



From AEF scholarship recipient to AEF board member

When Allison Kierzek was a senior at Appleton East, she applied for dozens of scholarships to help her continue her education at Drake University in Iowa. She was the recipient of several scholarship awards, including one from the Tim Schroeder Memorial Scholarship Fund within the Appleton Education Foundation.

She credits much of her success at Drake University and then UW-Madison, where she earned her B.S. in personal finance, to passionate and dedicated high school teachers who held her to high expectations.

Fast forward almost a decade. Allison – now Allison Moeschberger – is back in the Fox Cities. She is a private wealth manager with Creative Planning, LLC (formerly Wipfli Financial) and enjoys volunteering with local organizations like the Appleton branch of American Association of University Women, Women’s Fund for the Fox Valley Region, and Appleton Education Foundation.

Allison is one of nine Appleton Area School District alumni currently serving on the Foundation board. But, she is the first to also be an AEF scholarship recipient.

“It’s a special opportunity to go from AEF scholarship recipient to board member,” Allison said. “The Foundation’s efforts to support Appleton educators and students are inspiring. I hope to use my experience as a former AASD student and current professional to help further the mission of the Foundation.”

Join the Appleton Alumni Network to read more about Allison’s story including the teachers who helped guide her and why she chose to return to the Fox Cities. The Appleton Alumni Network is a program of the Appleton Education Foundation. AppletonAlumni.nationbuilder.com



Scan to learn more

AEF SCHOLARSHIP STATS:

2022: 28 scholarships awarded totaling \$20,300
Total scholarships awarded in AEF history: 282 for \$336,350

About the Tim Schroeder Memorial Scholarship Fund

Tim’s family established this endowed scholarship fund after his passing in 2010. The scholarship is a way to give back to the community, honor Tim’s love of sports, and support students at Appleton East – where his two children attended. Two awards are given each year to graduating seniors who participated in athletics. To date, 24 awards have been given, totaling nearly \$15,000.

Interested in establishing a charitable scholarship fund?

Contact us: Info@AppletonEducationFoundation.org



APPLETON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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OUR VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS GUIDED BY AEF’S MISSION:

To creatively enhance education in our community.

A supporting organization of the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region.



Set up a charitable fund to benefit your educational area of interest:

<http://bit.ly/3J9YS9K>

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REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Dear Friends of the Appleton Education Foundation,

So many stories to tell. Not enough room to tell them.

That's a good problem to have when you're writing an annual report. It means the Appleton Education Foundation is vibrant and active and that it is supporting a vibrant and active school district and community.

Beyond what we are able to feature in this report, here are a few additional highlights from 2022:

- Celebrated 25 years of creatively enhancing education by giving our community the gift of laughter – a keynote presentation by comedian Greg Warren. Special community gifts to AEF added >\$25,000 to the administrative endowment fund to help solidify our future.
- Engaged with donors to bring three new charitable funds into the AEF family, including two endowed scholarship funds. We look forward to the lasting difference these funds will make for AASD students.
- The first charitable gifts from AEF's wholly owned subsidiary, Winagamie Golf Course, are adding to AEF's capacity to fund educators' great project ideas.

With your support we will continue our momentum in 2023 by:

- Hiring a grants and scholarships manager to help improve and expand our services for these growing programs.
- Hosting the 25th annual Knowledge Open golf tournament to support AASD schools and AEF's overall work. AEF has directed more than \$190,000 in event proceeds to AASD schools since 2009.
- Updating our strategic plan to ensure purposeful, focused action toward increasing AEF's visibility and impact.

We invite you to engage with us. Join us on social media. Make a donation. Attend AEF events. Start a charitable fund. Help share out stories of amazing AASD educators putting AEF grant dollars to work.

We're in this together and, together, we'll continue to creatively enhance education for students and educators in our community.

Gratefully,

David Platt
Board President

Julie Krause
Executive Director

AT A GLANCE

January – December 2022

181
Grants

28
Scholarships

\$284,000
Grants +
Scholarships

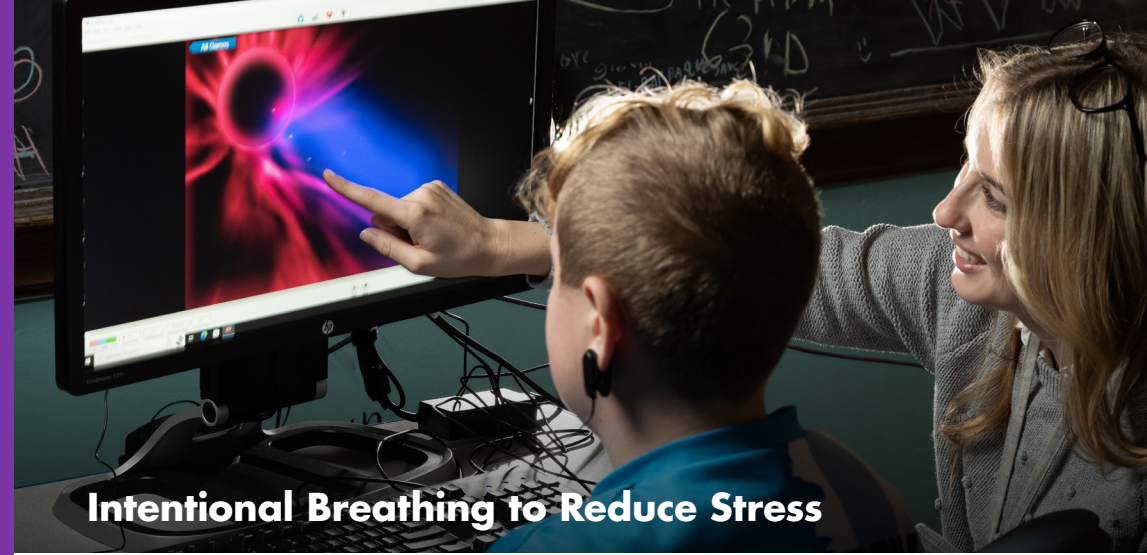
AEF serves the sixth-largest
school district in Wisconsin
15,280+ students | 2,000+ staff

89
Charitable
funds

>10,500
students benefited from grants
awarded in AEF's competitive cycles.
Many projects are ongoing, multiplying the impact.

\$5.5 Million
Cumulative grants
since 1997

LEARN MORE: AppletonEducationFoundation.org/annual-report-2022/



Intentional Breathing to Reduce Stress

"We breathe every second of every day but the reality is that we are horrible at it," said Shandee Kempf-Cohen, school counselor at Kaleidoscope Academy.

That's a real problem because Kempf-Cohen knows intentional breathing is key to feeling in control of one's emotions.

Increasing mental health needs of students, along with current research on anxiety and trauma, led Kempf-Cohen to introduce emWave technology as a new tool to help students manage stress.

She turned to the Appleton Education Foundation for help. A grant from the

Gruner Family Community Mental Wellness Fund in the Foundation supported the purchase of four emWave heart monitoring programs and equipment.

How does it work? A sensor clipped to a student's ear measures heart rate. Students can see colors on the screen change when they are able to focus their breathing around the heart. It is a form of breathing meditation that can have powerful results.

"It is amazing to see students learn the power that intentional breathing has on their mental and physical well-being," Kempf-Cohen said. "Students have reported

a greater sense of calm. Some have reported having better impulse control. And students who reported having frequent panic attacks now feel like their attacks are happening less because they can see that they are in control of their thoughts and actions."

Kempf-Cohen is working towards training all staff and students at Kaleidoscope to use this tool. "We can all benefit from learning how our breathing impacts our mental and physical health," she said.



Classroom Camping Inspires Love of Reading

Picture this: Two or three young students sit side-by-side in pop-up tents, reading books by flashlight, while a video of a crackling campfire plays on a big screen in a darkened classroom.

It just might be one of THE cutest things you'll ever see in an elementary school.

Stacy Mader, kindergarten teacher at Foster Elementary Charter School, came up with the idea to encourage her emerging readers to keep practicing their skills.

"We hold Camp Read-A-Lot once each month and I rotate the books the students are reading," Mader said. "The kiddos really look forward to this special time."

Mader received an Appleton Education Foundation grant to purchase the pop-up tents and flashlights.

"Reading is such a critical skill," Mader said. "I want my kindergartners to have a fun experience connected with independent reading time and, overall, create a positive memory of school and reading,"

It seems to be working.

Mader said one of her students was so inspired by the classroom experience that he went home and asked his mom to build a fort for them to read in.

"This foundational love and enjoyment of reading will help set my students up for success," she said.

Maker Space Encourages Creativity and Engagement

A festive bunting decoration one week, a greeting card the next. An original design on the 3-D printer the week after.

Thanks to some educator ingenuity and a well-stocked Maker Space, students at Appleton East High School have special opportunities to explore their passions.

"The beauty of a Maker Space within a school library is that it is accessible to all students, regardless of ability, income level, or what classes they may be taking," said Janel Bedor Griffiths, Library Media Specialist. "No grades are given. Students sign up, then show up to tinker and create."

Bedor Griffiths is committed to helping students learn, create and problem solve without the pressure of grades, assignments, or requirements.

The latest additions to the Maker Space are embroidery machines and related supplies, purchased with a grant from the Vira and Alan Stoner Education Fund within the Appleton Education Foundation.



Bedor Griffiths created tutorials to supplement her hands-on instructions. She also produced samples to teach students to use the new equipment.

"We've focused a lot on threading the machines and have been working on putting students' names or a logo on items," Bedor Griffiths said. "Eventually we will be able to partner with the school store to sell some unique products designed by the kids."

"This space fills a deep need kids have for a creative outlet."

Beloved Educators Make a Lasting Difference



With a combined 69 years of teaching in Appleton, Alan and Vira Stoner contributed to the success of many hundreds of Appleton public school students.

Alan taught and coached at Appleton East High School and Wilson Middle School while Vira taught at Appleton West High School.

Vira also benefited from the district's history of excellent education while attending Washington and Jefferson grade schools, Wilson Junior High School and Appleton High School.

The couple's legacy of support for public education will continue in perpetuity through the Appleton Education Foundation.

After Alan's death in 2010, Vira established the Vira and Alan Stoner Education Fund, a field of interest endowment in the Foundation.

The Fund supports inventive learning at the middle and high school levels.

"This fulfills our desire to give back in a way that reflects our own rewarding years in the classroom," Vira said at the time.

Vira took it a step further in 2015 when she named Appleton Education Foundation the owner and beneficiary of her life insurance policy. After Vira's passing in 2021, AEF directed the death benefit proceeds, as well as an additional gift from the estate, to the Stoners' charitable fund.

Vira hoped her decisions might inspire others.

"I would encourage anyone who believes in the power of education to consider establishing a fund or a planned gift through the Appleton Education Foundation," Vira said in a 2012 interview. "It is an effective way to make a lasting difference."

A planned gift to the Appleton Education Foundation can become your personal lasting legacy of giving.

Contact us: Info@AppletonEducationFoundation.org

