



The STAR

AEF CHANGES FISCAL YEAR

In an effort to align closer to the school district calendar, the Abilene Education Foundation Board of Directors decided in the fall of 2014 to switch our fiscal year from the calendar year to the school district year. Therefore, creating a short-fiscal year budget with a full 12-month budget beginning August 1, 2015.

This newsletter highlights the work done by AEF during the short-fiscal year, January 1, 2015, to July 31, 2015, a mere seven months! Our next Annual Report to Donors will be distributed in September 2016 and includes a full-fiscal year. So much happened in the last seven months, we just couldn't wait a whole new year to share with you all our good news.

We hope you will enjoy our brief newsletter from our short-fiscal year and look forward to the new school year ahead of us.



WELCOME HOME DR. YOUNG!

The Abilene Education Foundation is excited to welcome our new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. David Young, to the Abilene community. A 1990 graduate of Cooper High School, Dr. Young returns to Abilene from Pampa, where he has served as Superintendent for the past three years. He also worked as an administrator in the Midway and Bryan school districts. He began his career as a teacher in 1995. His wife, Amanda, is a 1992 graduate of CHS and is an elementary school guidance counselor. She will be at Bowie Elementary School. The Young's have three children: Austin, a freshman this fall at Hardin-Simmons University; Madison, an 11th grader; and Jackson, an 8th grader.



The Young Family is absolutely thrilled to have returned home to Abilene. We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support we have received from the AISD family and from the community of Abilene. I look forward to working with the AISD team to make our school district an even better place for our students. Together we can make the Abilene Independent School District the premier educational opportunity in West Texas!

- Dr. Young

The Abilene ISD Board of Trustees called a Special Meeting on August 20, 2015, to officially approve the hiring of Dr. David Young as the 22nd Superintendent for AISD. His first day on the job was August 21. Dr. Young was named the sole finalist for Superintendent by the Board of Trustees during a Special Meeting on July 28. Following the meeting, the public and AISD staff had a chance to meet Dr. Young and his family at a Meet-and-Greet reception at One AISD Center.



AEF PROGRAMS

ABILENE EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

AEF Scholarships strive to reward outstanding students of AISD with scholarships to make the transition from high school to college as seamless as possible. There is a tremendous need for financial assistance for many of Abilene Independent School District's graduating seniors. Rising poverty levels, coupled with continuing escalation of tuition, room/board costs, books, student fees, transportation, etc., can make it difficult for many graduating seniors to continue their education. Scholarships granted in 2015 include Abilene Education Foundation, AHS & CHS Alumni, Royce Curtis Excellence in Education and other individual donor directed. Additional scholarships include the Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation, Johnny Ortega Jr. Memorial, BreLex Memorial, School Nutrition Association of Abilene, Citizens Bank of Abilene, Abernathy, Young Masters, Coach John McCabe Memorial, Michele Scott Memorial, Cougar Nation, Rising Phoenix and Fishings Future: Get Outdoors and Go Fishing, the Larry Condra Memorial.

Award (excludes Young Masters): \$56,000

COLLEGE OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFE

COOL (College Offers Opportunities for Life) places four full-time college advisors in Abilene ISD schools to assist students who are first in their families to attend college. Advisors assist with college applications, scholarships, applying for financial aid, college tours and college educational presentations from elementary to high school. The COOL program is primarily funded by the Shelton Family Foundation and the Dian Graves Owen Foundation. To review the COOL Annual Report, please visit www.aaeff.org.

Expenses (January 1, 2015-July 31, 2015 only): \$165,422.13

YOUNG MASTERS JURIED ART EXHIBITION

Young Masters Juried Art Exhibition provides an annual juried art exhibition at the Grace Museum for Advance Placement Studio Art students to recognize and encourage outstanding artistic expression with a quality museum exhibition. Students who place are awarded a scholarship to the college of their choice.

Expenses (includes scholarships): \$22,267.66



TEACHER IN THE LIMELIGHT CELEBRATION

TLC (Teachers in the Limelight Celebration) honors the dedicated work of teachers in AISD with campus recognition, a formal dinner and a monetary award. A TLC teacher possesses integrity and love for teaching that spills into the classroom. Awards are funded by the Edwin Sr. and Agnes Jennings Teaching Excellence Endowment. The event is underwritten by the Abilene Teachers Federal Credit Union and Abilene Reporter-News. Winners last year included Susan Pate, TLC Elementary Teacher of the Year; Timothy Broun, TLC Secondary Teacher of the Year; Monica Diaz, TLC Math Teacher of the Year; Brandon Randall, TLC Science Teacher of the Year and Sharlyn Bammel, TLC 5th Grade Math Teacher of the Year. **Nominate a science and/or math teacher at aaeff.org today!**

Award & Expenses (includes in-kind): \$53,068.32

The following AEF programs will be awarded in the fall of 2015: Pass for Success, STAR (Supporting Teachers with Academic Resources) Grants and The Judy Dudley GIFT (Giving to First-time Teachers) Grants.



ENDOWMENTS

AEF Endowments help fund college educations, classroom supplies for new-to-the-profession teachers, monetary awards for teachers making a difference in the lives of students in Abilene ISD and operational expenses.

AHS ALUMNI ENDOWMENT

Alumni of Abilene High School are proud to support AHS graduating seniors through the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund. This amazing opportunity began in 2008 by the AHS Class of 1958 and has grown due to donations from individual AHS Alumni and AHS Class Reunions. Due to generous contributions from the classes of 1940, 42, 48, 53, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 63, 64, 79, 93, 95, 96, 2002 and funds raised by Abilene Education Foundation Cajun Fest event, the AHS endowment currently provides an AHS graduating senior with a \$2,000 scholarship. The 2015 recipient was Brenda Gomez.



CHS ALUMNI ENDOWMENT

Alumni of the Cooper High School are also proud to support CHS graduating seniors through the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund. This amazing opportunity began in 2008 by the CHS Class of 1978 and has grown due to donations from individual CHS Alumni and CHS Class Reunions. Due to generous contributions from the classes of 1964, 67, 69, 78, 79 and funds raised by Abilene Education Foundation Cajun Fest event, the CHS endowment currently provides a CHS graduating senior with a \$2,000 scholarship. The 2015 recipient was Heath McCabe.

THE ROYCE CURTIS EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION ENDOWMENT

This endowment was established by AHS '93 graduate Dr. Bracken Kolle and his wife, Joana, in honor of AHS principal Royce Curtis. The endowment has grown due to additional donations by both the Kolle family and other ex-Eagles. The scholarship helps future Eagles pursue their dream of a college education. Royce served the students of Abilene for 35 years. Fourteen of those years he was at AHS. The Royce Curtis Excellence in Education 2015 Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 was awarded to Kaitlin Alcantar.

AEF ENDOWMENT

Initially established with generous contributions from Lee and Ruth Caldwell, the AEF endowment, also managed by the Community Foundation, continues to grow and support AEF programs.

MARTHA SCOTT CARLSON FUND FOR AEF GIFT GRANTS

Martha was a sweet and gracious lady whose love for family and education carried forward throughout her entire life's work. In her memory, her family established an endowment held at Community Foundation of Abilene to continue to support the GIFT (Giving to First-time Teachers) grant each year with funds to help first-year, new-to-the-profession teachers outfit their classrooms.

AEF EDWIN AND AGNES JENNINGS TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD ENDOWMENT

In 2011, with the donation of 3,000 shares of ExxonMobile stock from Mr. Jennings, a permanent endowment was established in honor of his parents Edwin J. Sr. and Agnes May Smith Jennings and to reward outstanding teachers making a difference in the lives of students in Abilene ISD.

JULIA JONES MATTHEWS ENDOWMENT

In 2005, Julia Jones Matthews established an endowment benefitting Abilene Education Foundation at Community Foundation of Abilene. The corpus of that endowment is owned and managed by Community Foundation. Interest earned helps with AEF's operational expenses.

A permanent record of donors and gifts is maintained by the AEF. The Community Foundation of Abilene manages the investments of the contributions to these endowments.

Check us out: Visit AEF's Facebook page at [facebook.com/AbileneEducationFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/AbileneEducationFoundation) and help us spread the word on good works being done in AISD!

Please note all donations received from January 1, 2015, to August 1, 2016, will be listed in our 2016 Annual Report to Donors.

AEF APPRECIATES EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!

Save the Date

Taylor County Expo Center * Saturday, April 9th, 2016

ABILENE goes



CAJUN

JOIN US FOR A FAMILY-FUN
EVENT HIGHLIGHTING AISD!

www.aeeff.org #AbileneGoesCajun

5K Run/Fun Walk * Crawfish & Shrimp Boil * Shopping
Inflatable Park * Food Trucks * Carnival Rides
Car Shows * Live Musical Entertainment

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