

3D printer helps stir creativity in students Grant from Education Foundation funds new teaching tool at Lowell

Students in the 3D Print Club at Lowell Elementary School learn to design on laptop computers. Then they get to make cups, small toys, or anything else they'd like to create.

The 2018-2019 school year was the first that students at Lowell, one of the School District's designated computer science immersion schools, had access to their own 3D printer.

"It's been a wonderful thing. The kids have really enjoyed seeing their objects come to life," said printing adviser Erin Radway. She is the school's cybrarian – a librarian whose responsibilities extend beyond books to digital resources.

Radway was awarded an Innovation in Education grant for \$3,037 from the Education Foundation. The grant was among more than \$57,400 that the Education Foundation awarded last year to local educators for creative projects



Erin Radway is the cybrarian at Lowell Elementary School. To her left is a 3D printer that the school acquired with a grant from the Education Foundation.

that enhance learning opportunities in public schools.

Radway used the grant to buy a 3D printer, a MakerBot Replicator +. The printer provides Lowell's students a rewarding way to learn and apply their computer science knowledge.

The printer, which is about the size of a microwave oven, shapes objects in three dimensions by precisely applying layers of melted plastic, which hardens quickly. 3D printing has become a popular technology in the business world.

The original concept at Lowell was to sell the students' creations, but that part of the plan changed. Instead, students have enjoyed the added incentive of keeping their creations.

(Story continued on Page 2)



Printer makes learning more fun



Erin Radway assists students in the 3D Print Club at Lowell Elementary School with computer coding. Students design and make objects that they get to keep.

(Story continued from Page 1)

Depending on the complexity of a coded design, an object can take anywhere from 90 minutes to eight hours for the printer to construct.

Lowell is one of three elementary schools in the School District that was designated in 2017 by the School Board to be a computer science immersion school. That means computer science and coding are widely incorporated into the school's curriculum.

Nationally, the makerspace movement has helped popularize tools such as 3D printers. The school acquired its printer in May 2018. It has been available as a teaching tool throughout the 2018-2019 school year.

The printer helps make learning about coding more fun for students and is practical, Radway said.



Tatiana, a fourth-grader at Lowell, displays a mini sail boat she made.

"Jobs of the future will be using a lot of tools like this," she said.

A new round of Innovation in Education grants will be awarded before the 2019-2020 school year ends. The application deadline is noon Friday, Feb. 22. Application materials are available online at sfeducationfoundation.org.

Grants generally are intended for educational projects not funded by tax dollars.

Restaurant to host fundraiser for the Education Foundation

The Barrel House Restaurant will hold its annual fundraiser for the Education Foundation on Monday, April 29.

The restaurant will contribute 10 percent of the day's food sales to the Education Foundation. The restaurant is located at 4701 E. 54th St. in Sioux Falls.

Another restaurant, PizzaRev, held a fundraiser for the Foundation on Feb. 3.

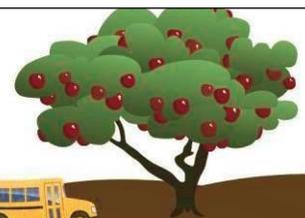
Businesses that would like to host a fundraiser should contact Allison Struck, executive director of the Education Foundation. She can be reached at 605-367-4484 or at Allison.Struck@k12.sd.us.

Foundation's new online donation option goes live

The Education Foundation has added a secured link to its website that allows donors to make online contributions.

Software for the link was added with the help of a \$2,500 grant from the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation.

The "Kindful" online donation option is accessible under the "Donate" link at the top center of the home page at www.sfeducationfoundation.org.



New fundraising event tops chair's task list

The Education Foundation will launch a major, new fundraising event this year. An auction-styled gathering with food and entertainment is scheduled to be held Nov. 7 at Raven Industries Inc.'s headquarters in downtown Sioux Falls.

The festive event is expected to become an annual, signature fundraiser. It will complement the Education Foundation's annual

Innovation in Education Breakfast, which is an awareness-building event. The breakfast is held in the late summer before the start of each new school year.

The Education Foundation also hosts an annual Teacher Swap Meet to provide educators and the public a place to buy and sell school supplies. That is designed more as a service than as a fundraiser.

More details about the new fundraising event will be announced later. Helping shape plans for the fundraiser is among the priority duties of Callie Beisch, the Education Foundation's chair for 2019.

Beisch is CPA and a senior manager in the tax department at Eide Bailly LLP in Sioux Falls. She succeeded Stephanie Gongopoulos as chair in January and will hold the position through 2019 and possibly longer. Gongopoulos remains on the Education Foundation Board.

Getting the new event successfully launched will be a big push for the organization in 2019, Beisch said. "The goal is to have the students involved and to show off their talents," she said.

Beisch and other Board members have other items on their to-do list, as well. Increasing funds for grants is a major objective. The Foundation has set a fundraising goal of \$165,000 for 2019. That's a significant increase from 2018, when about \$100,000 was raised. About \$57,500 of the money raised this year is earmarked for grants to teachers for innovative education projects. The Foundation



Callie Beisch

also provides grants for purposes such as helping new teachers buy classroom supplies.

By the end of 2021, the Foundation would like to be raising \$300,000 per year. The organization also has set a goal for 2019 to increase its endowment fund to \$130,000. Beisch and other Board members want to have the endowment fund up to \$150,000 by the end of 2021. (See story on Page 4 for more information about the endowment fund.)

Donors don't have to make large contributions to make an impact, Beisch said. "Even if you give \$25 or \$50, that helps support the teachers and it helps support innovative projects that the students get to do," she said.

Beisch also wants to continue to build awareness of the work that the nonprofit organization does to improve public schools. She has some personal objectives in mind, too.

"My personal goal would be to increase our Board of Directors by two or three people by the end of 2019," she said. "I'd also like to get some more people involved in the Fund Development Committee. We also may want to create a committee for other projects."

Our Board

The Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization endorsed by the Sioux Falls School District. It is governed by Board of volunteers. Members are: Carrie Aaron (secretary), Reece Almond (vice chair), Peggy Baney, Callie Beisch (chair), Rich Brenneman, Jackie Dumansky (treasurer), Stephanie Gongopoulos (past chair), Nancy Hagen, DeeAnn Konrad, Deb Koski, Cynthia Mickelson and Kiki Nelsen.

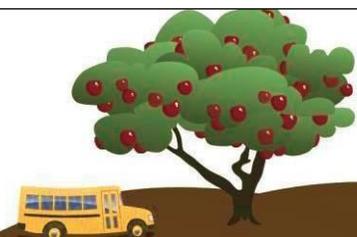
Allison Struck is the full-time executive director. Rob Swenson assists part time with media.

Our Mission

We champion teachers and students by encouraging, promoting and funding creative and innovative teaching strategies in order to enhance and enrich education in all Sioux Falls Public Schools.

Our Niche

We raise funds to support teachers and their impact on students.



Endowment Fund ‘plugging away,’ targeted for growth

The Education Foundation’s Endowment Fund reached a high of about \$120,000 in 2018, before suffering a cyclical setback late in the year. Regardless of such ups and downs, Board members are sticking to a goal to steadily increase the fund balance, largely through donations, during the next few years.

The current goal is to reach \$150,000 by the end of 2021.

The Endowment Fund is a pool of invested dollars that provides income to the Education Foundation to help fund grants for education projects and organization expenses.

The fund is administered for the Education Foundation by the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation, which oversees about \$150 million in funds for organizations such as nonprofits, churches and government agencies. A committee of local investment professionals helps the SFACF with its investment decisions.

“Our endowment funds are designed to withstand the ups and downs of the market and kick out an annual distribution and, if we’re lucky, grow a little bit,” said Patrick Gale, vice president of community investment for SFACF. “It’s a source of guaranteed annual funds that you don’t have to go out and raise each year.”

At a typical market rate of return, the Endowment Fund generates an annual payment amounting to about 4 percent of the fund total. The income can be withdrawn and spent annually on Education Foundation programs or reinvested to help grow the fund. The principal is left intact to earn more.

The Education Foundation fund was started in 1994. It’s been “plugging away” and “doing a good job,” Gale said.

The Education Foundation Board wants to increase the base of the fund for greater, long-term gain. The long-range goal is for Sioux Falls to have the largest, public school endowment fund in South Dakota by the end of 2035.

The SFCAF also has a grant program designed to encourage innovative classroom ideas. The SFCAF annually awards 15 to 20 grants of up to \$1,000 each to public and parochial schools in the Sioux Falls area.

The Education Foundation is among the organizations that have benefitted from grants issued by the SFACF. The



Patrick Gale



Mary Kolsrud

Education Foundation recently received a \$2,500 grant for software that enables the organization to accept online contributions and maintain a donor database.

People and organization representatives who would like to contribute to the Education Foundation’s endowment fund are welcome stop by the SFACF office at 200 N. Cherapa Place in Sioux Falls. The SFACF will accept cash, checks or even gifts of stock.

Gale suggested that donors with questions about the endowment fund contact Mary Kolsrud, vice president for philanthropy at the SFACF. She can be reached at 605-336-7055, extension 26, or at mkolsrud@sfacf.org. For more information about the SFACF, see www.sfacf.org.

Donors with questions about Education Foundation or its grant programs should contact Allison Struck, executive director of the Education Foundation. She can be reached at 605-367-4484 or Allison.Struck@k12.sd.us.

New donor recognition levels

The Education Foundation appreciates donations, which help improve learning opportunities in schools. Donor recognition levels recently were updated. They are:

- Principal’s Circle: \$10,000 and up
- Valedictorian: \$5,000 to \$9,999
- Merit Scholar: \$1,000 to \$4,999
- Honor Roll: \$500 to \$999
- Student of the Week: \$100 to \$499
- Class Leader: \$1 to \$99

