

Smart Times

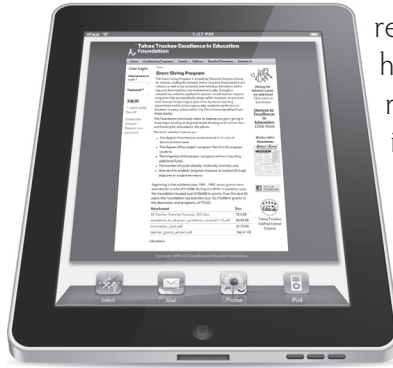
TAHOE • TRUCKEE

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

COMMUNITY & BUSINESS HELPING STUDENTS REACH NEW HEIGHTS

Online Program Streamlines Grant Application Process

The Foundation recently launched an online grant application program that promises to streamline the process for both grant writers and the Excellence in Education allocations committee. Teachers will find the web-based system similar to the paper process with virtually all the same questions and requested collateral. On the evaluation side, principals and allocations committee members will enjoy the convenience and flexibility of reviewing the



grants online in any location. The grant system was custom built by Excellence in Education board member, Nathan Kendall. While it is a work in progress, the overwhelming feedback from grantees has been positive. Seventy-four grants were received through the new online system which is slightly above average.

"We have been talking about making the move to online grants for a while. I am thrilled that we've taken the leap!" stated Donna Morgan, foundation allocations chairperson. Best of all, this new environmentally-friendly system will eliminate a mountain of paper.

Innovation Grant

Foundation Announces Innovation Grant

Designed to spur creative minds to think out-of-the-box, the innovation grant makes its debut this fall. This new concept is based on input from Excellence in Education board members who wanted to try a new approach. The innovation grant process is slightly different as teachers are encouraged to first submit a

brief paragraph or two on their big idea, pilot program or never-been-done concept online. The Foundation will then review the concepts and invite top applicants to present their ideas verbally to an evaluation panel. Once top ideas are selected by the Foundation, an implementation plan and full budget will be required.

THANKS FOR GIVING



Thanks For Giving Campaign

Since its inception Excellence in Education – thanks to the generosity of local businesses and donors like you – has granted over \$2 million to worthwhile educational efforts within our school district.

Entering this season of gratitude, we encourage you to help us keep the momentum going during the Thanks For Giving Campaign slated for Nov. 13th to the 20th. Giving levels are designed to fit everyone's style including the \$35 individual membership, \$180 School

Year Dollar A Day and the \$2,500 and up Foundation Dean's List. Teachers, TTUSD staffers and parents can look for convenient donation boxes at school sites, while others can offer their financial thanks online at www.ExinEd.org Thanks For Giving!

Welcome New Board Members

**Kevin Mitchell • Davy Ratchford
Emily Salmon • Barb Wilkinson**

We are also thrilled to announce that **Ann Lindemann** has joined Excellence in Education as the foundation coordinator. Ann most recently worked with Switchback PR in Truckee. She and her family live on the West Shore. Welcome, Ann!

TTUSD Announces Two New Programs

Stanford University Study:

TTUSD was selected as one of seven districts in California by Stanford University to participate in an English Language Learner (ELL) Leadership Network, funded by the Cowell Foundation. Last summer three TTUSD employees attended the Stanford conference where they worked with a group of professors (primarily from Stanford) to learn to effectively meet the needs of our ELL population and work to close the achievement gap. In 2007 the Cowell Foundation provided a three-year, \$62,000 grant to develop Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in our district. Stanford is considered to be on the cutting edge nationally in addressing ELL needs.

High School Wellness Counseling:

The Wellness Center Project is a collaborative effort between the school district, community non-profits and high school students. This project will create three Wellness Centers at North Tahoe High School, Sierra Continuation High School, and Truckee High School that will serve as

entry points for students to connect to a supportive adult and access community wellness services. A key component of this project is that students will be actively involved in the planning and shaping of the Wellness Centers at their school sites. Wellness Centers are slated to open on campuses in January.



Truckee High Jazz Band performing at the Excellence in Education Recognition Event. Excellence in Education recently funded the Truckee High School Band \$3,750 for instruments, sheet music, and speakers.

Thank You Friends of Education!

Support the Excellence in Education Foundation's mission by joining Friends of Education annual membership; you can proudly display a decal at your place of business or on your vehicle!

Foundation Dean's List

Bill & Norma Parson

Foundation Honor Roll

Bill & Diane Austin
Marie Borges & David Condon
Rob & Kristi Darzynkiewicz
Max & Nancy Gisko
Randy Hill

Foundation Sponsor

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Tim & Janet Taylor
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Kathy & Glen Whitlow

Individual Membership

Wendy Buchanan
Bret Churchman
Karen Cole
Linda Howe
Marguerite Paras
Leslie Saxe
Terri Viehmann

TTUSD Payroll Deduction Participants

Mary Berelson
Mark Brady
Nancy Casper
Sydney Dion
Margi Englert
Teresa Eppolito
Jan Ganong
Patricia Hamilton
Kilty Highfill
Ed Hilton
Dana Hurt
Karen Hutchinson
Lissa Johnson
Anna Klovstad
Diane Laroche
Hien Larson
Julia Lawrence
Erin LeFevers
Susan Lowder
Nancy McNair
Julie Miescke
Dean Nordby
Mardice Patrick
Susan Phebus
Janice Polochko
Dana Pomeroy
Martha Reedy
Kathy Rittner-Echols
Christine Smith
Patricia Stonick
Bonnie Whittemore
Terrina Woodard-Gross

Foundation Honors 2011-2012 Fellows and Star Recipients

Each year the Excellence in Education Foundation gives the community the opportunity to recognize teachers and school staffers for their efforts. This year's recipients were honored recently at the 2011 Recognition Celebration sponsored by Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Truckee office. Held at Olympic Village Lodge, the event also included a thoughtfully produced video featuring each of last year's recipients in action.

The 2011-12 Linda Brown Fellows recipients are:

From left to right, Nancy McNair, North Tahoe School; Peggy Heidelberger-Smith, North Tahoe High School; Carol Reed, Glenshire Elementary; Lissa Johnson, Glenshire Elementary; Terrina Woodard, Glenshire Elementary.

Recipients each received \$2,000 for educational purposes within the district and \$1,000 for their personal use.



The 2011-12 Star Award recipients are:

From left to right, Nancy Welsh, Glenshire Elementary; Laura Walton, Tahoe Lake Elementary; Evelyn Foster, Truckee High School; Salvador Torres, Kings Beach Elementary; Blanca Covell, North Tahoe High School.

Each will receive \$1,000 for personal use.



Program News + Updates

Dining for Schools

The 2011-2012 Dining for Schools program is underway and cards are now available. Each Dining Card purchased entitles the bearer to 50% off an individual dinner entrée at participating restaurants during the designated times. Cards are \$45 each and are on sale at Porters Sports in Truckee and Tahoe City, Safeway in Truckee and Kings Beach, Save Mart in Truckee and Tahoe City and Mountain Hardware, Truckee. Visit ExinEd.org to purchase cards online and for a list of this year's participating restaurants and details.

Martis Camp

The Tahoe Truckee Excellence in Education Foundation, in partnership with Tahoe Sierra Board of Realtors, raised \$44,000 for local schools at the third annual Martis Camp Home Tour held this summer. Thanks go to the volunteers and local businesses that made this event a success.

Thank you to the golf courses that participated in the 2011 Golfing for Schools card - Coyote Moon, Gray's Crossing, Northstar, Old Brockway, Old Greenwood, Resort at Squaw Creek, Tahoe City and Tahoe Donner.

Grant Highlights: STEPP GRANT

Local toddlers are having fun while working on their gross motor skills, cooperation and problem solving, thanks to a custom-built climbing apparatus that was funded by an Excellence in Education grant to the Sierra Teen Education and Parenting Program (STEPP). "The dowel climber is designed for children 18 to 36 months old," explains STEPP director Cindy Maciel, a 2010 Excellence in Education Star

award recipient. "It's particularly great for our unpredictable weather, which makes it hard to get outside." STEPP is a district program for pregnant and parenting teens providing them support while they finish their schooling. It also offers a quality child development program with an infant/toddler center on site at Sierra High School.

Visit www.wExinEd.org for information and updates on all of these programs



Tahoe/Truckee Excellence in Education Foundation
Business & Community helping Students reach new heights

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Dining For Schools Cards On-Sale

The Excellence in Education Dining for Schools Card allows you to eat out for half price, and support the local schools!

The 43 participating restaurants:

Blue Agave, Caliente, Cottonwood, Christy Hill, Dining Room at Sugar Bowl*, Dragonfly, El Toro Bravo, Evergreen, Fifty Fifty Brewing Co., Fireside Pizza, Gar Woods Grill & Pier on the Lake, Graham's at Squaw Valley*, Jake's on the Lake*, Jason's Beachside Grille, JAX at the Tracks*, Las Panchitas, The Lodge in Tahoe Donner*, Mamasake, Manzanita at the Ritz-Carlton, Mikuni Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar, Moody's Bistro and Lounge, Pacific Crest, Pianeta, Pizza on the Hill*, PlumpJack Café, Rainbow Lodge*, River Grill, River Ranch, Rocker@ Squaw*, Rosie's Café*, Rubicon Pizza, Sandy's Pub at Squaw Creek*, Six Peaks Grille*, The Soule Domain*, Stella at the Cedar House, Summit Restaurant & Bar*, Sunnyside*, Twenty Two Bistro & Bar, Village Pizzeria, West Shore Café*, Wild Goose, Wolfdale's and Zano's

Cards are valid September 11 - December 15, 2011 and April 15 - June 15, 2012, Sunday through Thursday, holidays excluded.

Restaurants with an (*) have offered an extended period where the dining cards are valid January 8 – March 29, 2012 as well.

Cards are on-sale at Porters Sports (Truckee and Tahoe City), Save Mart, Safeway, Mountain Hardware, and ExinEd.org

2011-2012 Skiing For Schools Dates

Tahoe Truckee Excellence in Education Foundation is teaming up with the local ski resorts to help you save money while supporting local education. On selected days, a participating resort will offer special discounted lift tickets valid any one day during the designated period.

Tahoe Donner Ski Area - Sunday - Friday, Dec. 11 -16
Sugar Bowl - Saturday - Friday, Dec. 17- 23
Northstar * - Sunday - Friday, Jan. 8 -13
Tahoe Donner Cross Country - Sunday - Friday, Jan. 8 - 13
Tahoe Cross Country – Sunday - Friday, Jan. 22 – 27
Royal Gorge - Monday - Sunday, Jan. 30 – Feb. 5
Sugar Bowl - Saturday - Friday, Mar. 24 -30
Squaw Valley USA - Sunday - Friday, April 15 - 20
Alpine Meadows – TBD
Homewood - TBD

Downhill lift tickets are \$35 each and available for purchase the week prior at Porters Sports in Truckee and Tahoe City.

* Northstar lift passes are \$40.

Cross Country trail passes are \$15 each and available for purchase at Paco's in Truckee and Alpenglow in Tahoe City.

Please add these dates to your calendar! For more information and updates, please visit ExinEd.org