

New breakfast event to be held in August

The Education Foundation will launch a new event in August to promote programs that assist public schools in Sioux Falls. The inaugural Cash for Classrooms Breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. Aug. 6 at the Westward Ho Country Club.

"This really combines a number of events into one premier event," says Vernon Brown, who chairs the Education Foundation's Finance Committee and helped plan the initial breakfast.

The intent is to make the breakfast an annual event that grows in public recognition and prestige each year, Brown says.

The purpose of the first, hour-long breakfast is threefold:

- Thank donors that fund Education Foundation programs.
- Showcase some of the teaching innovation enabled by Education Foundation grants to teachers.
- Update Foundation supporters on issues in education.

"The bottom line is we're hoping it will become a really good way to get our message out to the greater Sioux Falls area so that we can position ourselves from a fundraising standpoint to help more students in Sioux Falls Public Schools," says Diane Dietsch, vice chair of the Foundation Board and a member of the Finance Committee.

(Story continued on Page 2)



Check out Foundation's updated, improved website

Check the Education Foundation's website regularly for news and information about programs that benefit Sioux Falls Public Schools. The address is www.SFEducationFoundation.org.

The website also includes information for people who would like to make a donation or volunteer. The website was updated recently with help from Blend Interactive in Sioux Falls.

If you have a question not addressed on the website, send your inquiry to:
SFEducationFoundation@gmail.com.

Our mission

It is the mission of the Sioux Falls Public Schools Education Foundation to enhance educational opportunities and promote achievement among all students by supporting academic projects and activities not funded by tax dollars.

It is our belief that the good life we share here is a reflection of the quality education our students receive in our local public schools.

New event includes report about educational issues

(Continued from Page 1)

Superintendent Pam Homan of the Sioux Falls School District is scheduled to be featured speaker. She is expected to discuss trends and challenges in local schools.

Organizers consider early August to be a good time for the breakfast because the start of the 2014-2015 school year will be on people's minds.

Business and civic leaders will be invited to attend and learn more about the Education Foundation and its mission of enhancing educational opportunities and promoting student achievement.

They also will be encouraged to consider making a donation.

Local business leaders have a tradition of being involved in the education system, and the breakfast will help maintain that important connection, Brown says.

"I think all of us in business are struggling a little bit with workforce development. I think it's important for businesses to have close ties with education," says Brown, a marketing executive with SDN Communications.

Businesses are the primary funders of Education Foundation grants, which help teachers start and maintain innovative teaching projects. Foundation grants also help new teachers buy classroom supplies.

The Cash for Classrooms Breakfast will replace events such as an annual golf tournament hosted by the Foundation. The breakfast also will provide a new forum to discuss local issues in education.

To reduce confusion, the Education Foundation is merging all of its grant and fundraising programs under the name Cash for Classrooms.



Want to help improve quality of local education? Make a donation

You can make a difference by donating to the Education Foundation. Contributions are welcome and needed.

The Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization endorsed by the Sioux Falls School District. Our objective is to help students, teachers and schools.

We operate with our own Board of Directors to enhance educational opportunities and promote student achievement by supporting academic projects and activities not supported by tax dollars.

Gifts to the Foundation help fund programs that reward and encourage innovative teaching methods in classrooms. The Foundation also helps new, first-time teachers buy classroom supplies.

Volunteer help for special projects is welcome, too.

More information about donating is available on the Foundation's website, www.sfeducationfoundation.org.

Questions about donations may be directed to the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation, phone (605) 336-7055.

Questions about Education Foundation programs may be emailed to sfeducationfoundation@gmail.com.



Special education instructor is named Teacher of Year

When Sarah Henrichs was named the Teacher of the Year for the Sioux Falls School District, she initially struggled to express her appreciation.

“There are so many teachers in the district that do a great job, so it’s hard to feel worthy of this award,” she said later. “But it’s fun to get recognition.”

Henrichs received the 26th annual Dr. John W. Harris Teacher of the Year award at a ceremony March 26 at Callaway’s.

The prize included a plaque and \$4,000 in prize money, courtesy of Vern Eide Motorcars. She may spend the money however she wants. As one of the six finalists for the recognition, she also received \$100 voucher for classroom materials.

Henrichs teaches language arts to special education students at Axtell Park Middle School.

Carly Reiter, a member of the selection committee, presented the award to Henrichs. In addition to serving on the Sioux Falls School Board, Reiter is an ex officio member of the Education Foundation Board. Henrichs’ colleagues wrote very nice letters about how she cares for her students, Reiter says.

“A lot of the other teachers really looked up to her as a role model for her interactions with her students,” Reiter says. “I think special education can be a very challenging area to work in, and she really feels that’s where should be. She has some real talents in that area.”

The other finalists for Teacher of the Year were: Maureen Bland of Lowell Elementary, Allison Carlson of Patrick Henry Middle School, Holly Hofer of Robert Frost Elementary, Jessica Pomeranke of Roosevelt High School and Jacqueline Wilber of Roosevelt High School.

Henrichs, 39, is a native of Freeman, S.D. and a graduate of the University of South Dakota. She worked in the Dakota Valley School District in North Sioux City, S.D. for five years, and she has worked at Axtell Park for 11 years. She and her



Sarah Henrichs

husband, Kurt, have two school-aged sons.

She says she knew as a girl that she wanted to eventually work in education. She decided special education was her calling after working at a Christian camp the summer between her freshman and sophomore years of college. The camp was for adults with disabilities.

Working with students with disabilities is satisfying, she says. “I’m a lifer,” she says. “I have no plans to go on an administrative track.”

Teaching in a district with the resources of Sioux Falls is a privilege, she says. The district has specialists such as therapists who can assist students who might need extra help, for example.

“If students with disabilities get the right accommodations and guidance, they can be successful now and in their post-secondary choices,” she says. “Our students have value.”



Scott-Stoltz chairs Board with a high level of enthusiasm

Amy Scott-Stoltz's willingness to serve on the Education Foundation Board reflects love for her hometown and its school system.

"I'm pretty passionate about education, in general, and Sioux Falls. It's a way of contributing to two of my favorite things," she says.

Scott-Stoltz was elected Board chair in January after a brief stint as vice chair. She has taken on the top leadership role with a level of the enthusiasm that does not surprise her colleagues.

"I'm still relatively new to the Board, but it was clear from the outset that Amy has been a strong leader on this hardworking, volunteer Board," member Vernon Brown says. "She's not just a good leader, she's a good doer. She just gets things done."

Scott-Stoltz has close connections to the school system in Sioux Falls and to the Education Foundation. She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1989. Her son, Donnie, is a fourth-grader in the public system, and she volunteers in his classroom. In addition, her father, Don Scott, previously served on the Education Foundation Board.

Scott-Stoltz also got her college education in Sioux Falls. She earned her undergraduate degree at Augustana College, where she studied psychology and philosophy, and she earned a MBA from the University of Sioux Falls.

She has worked as a financial advisor for the past 12 years, most recently with Raymond James. She also is a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst.

She is active in the community in a variety of other ways, too. Her memberships include the Downtown Lions Club, Sioux Falls Business and Professional Women, Children's Care Hospital and School Auxiliary, League of Women Voters, and Daughters of the American Revolution.

Scott-Stoltz replaced her father, a retired bank executive, on the Education Foundation Board in 2010.

"I like the Board. Anything we can do to assist our teachers is good," she says.

Before succeeding David Heflin as Board chair, Scott-Stoltz headed the Finance Committee. That was a key role because a primary objective of the Education Foundation is to raise money for programs designed to promote and enhance educational opportunities. The organization operates entirely on donated money.

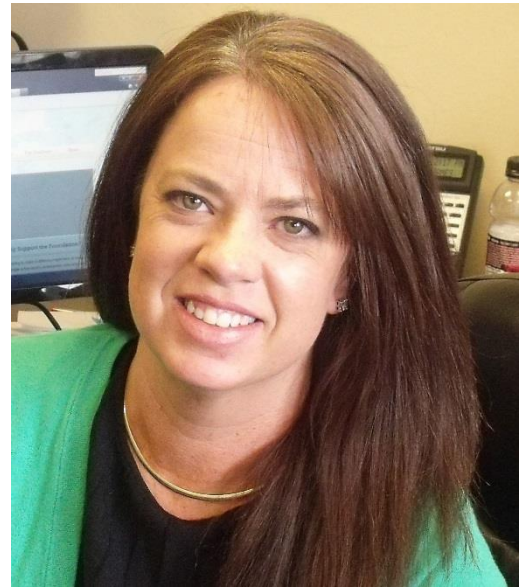
"I understand the budgetary restraints on public dollars, but I also know our business community is generous and willing to get involved," Scott-Stoltz says.

Her goals for the year are to increase awareness of the Education Foundation and its mission, and to help find more business partners that are willing enhance educational opportunities in Sioux Falls Public Schools.

The Education Foundation Board that she leads is comprised of community leaders, parents, school officials, and current and retired teachers. It may have up to 21 members. It currently has 18.

In addition to Scott-Stoltz, members are: Vernon Brown, Catherine Dekkenga, Diane Dietsch (Vice Chair), Doug Erickson, Twaine Fink, Stephanie Gongopoulos, David Heflin, Steve Herman, Teresa Jackson, DeeAnn Konrad, Wendy McDonnel, Mike Moore, Anne Powers, Cathy Regas (Secretary), Justin Reilly (Treasurer), Carly Reiter (ex officio member) and Jamie Simko.

The Foundation is assisted by two part-time staffers: Foundation Coordinator Angie Kuiper and Newsletter Editor Rob Swenson.



Amy Scott-Stoltz

