



community connection

ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

salinaeducationfoundation.com 785-309-4729

Fall 2022

Classroom grants to enhance student learning • Exceptional teachers to staff our classrooms

New Trustees

Jim Fletcher is a 1993 graduate of South High and Salina Area Tech College (Refrigeration). He also attended Kansas Wesleyan University, where he studied business. Jim and his wife Christine have raised four children in the Salina community. Spending several years in law enforcement, he served in many different roles: Patrol Deputy, Narcotics Investigator, Youth Prevention (DARE/GREAT), and Patrol Lieutenant. Currently, he operates a local insurance agency focused on employee benefits, and operates a professional training service (Wyatt Training.) He is currently serving in his second term on the USD 305 School Board as well as many other community boards.

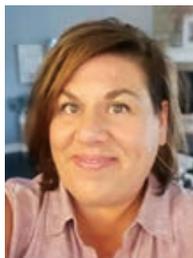


Gabe Grant is a graduate of Central High and owner of Heritage Real Estate Advisors LLC. He has served since 2018 as an elected member of the Salina Public Schools Board of Education. Gabe moved back to Salina in 2013 with his dog, Jethro, and



enjoys calling Salina home. A product of Salina Public Schools, he knows first-hand the amazing work being done every day in our buildings by our fantastic faculty and staff and is excited to support them through his work on the Board of Education and SEF Board of Trustees.

Darla Hassler is a Salina native and taught in USD 305 for 11 years. Throughout her time in public education she had the opportunity to teach every grade level in some capacity. Her career began at Central High teaching English, then an Art teacher traveling to several buildings, which allowed her to teach first graders to eighth graders. She taught art at the Salina Montessori School working with kindergartners and taught Art for the Elementary Teacher at the college level at Kansas Wesleyan University. While no longer in the classroom, Darla continues to support and revere teachers. She says, "I value public education and want the best experiences for our teachers and students. I am excited to be part of Salina Education Foundation."



Austin Hoppock was born and raised in Salina. He graduated from Salina South. After graduating from Fort

Hays State University, he moved back to Salina in 2012. In 2015 he joined the family business at Land Title Services. He and his wife Lisa enjoy Salina and are passionate about making it a better place to live. With ten nieces and nephews, as well as family working in USD 305, it is important to them to see that classrooms have what they need to succeed. Austin spent six years serving on the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank Board; he is also a past president of Salina Area Young Professionals and is currently on the First Tee of Salina board. Austin's father, Mike, is a past board member with Salina Education Foundation.



Erin Smith is an optometrist at Drs. Driver and Clark and has been practicing in Salina for the past 10 years. She is a graduate of Texas A&M University and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Science with a minor in Spanish. She attended the University Of Houston College Of Optometry and graduated in 2011.



From the Director

On September 22nd, Salina Education Foundation hosted our annual Fall Breakfast at the Salina County Club. The theme for the event this year was “Connecting the Dots.” Much of our work at Salina Education Foundation is about doing that very thing, connecting the dots between students, staff, supporters and our community.



Adrie Powell and Ethan Anderson, both students at South High, attended the event with Mrs. Elizabeth Burke, South High’s Library Media Specialist. Powell and Anderson shared about their participation in Overbooked, a student-led book club. Burke has received grant funds the past few years to provide books and materials for the club. The students choose the books and facilitate the discussions, and Burke leads a supporting activity to tie things together. Powell and Anderson both shared about the impact that Overbooked has had on them and how it has enhanced their learning experiences.

You make Overbooked and many other projects possible for our students and staff and create lifelong memories for our students. You provide an enhanced educational experience for our students and staff. Thank you!

Michael Chambers
Executive Director



Greater Salina Community Foundation Supports Sudden Opportunity Grants

Sudden Opportunity Grants provide a quick way to make great projects happen for our students. Awards are limited to \$200 and address a project or need that has come up suddenly and can’t be planned for. Greater Salina Community Foundation and the L.P. “Pat Mullen” Fund has awarded \$5,000 to Salina Education Foundation to support additional Sudden Opportunity Grants in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics as well as Arts & Humanities. “Sudden Opportunity Grants are very popular with teachers and other staff. We often



run out of funds before the end of the school year. The Mullen Fund at the Greater Salina Community Foundation will allow us to fund 25 additional projects and make a terrific impact for our students. We are really thankful for the GSCF’s support for our students,” said Michael Chambers, Executive Director.

New Audiology Equipment

by Brandy Ashley, CKCIE

When most of us think about hearing testing we remember wearing headphones and raising our hand when we hear a beep. That tried and true method continues to work with most students today. However, with very young students, students with autism, or students with developmental disabilities, wearing headphones and responding to beeps can sometimes be a challenge.



We are fortunate to have the advanced technology of Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) available. As with any medical advancement, the science behind OAE technology is complex. However, the

easiest way to understand the OAE technology is to know that when a sound is sent into a normal, healthy ear canal, the ear sends back an echo. We can then measure that echo which gives us some hearing information. A small probe is placed in the student’s ear and all they have to do is sit quietly for a minute or two. There are no heavy headphones to wear and no need for the student to respond.

Central Kansas Cooperative in Education has been fortunate to have OAE technology for many years. Without it, many students could not have had hearing screenings, and hearing issues may have gone undetected. However, at the end of last year, the current OAE system was no longer working. With the generous support from the Salina Regional Health Foundation CKCIE is once again able to test all student’s hearing in the best way possible. Thank you so much SRHF!

Fall Breakfast: Connecting The Dots

Salina Education Foundation's trustees, donors and guests gathered at the Salina Country Club on September 22nd to Connect the Dots and celebrate the many wonderful things you make happen for our students and teachers. Linn Exline, Superintendent of Schools, provided a district update including information about the district's mission and vision, and highlighted many recent accomplishments. Exline also shared about the impact she has seen Salina Education Foundation make in classrooms for the district's

students and staff.

Other presenters included Elizabeth Burke, Library Media Specialist at South High and Larry Cullins, Visual Arts Instructor at Central High. Burke received grant funds to facilitate the Overbooked Book Club. Cullins received grant funds to facilitate his Artists' Getting Further project. Both shared information about the impact SEF grant funds have had on their students. Adrie Powell and Ethan Anderson from South High were on hand to share their personal experiences with Overbooked. Madilyn Crough, a



junior at Central High, shared about her participation in the Artists' Getting Further project. Entertainment was provided by the Central High School Drum Line under the direction of Mr. Guillermo Rodriguez.

This year's event was made possible by these generous sponsors:

Bank of Tescott; BE Wealth; Clark, Mize & Linville; Hickory Hut; Jones, Gillam & Renz Architects; The Market Shop; and Woods & Durham. In kind support provided by JRI Hospitality and Arrow Printing.



TRUSTEES from page 1

Her husband, Brandon, is a Salina native and graduated from South High. They have two young children, Sam and Oliver. Their oldest son, Sam, attends Meadowlark Elementary School. Erin currently serves as the secretary on the Building Blocks Preschool Board, is a member of Salina Charities League, and a past member of Noon Network AMBUCS.

Retiring Trustees At its annual meeting on August 17th, the board of trustees recognized the following

retiring trustees: **Mark Bandré, Katy Ebert, Dana Kossow, Jeff Norris** and **Bill Sturges**. Salina Education Foundation executive director Michael Chambers said, "It is always hard to say goodbye to such caring and dedicated trustees but Mark, Katy, Dana, Jeff and Bill have made a tremendous impact on the Salina Education Foundation and our ability to support our students and staff. I am so thankful for all they've done."

Grant Partners

The work of the Salina Education Foundation is supported 100% through the generosity of individuals and business in our community. Your support of our programs demonstrates a strong commitment to healthy community. Local businesses need employees who implement critical thinking skills and can meet ever-evolving business needs. Perhaps this is the year you fund a specific grant. We can help you match the topics that are important to you to projects happening in USD 305. Contact Michael at michael.chambers@usd305.com or 785-309-4729.

Our Mission

To promote and support educational excellence by providing resources to enhance opportunities for the students and staff of Salina's public schools.

As part of this mission, the trustees of the Salina Education Foundation:

Manage and grow endowment funds, grants, and gifts for specific schools, programs, and scholarships

Award grants to teachers seeking to enhance instruction

Identify and support, through forgivable loans, outstanding Saline County residents seeking to become teachers in USD 305

Build community awareness and support of the Salina Education Foundation

Our Vision

Uniting the community to support excellent public schools

Board of Trustees, 2022-23

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YES! I want the BEST for all students in the Salina School District! Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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