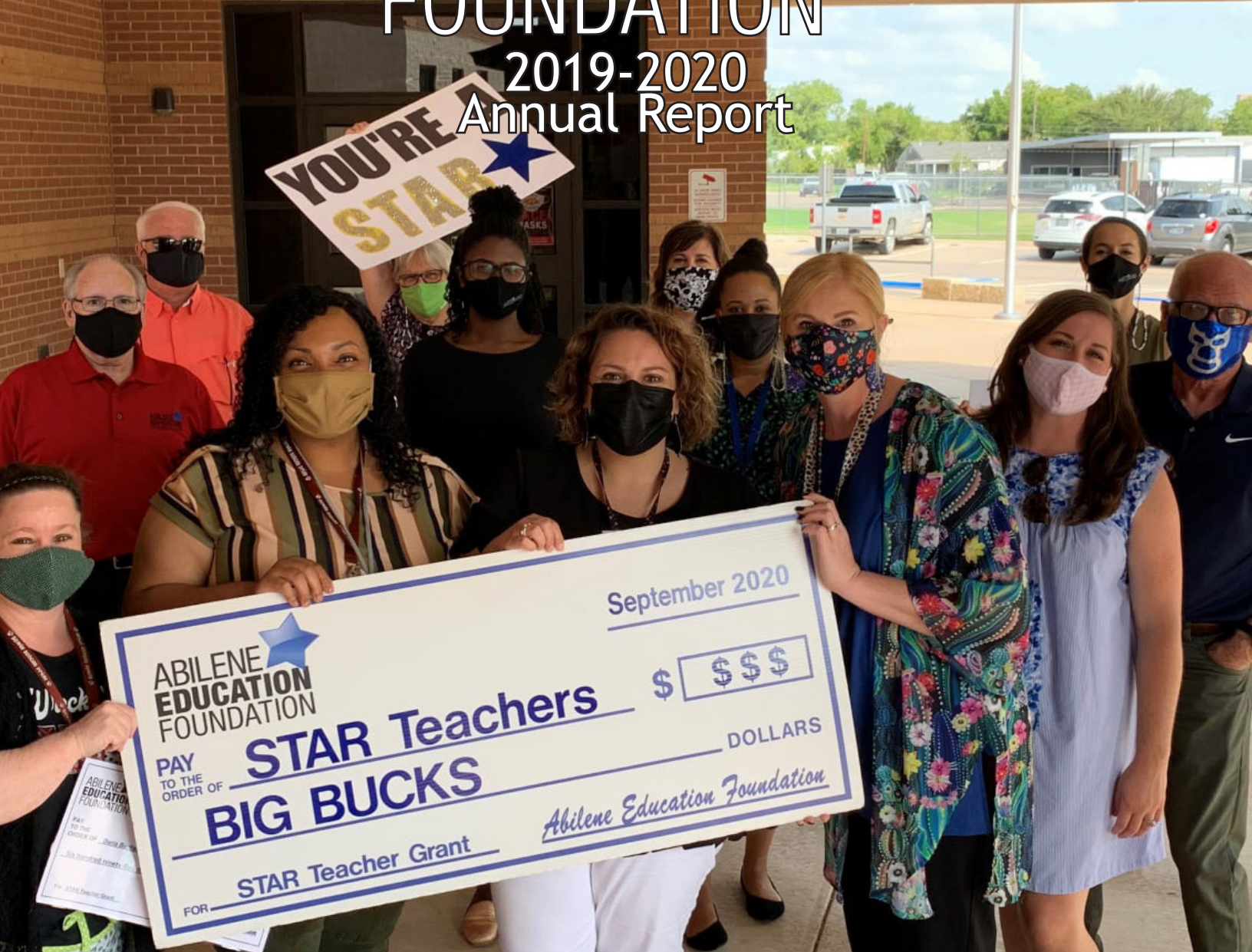


# ABILENE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

2019-2020  
Annual Report



## 2020-21 UPDATE

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on our society, educational system and even the way we approach our work at AEF. We have had to get a tad bit more creative, but are still finding multiple and yes even virtual ways to serve our students and teachers. We felt this year it was important to note these shifts, so if there is an update/change it is noted at the bottom of each section. Thank you again for supporting our students and teachers.

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MIKE DUDLEY  
President

JESSICA MELSON  
Vice-President

SUSAN MOUSER  
Secretary

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RYAN GIBSON  
Treasurer

TIFFANY LAMB  
Immediate Past-President (Advisory)

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Executive Director

PAIGE SPROLES  
Administrative Assistant

LAURA PETERS  
McMurry AEF Intern  
2019-2020

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District-wide College Advisor and  
Program Coordinator

LAQUIERA GANTT  
CHS College Advisors and Program  
Coordinator

TAMIKA BRAYE  
AHS College Advisor

KATE ASHBY  
ATEMS/WCE College Advisor

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Angie Wiley

Daryl Zeller

## MISSION

THE ABILENE EDUCATION FOUNDATION IS A NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION CREATED TO PROMOTE AND ENHANCE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOR THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE ABILENE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT THROUGH THE ENRICHMENT OF ITS PROGRAMS.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### EMERITUS

DR. DAVID POLNICK  
Retired AISD Superintendent



**ABILENE**  
**EDUCATION**  
**FOUNDATION**



# A MESSAGE FROM THE AEF PRESIDENT



*“These are the times that try men’s souls”* so wrote Thomas Paine in his 1776 essay *The American Crisis*. While Paine was certainly NOT writing of a viral pandemic, his America was in crisis. PLEASE understand the Abilene Education Foundation is definitely NOT in crisis. I only reference Paine’s *Crisis* as an historical example to describe the trying, uncertain times of today. Things at AEF have also been trying. Plans for events, fundraisers, and celebrations were made, changed, changed again, or eventually cancelled, but we never lost sight of our primary goal: to support the teachers and students of the Abilene Independent School District. Our staff and board members strongly support AISD and are dedicated to the goal of AEF. This dedication to the AISD teachers and students remains totally positive, even during these trying times.

As a retired high school history teacher and a 3rd generation educator, I became involved with AEF to bridge the gap between the classroom and community service. I have experienced that in both elementary and secondary classrooms, it is common for extra materials and supplies to be paid for by teachers themselves. AEF has helped to eliminate their expenses through resources provided by the STAR Grants program. Often during my career it was necessary to advise students concerning college applications and scholarships. Because of the COOL Program counselors, 1st generation high school students receive individual instructions to ensure a successful transition to the college environment.

Retirement provides time to become involved in an organization dedicated to the enhancement of education. Giving time to AEF for me is an honor and a privilege. Working with a board of community advocates and a staff of dedicated professionals allows AEF to better serve our educational community. Not everyone has time to devote service to a non-profit organization. In giving of my time, resources, and energy to AEF, I know we help elevate our teachers and the learning experience for our students.

All programs under AEF jurisdiction and others such as the Young Masters Juried Art Exhibition, Teachers in the Limelight Celebration, and the GIFT Grants program would not exist or have the impact on teachers and students without YOU our dedicated donors.

As we near the end of the trying, uncertain year 2020, I am confident that AEF will remain committed in its support of educational excellence in AISD. Perhaps the role of AEF and our partnership with AISD is best described in the following words:

*“On the subject of education ... I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in.”* - Abraham Lincoln (1832)

I hope you enjoy reading more about our programs in our report to you. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Executive Director, Christine Curtis-Carr.

Because the Abilene Education Foundation is committed to the support of the teachers and students of the Abilene Independent School District, I am proud to be a part of the Abilene Education Foundation!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Dudley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Dudley

# STAR GRANTS

## Supporting Teachers with Academic Resources

*“THANK YOU! - Numerous students have been impacted by YOUR generosity to my classroom over the years through AEF’s STAR Teacher Grants. Every high school senior that has taken my Economics class has had the opportunity to view Dave Ramsey’s Foundations in Personal Finance High School version better preparing them for life after high school. Every junior that has taken my US History class has had the opportunity to view Ken Burns’ documentaries on historical events. This information is important and has helped the students be successful on the state exams, but also just better understand how history connects to the present, and to better understand their own place in history. I cannot thank you enough for helping enrich education for all my students.”*

- Jennifer Jordan, AHS Teacher



Picture is from fall 2020 Prize Parade

## The Prize Parade & Why We Support Teachers

Imagine you’re a teacher and you’re at work. It’s a typical Tuesday. You’re working your magic, moving the lesson along, and helping students that need just a little bit of extra attention. All of a sudden, the door opens, noisemakers go off, and a group of people walk into your classroom cheering wildly with loud applause to present you and your students with a giant check. It’s the AEF Prize Parade and they’re here to announce that you’ve won a STAR Grant. All your students grin as the photographer snaps a picture of you and your class with the award. And then the Prize Parade is off. They’ve got a busy day, with dozens of classrooms to visit and thousands of dollars to deliver.

Everyone recognizes that being a teacher is hard work, but what if there was a simple way to make the job just a little easier and more rewarding? AEF STAR Grants support unique curriculum and enrichment opportunities that teachers envision but lack the funds to implement, and that fall outside of the school district budget. STAR stands for Supporting Teaching with Academic Resources and that’s exactly what it does. It helps the biology teacher create a photography club through the purchase of cameras. It helps the 3rd grade teacher plant a garden to benefit the whole school. It buys technology for the history teacher with an amazing idea for a project, if only his students had the tools they need. Through a competitive awards process, STAR Grants are awarded for teachers with innovative ideas that benefit the greatest number of students and support a positive school culture.

STAR grants are funded primarily through the AISD Payroll Deduction Donation Campaign, individual donors, and matching funds from Kaye Price-Hawkins and the Greathouse Foundation. In September 2019, additional classroom grants were funded by the 21st Century Learning Mary Ann Polnick Memorial Funds. Mary Ann was a 35-year educator who spent 31 years within AISD.

# STAR GRANTS

## Continued

Additional support for the 2019 STAR Teacher Grants was also provided by Dodge Jones Foundation & Dian Graves Owen Foundation (remaining funds from AHS Support Fund), Beltway Church, Bob and Peggy Beckham Quasi-Endowed Fund, several retired educators, funds from AEF's fundraisers, and many other individual donors.

### AWARD:

In the fall of 2019, the Abilene Education Foundation awarded 106 grants totaling \$75,750 to 122 different



A couple STAR Grants in action: Science Lab experiments(left) and Foundations(right) a phonetic reading supplemental program. (Pictures from 2019)

## UPDATE

In an effort to socially distance, during the fall of 2020, the teachers came outside to us as we drove to each campus to award STAR Grants. Our volunteers had banners, posters, noisemakers and of course money! The teachers were thrilled to have us, and we couldn't have been prouder of them. During a very uncertain year, lots of them chose to pursue additional opportunities. We even hosted a socially distanced event at the Paramount (thanks to many generous donors) since our STAR reception and presentation to the AISD Board of Trustees was cancelled. The HSU Cowboy Band played, we passed out popcorn, and we honored our teachers. We even had a few celebrities who sent video congrats to our teachers. Watch them all on our Facebook page.



# THE JUDY DUDLEY MEMORIAL GIFT GRANTS

## Giving to First-time Teachers

*“Thank you for the gracious gift you gave first-year teachers. I have been a paraprofessional in AISD for 19 years, but recently earned my degree and started my first year as a teacher. Thank you again!”*

- Alicia Luna, Bonham Elementary

*“As the coordinator of New Teacher Orientation, this was my first year to get to participate in seeing the GIFT grants awarded. Although 2020 was an unusual start, the new-to-the-profession teachers were nonetheless thrilled to receive the additional help from AEF. What a true gift for our new teachers, thank you AEF!”*

- Ross Thomas, Director of Professional Learning/Digital Coaching



Picture above is from 2019.



AEF Board members awarding GIFT grants in 2019.

You’ve aced the interview and landed your first job as a teacher. Now it’s time to set up your first classroom. Teachers spend an average of \$479 per year of their own money in support of their students, according to a study by the National Center of Education Statistics<sup>1</sup>. If you’re setting up a classroom for the very first time, the need is often greater. A rug for kids to sit on, organizers to shuttle work to and from school for grading, decorations that make the space feel like a classroom. It starts to add up. Worst of all, you’ve been hired but your first paycheck isn’t coming for another month!

That’s where the GIFT Grant helps. GIFT stands for Giving to First-time Teachers, and the grant assists those entering the teaching profession. In 2019 AEF awarded GIFT grants to 55 first-time teachers at the district’s New Teacher Orientation in August of 2019. These grants help cover the cost of additional classroom materials, enhancing those provided by the school district. The GIFT program also encourages first-year teachers at one of the most challenging times of their careers and is a great way to welcome teachers to the district.

<sup>1</sup>Public School Teacher Spending on Classroom Supplies, National Center for Education Statistics, 2018.

# THE JUDY DUDLEY MEMORIAL GIFT GRANTS

## Who were Judy Dudley and Martha Carlson?

Judy Dudley was a teacher at Fannin Elementary who understood the importance of creating an inviting classroom where children were excited to learn and felt safe. GIFT Grants are funded by several retired educators, Mike & Pat Dudley and The Martha Scott Carlson Endowment Fund, held at the Community Foundation of Abilene. Martha Scott Carlson, a retired teacher, provided the first donation to begin the GIFT Grant program.

**Award: \$8,250**



Judy Dudley



Martha Scott Carlson

## 2020-21 UPDATE

In the fall of 2020 we awarded \$11,700 in GIFT Grants. Although we weren't able to hand them out one-by-one we created a mock "test booklet" with a check being the surprise inside for all the new teachers! They were thrilled, and many reached out with personal phone calls to thank us.



# AEF SCHOLARSHIPS



*“With this scholarship you have made me feel loved and supported as a person with passion, desires and a hope for a future that is inherently optimistic.”*

-Caleb Queen, AHS 2020 graduate, Jerry Taylor Memorial Scholarship recipient

*“Thank you so much for considering my application and for selecting me to be the recipient of the CHS Alumni scholarship. Because of you my future and my desire to continue my education have become much more achievable, and I am so appreciative of all that you have put forward to help not only myself, but many other students over the years. In my time at Cooper I discovered so much of myself and where I want to go, and after graduating I understand why your love for this school is so great.”*

-Derek Jones, CHS 2020 graduate, CHS Alumni Scholarship recipient

To help students reach their potential, complete their college education, and graduate with reduced debt, AEF awards a number of scholarships to deserving AISD students. In recent years, the number and quality of scholarship applicants has risen as AEF’s COOL program has worked with students to make them aware of scholarship opportunities. Why does AEF financially help students pursuing a higher education degree? Because we know our students simply cannot afford to skip their higher education.

Those with a bachelor’s degree earn around \$17,500 more per year than their peers with only a school diploma<sup>1</sup>. Whether a technical, associates, or bachelor’s degree, students with at least some form of higher education are considerably more likely to be employed fifteen years after high school<sup>2</sup>.



<sup>1</sup>Taylor, P., Fry, R., & Oates, R. (2014). The rising cost of not going to college. Pew Research Center.

<sup>2</sup>Giani, M.S., Attewell, P., & Walling, D. (2019). The Value of an Incomplete Degree: Heterogeneity in the Labor Market Benefits of College Non-Completion. The Journal of High Education, 1-26.



# AEF SCHOLARSHIPS

## Continued

In a virtual ceremony, the Abilene Education Foundation acknowledged the 2020 scholarship recipients on Thursday, May 28, 2020.

AEF scholarships are funded through a number of initiatives, including AEF's fundraisers, endowment earnings, class alumni reunions, memorials and honorariums, individual and corporate donors, and AISD payroll deductions. AEF scholarships are also matched (with certain guidelines) by local colleges including Abilene Christian University, Cisco College, Hardin-Simmons University, and McMurry University. You give a dollar and AISD students get two!

## 2019-2020 Scholarship Awards

AEF Scholarships, Royce Curtis Excellence in Education, AHS Alumni, CHS Alumni, Jerry Taylor Memorial, Coach John McCabe Memorial, Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation, Cougar Nation, AHS Employee Scholarship, Citizens Bank of Abilene, Rising Phoenix (ATEMS), Emilio Gutierrez Memorial, and Young Masters Juried Art Exhibitions scholarships.



**Award: \$39,150 (not including Young Masters)**

## UPDATE

In a year with so many uncertainties, our scholarship recipients were more thankful than ever to receive scholarships from AEF. We extended our application deadline to accommodate for the school shut down and the COOL Team encouraged students to apply via email and class meetings on Zoom. Many students are attending college in a hybrid format - some online classes and some face-to-face, but the daunting price of higher education did not change this year. We are thankful for our donors and their choice to help our students achieve their dreams of a college education.

# TLC

## Teachers in the Limelight Celebration



How do you tell some of your best teachers how much they're appreciated? The Teachers in the Limelight Celebration, or TLC for short, recognizes great teachers. This year looked a little different, we hosted a virtual ceremony and honored teachers online by sharing their campus tributes on our Facebook page. Although not the same as being in-person, the excitement on their faces and their sincere gratitude for being appreciated for their efforts was simply a joy to witness. In fact, the entire ceremony is still up on our video section of our Facebook page. If you want to see just how awesome our teachers are in AISD, we encourage you to take some time to watch it.

In an effort to further recognize our outstanding teachers, Abilene ISD submitted the outstanding elementary and secondary teachers of the year's names for the Texas Teacher of the Year competition, and both were selected as Region 14 Teachers of the Year!

### 2020 - Edwin and Agnes Jennings Teaching Excellence Awards

TLC Elementary Teacher of the Year, Chelsea Rico Lee Elementary

TLC Secondary Teacher of the Year, Jimmy Pogue Cooper High School

TLC Science Teacher of the Year, Paula Everett Abilene High School

TLC Math Teacher of the Year, Laurie Harris Abilene High School

### Award: \$18,600

Last year we also partnered with the Abilene Philharmonic to honor an outstanding Fine Arts Teacher using a similar nomination process and this year's winner was Brady Sloane from Madison Middle School. For a second year in a row we partnered with Uniqu3 Solutions to provide the gift of a little time away or travel to a teacher who is not brand new to the profession, but still up-and-coming in his or her teaching career called the Future Shapers Award. This year's winner was Tara Nelson from Ortiz Elementary.

The TLC award ceremony, posters and additional recognition is funded by financial support from the Abilene Teachers Federal Credit Union and additional in-kind support from AISD. The monetary awards for all campus teachers, math, science and the four finalists are provided by an endowment established by Mr. Edwin Jennings Jr. in honor of his parent Edwin and Agnes Jennings Sr., as well as additional funds from the Abilene Education Foundation.

Elementary  
Teacher of  
the Year



CHELSEA RICO  
LEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
*3rd Grade Teacher*

"My absolute favorite part of being a teacher is the relationships with my students, I enjoy working with them to reach goals and there is nothing better than their smiles when they finally achieve them. I especially enjoy teaching at Lee because of the diversity and unique opportunity to make a significant impact on so many students."

Secondary  
Teacher of  
the Year



JIMMY POGUE  
COOPER HIGH SCHOOL  
*English and Journalism*



"Beyond the gift of my wife and my kids, the greatest gift God has ever given me is the opportunity to teach young people. I still get excited every day that I get to walk life with them, sharing literature, sharing service opportunities, and, best of all, working toward building life-long learners."

# COOL PROGRAM

## College Offers Opportunities for Life



*“I know you deal with a lot day-to-day, as most people do, and kids get scared when you’re talking to them about MORE school and what’s going to happen after high school. Dealing with teenagers is already hard, but you stuck by our side and encouraged us to be the best we can be. That’s a big deal when you’re all alone.”*

-Destiny Huerta, 2020 Woodson student & AHS graduate

The COOL Program places four full-time college advisors in Abilene ISD high schools to help students - especially those who are first in their families to attend college - navigate the college admissions process and all that comes with it. COOL advisors help students find financial aid, fill out forms, tour campuses, and more.

Education looked a lot different this year.

Teachers and administrators had to quickly adapt

and the COOL Program was no different. Although face-to-face interaction was cancelled, the COOL team continued to work as a team to pool resources, put their heads together, and adapt to their “new normal.” They conducted FAFSA’s over FaceTime, college advising in drive-through lines, and more Zoom meetings than they can count. Even though those moments were unexpected, it was a great opportunity to catch up with students. While sitting in the car, being handed a sweet tea from McDonald’s or a lemonade from Chick-Fil-A, some conversations about completing their college admissions checklist or answering a few questions was inevitable. Cooper High School had a Virtual College Signing Day where students were able to celebrate their college acceptance and announce what school they would be attending in the fall of 2020. ATEMS staff paired up to deliver yard signs and student awards. AHS & CHS students drove through their campus parking lots to pick up their graduation yard signs. AHS Advisor, Tamika Braye, participated in graduation by taking the name cards from each student to hand to the announcer. Our COOL College Advisors were featured in their school’s virtual Senior Award ceremonies. We also had the chance to personally congratulate students during the AEF Virtual Scholarship Reception. The Remind app and Google Voice became a great tool for everyone during the shutdown. COOL College Advisors were able to stay in immediate communication with the students and their parents thanks to the power of technology.

While the future is unclear, one thing is for certain: the COOL Program is here to be a voice for our students, to continue to mentor and guide them through the college admissions process, and reassure them that we are all in this together.

**Expenses: \$280,000**

# COOL PROGRAM

Continued



# YOUNG MASTERS JURIED ART EXHIBITION



What happens when you take the talented artists in AISD and partner with the famous Grace Museum? You get the Young Masters Juried Art Exhibition, a unique scholarship and celebration of student artists. Every student in Advanced Placement Studio Art has the opportunity to submit one work of art per class to be considered for the exhibition.

All submissions are reviewed by a selection committee of three local artists—Jill Maxwell, Charlie Hukill, and Mary K. Huff. This past year, 24 pieces were selected for the show. Those pieces then were judged by Mr. Fidencio Duran, a professional artist who chose a Best in Show, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place, Merit, and Honorable Mentions awards.

The exhibition is about more than just the art though. It also supports the artists themselves. Financial support comes from the Martha Kiel Endowed Scholarship, in honor of a much-loved Abilene art teacher who dedicated her life to the arts in Abilene, as well as many generous donors. Support also comes from a grant from

the Hearts for the Arts program of the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council and the City of Abilene, and the Abilene ISD Fine Arts Department. For many artists, it's their first opportunity to be recognized by the public and to share their works with a broader audience. Each artist is also given a printed catalog and flash drive showcasing their work, providing tangible examples for the artist's portfolio. Such experience is invaluable as students continue with their artistic passion and seek acceptance into prestigious art programs for higher education.

**Award: \$8,000**

## UPDATE

Our Annual Young Masters Juried Art Exhibition and opening reception for the 2019-20 school year was cancelled due to the pandemic. A couple weeks before opening night AISD and the Grace closed down and did not re-open until after school was out of session. The artwork was already at the Grace, ready to be displayed, but knowing how important the exhibit would be to our students the staff at the Grace graciously created a virtual exhibit. You can still see it on our website at [www.aaeff.org](http://www.aaeff.org) under the Young Masters section.

We made the decision to go ahead and print the catalogue, flash drive with digital artwork, and the message from our judge Mr. Fidencio Duran. A copy was mailed to each student's home address as well to every AP Studio Art teacher. The artwork was displayed at One AISD Center in July and August and then returned to the campuses/students. Many were thrilled to get to keep a piece of their artwork in a professional frame. We also invited all of those who won a scholarship to our virtual reception last May.



Exhibit displayed at One AISD Center.

## AIDE TO TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS

The Abilene Education Foundation is pleased to offer up to \$1,000 in scholarship funds to teacher's aides currently employed by Abilene ISD working on becoming a certified teacher. These funds are only available to students participating in the Teacher's Aide to Certified Teacher - McMurry University program. McMurry has established a formal partnership with Abilene ISD to offer aides a special tuition rate, courses outside regular school hours, and the option for a clinical teaching or paid internship with a bachelor's degree upon graduation. Students who successfully complete the program will be eligible for the standard Texas teaching certificate.

**Scholarships: \$5,000**



Aide to Teacher scholarship winner Traci Curtis with some of her students last fall.

# FUNDRAISERS & THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF COVID

Last year we had to get a little creative on how we raised funds! Thank you in advance to all of you who continued to give back to our students and teachers in AISD. Although we were unable to host a large fundraiser as planned (our Family Fun Night at the Zoo was postponed then cancelled) we hosted a few smaller ones to help make up the difference. We also want to again thank all our Family Fun Night donors, who we recognized at the STAR Teacher Event at the Paramount, for their continued support - especially our premier sponsors Abilene Teachers Federal Credit Union and H-E-B. H-E-B turned their donation into school supplies and we were able to provide hundreds of crayons, glue sticks, markers, paper and more to every single elementary campus at the start of school. Although our budget is a tad leaner this year, we are still bridging the gap and just want to say thank you again for all you do to support our students and teachers.

Below are a few highlights of our various initiatives and programs we utilized to help stay afloat:

- Abilene Gives! In May of 2020 the Community Foundation of Abilene hosted Abilene Gives. AEF was hoping to raise \$3,000 and we hit over \$20,000! This was beyond incredible and helped us bridge a very significant gap we were facing due to the cancellation of our Family Fun Night, providing us with the ability to still fund scholarships for high school seniors and provide classroom grants to teachers this past fall. We cannot thank the Community Foundation enough for hosting this for area-wide non-profits.
- Masks! During the shutdown Kathy Curtis put her years of sewing skills to work to help the cause and made masks in exchange for a donation to AEF. This project raised over \$3,000, all to help with programming costs and shortfalls.
- What goes great with a mask? A lanyard to hold it when you take it off so you can easily find it again. These funds raised over \$3,500 and went to help with COOL program expenses like college application or housing fees, classroom project materials, and more.
- 2019-2020 additional fundraisers include: employee payroll deduction campaign, and annual fund letter writing end-of-year campaign.

## UPDATE

- We applied, received and were forgiven for the Paycheck Protection Program for two employees. (COOL employees did not qualify for PPP.)
- This past fall we hosted our first ever 50/50 raffle with the winner receiving half of what was raised in a gift card just in time for holiday shopping. Our winner graciously donated the funds back so this project raised \$2,050.
- We also recently received an unexpected donation for \$10,000 from Atmos Energy at our October board meeting.
- We received a grant from the Abilene Cultural Arts Council for Young Masters and from Community Foundation of Abilene for COOL and to help with office expenses.

Thank you to our presenting corporate sponsors:





# FUNDRAISERS & THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF COVID



Callie Harris supporting Abilene Gives on Facebook last spring.

All proceeds benefit **ABILENE EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

**MASK LANYARDS**

Keep your mask\* handy at all times!  
\*mask not included

**A B C D E**

Adult sizes (24") for \$10  
Child sizes (18") for \$7

ABILENE ISD

COOL mask lanyard fundraiser. Still available too!

# ENDOWMENTS

## Leaving a Legacy

AEF endowments help fund college educations, classroom supplies for new teachers, and monetary awards, making a difference in the lives of teachers and students in Abilene ISD for generations to come. A permanent record of donors and gifts is maintained by AEF. The Community Foundation of Abilene manages investments of the donations and contributions to these endowments, the principal gift remains and the income continues to generate funds for teachers and students in perpetuity.

What is Leave 5? Leave 5 is a new initiative being led by the Community Foundation of Abilene encouraging households to leave 5% of their estates to non-profits in the Abilene area. Please consider a legacy gift through the Leave 5 program to AEF to directly benefit the children and teachers in AISD. Learn more and get started at [www.leave5.org](http://www.leave5.org).

### **AEF Endowments include:**

Julia Jones Matthews Endowment, established in 2005 to benefit AEF and the interest earned assists with operational expenses.

The Abilene Education Foundation Endowment, our second endowment to help continue to grow and support AEF programs. It began with funds from Lee and Ruth Caldwell.

AHS & CHS Alumni, in 2009 former alumni, along with funds raised from AEF's Cajun Fest, helped create these two endowments to benefit graduating seniors so that scholarships could be granted each year.

Martha Scott Carlson Fund for AEF Gift Grants Endowment, Martha was a sweet and gracious lady whose love for family and education carried forward through her entire life's work. This fund helps new-to-the-profession teachers set up their classroom for the first time.

Edwin & Agnes Jennings Teaching Excellence Award Endowment, established by Mr. Ed Jennings Jr. with the donation of 3,000 shares of ExxonMobile stock, this endowment in honor of his parents rewards outstanding campus teachers making a difference in the lives of students in Abilene ISD as well as in the fields of math and science.

The Royce Curtis Excellence in Education Endowment, established by the Class of 1992 and Dr. Bracken Kolle in honor of AHS principal Royce Curtis. The scholarship helps future Eagles pursue their dream of a college education.

Martha Kiel Scholarship Endowment honors long-time and beloved art teacher Martha Kiel's legacy by providing a scholarship to a high school student participating in the annual Young Masters Juried Art Competition.

Chessmate: Scholastic Chess Club of AISD was established by Mr. Bill Wright, this fund will support the scholastic chess clubs in AISD from elementary to high school with additional resources including chess boards, training sessions, and master classes.

# ANNUAL DONORS

Donation levels are from August 1, 2019 - July 31, 2020

## UNIVERSE STAR

\$10,000 & Up  
Abilene ISD\*  
Abilene Teachers  
Federal Credit  
Union  
Anonymous  
Mrs. Peggy  
Beckham  
Community Foundation  
Of Abilene  
Dian Graves Owen  
Foundation  
Edward and Agnes  
Jennings Teaching  
Excellence  
Endowment  
H-E-B Grocers\*  
Meta Alice  
Keith Bratten  
Foundation  
Shelton Family  
Foundation

## GALAXY STAR

\$5,000 - \$9,999  
Jim Alexander  
Aaron Stephen & Grace  
Jones Byrd  
Melody Hunt  
Mike Dudley

## NOVA STAR

\$1,000-\$4,999  
Abilene Christian  
University  
Abilene Cultural Affairs  
Council  
The Barber  
Foundation  
John and Carolyn  
Beckham  
Budget Blinds/Mike  
Breckenridge  
Citizens Bank  
Claude & Mae Moss  
Charities, Inc.  
Condley & Company,  
LLP  
Vic and Carol  
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Haynes  
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System  
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Abilene  
Jane and Otis Jones  
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Fund  
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Melson  
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Abilene  
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 AHS Class Of 1943 Reunion

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Slaton Blacklet &  
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AHS Class Of 1959  
Reunion

**Class of 1960**  
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AHS Class of 1964  
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AHS Class of 1979  
Reunion

**Class of 1993**  
Anonymous

**Class of 1995**  
Jennifer Jordan

**Class of 1996**  
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Carr

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Reunion  
Class Reunion Cooper  
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**Class of 1976**  
CHS Class Of 1976  
Reunion

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Cathy Brown &  
Scott Bedford - In  
memory of Diane  
Denkhoff  
Janet Estes  
Garrison  
Shelly & James  
Hughes  
Melody Martin  
Robin & Robert  
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**Class of 1979**  
CHS Class of 1979  
Reunion

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## THANK YOU!

\*Donations also include in-kind goods.

# ABILENE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT:  
Abilene Education Foundation  
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Christine Curtis-Carr, Executive Director  
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