu46

Number of Tweets: 2,449

Number of followers: 4,904

App: @SDU-46 Number of downloads: 11,317

Number of followers: 5,742



Most video views on Facebook:
 20,567 U-46 Class of 2016 video.



Most viewed video on YouTube:
 2,853 views U-46 CEO Welcome Message.



Most liked photo: 469 likes
 Washington Elementary School students turned some fallen leaves into a work of art that Principal Lori Brandes says reflects the school's sense of family. #WeAreU46

School and Community Relations Department Awarded for Communications Work

The Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association honored School District U-46's School and Community Relations department in October 2016 with seven state awards. The department earned four Awards of Excellence; one for the 2015 Annual Report; another for the corresponding Annual Report video, a third for the District's social media communication, particularly the District's Facebook page; and fourth Award of Excellence for a video about the Illinois 5Essentials Survey. The Department received three Awards of Merit for videos about the Superintendent's Scholarship recipients, Veterans Day activities and a holiday message featuring CEO Tony Sanders as SandersClaus.



Racing to an Olympic Dream



With each pre-dawn college track team practice or afternoon strength training session, race walker Anali Cisneros, an Elgin High School Class of 2016 graduate, gets a step closer to her dream of competing in the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

While she was still a Maroon, Anali earned her first international medal, a bronze, at the 2015 Pan American Race Walking Cup in Arica, Chile. Just after she graduated in July 2016, Anali set U.S. junior and high school records with her best time of 49 minutes and 31 seconds in the 10,000-meter women's race walk at the International Association of Athletics Federations World Under 20 Championships in Poland.

Anali is also on track to become a doctor, majoring in natural sciences at Judson University where she earned a generous scholarship package through her good grades and athletic background. She took many honors and Advanced Placement classes at Elgin High School while also running varsity track and cross country all four years.

"I had a lot of teachers, even from first grade, that were really amazing and always motivated me to be the best," Anali said. "I had really good coaches at Elgin High School that were very motivational and pushed me. Overall, during my years of education in District U-46, I was surrounded by exemplary teachers that put their students first."

These days, Anali race walks about 50 miles a week, mixing in some biking and swimming when she needs

World Champs Past and Future

U-46 Student Races to the Finish Line

Ava McCollim, a nine-year-old Centennial Elementary School student, competed in the world championships at The All American Soapbox Derby at Derby Downs in Akron, Ohio. With only one year of soapbox racing under her belt, Ava ranked in the upper half at 40th place during the 2016 World Rally Stock Championship Race. Propelled only by gravity, soapbox cars are motorless vehicles that are raced on a downhill road and can achieve speeds upwards of 70 mph.

Racing provides multiple benefits for Ava, who has autism and epilepsy. She is on a low-carb, high-fat diet that helps reduce the seizures and maintains her weight for racing. Using zippers and ties has improved Ava's hand and eye coordination. Mom Heather McCollim reports that, along with the physical benefits, racing has increased Ava's confidence and self-discipline.

"Ava enjoys using her STEM skills in racing," said Ms. McCollim. "She had to build her own car to qualify for the race, and it helps that she has used those skills in order to create it."

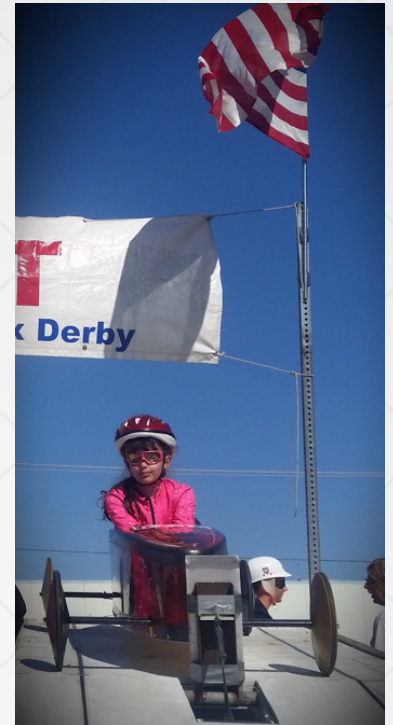
Before each race, Ava's car, with her in it, must weigh in at 200 pounds. To give the car speed, 116 pounds of weights are placed inside. The heavier the car, the faster it will roll downhill. The weight requirement provides all competitors an equal chance of winning.

While at The All-American Soapbox Derby in July, Ava made friends with children from all over the world, including New Zealand, Canada, and Japan. She enjoyed learning about their customs and stays in touch with her racing friends via email.

Ava continues to race and participated in the Goblin Asphalt Assault Halloween Race in Bowling Green, Kentucky. She also has learned to lose gracefully and uses her determination to get back in the car and do better next time.

When Ava's not on the track, she often brings her car to U-46 schools and offers presentations on gravity racing and STEM engineering.

"My car and I have a special bond," said Ava. "We're a team! I even kiss her goodnight."



Ava getting ready for a race.

to give her legs a break. In January 2017, she competed in her first 20K in California and finished in an hour and 48 minutes, a time that she hopes to decrease by about 12 minutes over the next few years.

The oldest of three children (her sister is a senior and brother is a sophomore at Elgin High), Anali said she'd be honored to someday represent Elgin on the Olympic stage and perhaps serve as a role model for other U-46 students.

"A lot of people have dreams but sometimes they don't chase them because they don't see them as worthwhile or they don't seem attainable," Anali said. I can definitely say that if you work hard, and put in the amount of energy and time that's it takes you can get there."



Anali enjoys training around the Judson University campus.

