

LIBERTY ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

JANUARY 30, 2023

“Grants... It's What We Do!”

The Liberty ISD Education Foundation was pleased to announce this year's grant winners on Apr. 20, 2022. Six grants were awarded in this cycle to teachers. These grants are funded through contributions to the **Liberty ISD Education Foundation** by individual donors, businesses, corporations and community service organizations as well as through profits from our fundraising events. This year's six grants total \$32,991. Since 2007, the total grant funding to LISD is \$288,259!

The various projects funded in this year's cycle are listed below by campus:

INNOVATIVE TEACHING GRANTS

Liberty High School

A/V Communications System – Richard Ewing \$8,151

This grant creates an upgraded communications system to be



used during live broadcast events. This grant is funded in part by *The Dablia McManus Endowment, The CW and Aggie Castle Family Endowment, The JoAnn McGuire Endowment, The C.A. (Abe) Miles Endowment, The Jeffrey Family Teaching Endowment, The First Liberty National Bank Endowment and by The M.J. Joe Leonard Endowment.*

From Our Farm to Your Fork – Penny Taylor \$4,310

This project has LHS Horticulture students constructing and managing a farm in order to

demonstrate the Farm to Table concept. This grant is funded in part by *The JoBeth Willoughby Teaching Grant, The Jana Marie Buchanan Grant, The Norman and Brenda Dykes Endowment and The Liberty County Farm Bureau Endowment.*

Liberty Middle School **Beyond the Classroom Adventures – Elisha Lemelle \$17,397**

This grant funds a classroom Virtual Reality lab allowing an entire class to simultaneously experience virtual, augmented or mixed reality content. This grant is funded in part by *The Baxter W. Dunagan, Sr. Endowment, The Dawn Forticq Endowment, The Miles Foundation Grant, The Bill Griffin Sr Endowment, The Vara Martin Daniel Teaching Grant for the Fine Arts, The Laura Jane Hartel Endowment and The Rick Mearns Grant.*

Body Systems Model – Kelly Crowe \$1,652

This grant funds body models in order to teach body systems. This grant funded by *The Mildred Arnold Endowment, The Dr. Reese and Sara Brown, The Nora Miles Endowment and The Dr. Frank S. Griffin Grant.*

Social Learning through Lego Play– Tabitha Pritchett/Elisha Lemelle \$500

This project uses a lego wall to help students de-escalate from heightened emotions during the school day. This grant is funded by *The Ken Berry Grant, The Debbie Beasley Grant and the Liberty Lions Club Grant.*

San Jacinto Elementary School **Document This – Ana Samano/Stacey Neal \$758**

This grant supplies a document camera for classroom use.



Press Initiative for the Foundation

One of the goals for 2022 was to upgrade the Foundation website with new, more professional photos. Nick Dennis started us off right with some great shots of the Freedom Ride. Bruce added some pics from the Gala in April and work continues on Grant recipients and a video produced by the Panther Sports network students due in February.

In January, the Foundation sponsored a Liberty County Chamber event further increasing our community presence. Ross Norwood and Bruce Wright were featured on the Liberty Live YouTube show talking about this year's activities. Other efforts were LFR t-shirts, a Xtreme Fall athletic program advertisement, and a Panther Sports Network sponsorship.

Margo Taylor faded to our efforts to get the word out by constructing a fine scrapbook featuring everything "Foundation" since 2007. great thanks to her and her effort. Finally, Wright was asked to speak to the Liberty Rotary Club and bring that organization up to date on this year's upcoming Casino Night fundraiser.



Above: Richard Ewing's Communication Grant in action at various places.

Highlights... from 2022

Financial Position

Our financial position continues to be strong even though the market was not as strong as last year. The Ester Melaski Scholarship was donated by their family members to become part of our grant initiative.

The Liberty Freedom Ride nor the Gala were as profitable as hoped, causing the directors to re-evaluate those events. In our strategic planning, sponsorship of events was stressed as the way to maximize the profit for these fundraising efforts.

Payroll deduction was extremely successful more than doubling our current participation from LISD staff. Rhonda Smith and Mychal English will be teaching us their successful strategy this year.

Change of Fundraising Events

Directors were forward thinking in their approach to events and fundraising though after responding to suggestions from the group to make our fundraising events more profitable.

Casino Night, scheduled for March 4th at the TVE in Liberty started off with a \$40,000 sponsorship drive. "That takes so much pressure off of the ticket sales and effort to be an event that can help our Innovative Grant Initiative," Wright said. "I'm very appreciative of our directors and their efforts."

Liberty ISD Education Foundation
sponsored by
Elite Electric and Von Schmidt Land & Cattle
presents



MARCH 4, 2023

\$75 General Admission

TRINITY VALLEY EXPOSITION

Online and paper tickets available

Contact 936.641.0367

Two raffle prizes (don't need to be present to win)

Gucci Marmont small bag & \$1300 sportsman voucher

7 - 10 PM

The Liberty ISD
Education
Foundation
proudly
sponsors :

**LHS Live and
Panthersportz.com**



2022 Personnel

2022 saw Keri Elliot rejoin the group and Allie Smart, Nick Dennis, Katriesa Secada and Dusty McGee join as new directors. Mychal English took over as Treasurer replacing a retiring Shannon Gardner. Jason Kay and Rick Vinson rolled off of the board as well.

Liberty Freedom Ride #7

February saw another trying weather day for the 7th Liberty Freedom Ride. Ultimately, Foundation directors decided it was the last year. The ride cleared \$46,683 for our grant program over the 7 year run.

Foundation Personnel

2023 Officers

Brandon Davis - President
Fallon Kay - VP of Admin.
Mychal English - Treasurer
Margaret Gardzina - Lifetime
Dusty McGee - Supt.

Directors

Leslie Herndon
Sharon Brown
Barbie Kelly
Katriesa Secada
Ross Norwood
Logan Pickett
Rhonda Smith
Bill Buchanan
Allie Smart
Nick Dennis
Cody Abshier
Keri Elliott

Liberty ISD Education
FOUNDATION

Dusty McGee Takes the Helm at Liberty ISD

The Liberty ISD School Board announced that it has named current Deputy Superintendent Dusty McGee as the Lone Finalist to replace retiring Superintendent Dr. Cody Abshier as Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. McGee received his undergraduate degree in English Education from Mississippi State University and his Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Lamar University.

McGee is in his twenty-fourth year in education, and has spent his last ten years with Liberty ISD. He came to Liberty ISD as Assistant Principal of Liberty Middle School and Defensive Coordinator for the Panther football team. McGee then became the Principal of Liberty Elementary School and later served as the Director of Student Support and School Administration. The last three years McGee has been the Deputy Superintendent of Liberty ISD. McGee is universally respected and admired by



students, parents, and faculty, as evidenced by the fact that he has been named Teacher of the Year, Principal of the Year, and as the Liberty Vindicator's Best Principal of 2016.

Mr. McGee has been married to his wife, 1990 Liberty High School graduate, Wendy Brewer McGee for 21 years. Their daughter Bailey attends Galena Park Early College High School and their daughter Kinley is a sixth grader at Liberty Middle School. McGee says, "I first want to thank Dr. Abshier for his leadership, mentorship and friendship. It has been my greatest honor to serve this district over the last ten years, and I appreciate the

opportunity to continue to lead and work with our outstanding Board, students, staff and community.

McGee joins the Liberty ISD Education Foundation as a permanent Director following his appointment as Superintendent.

Did you know...

* Brannon Kelly was recognized for his efforts as a volunteer for the LISD Edu. Found. In his efforts with the Liberty Freedom Ride

* The Liberty ISD Education Foundation will hold a recognition breakfast in May for the Top 10% of this year's graduating class.

* Amazon Smile will no longer be aiding the Foundation through their .5% cash-back program as of Mar 1, 2023. Amazon is committed to pursue their own charitable causes.

The Foundation At a Glance

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Facebook pg. "Likes"	793	877	926	972	1080	1174
Actions & Events	Restart Alumni Assoc. Smile.amazon and #GivingTuesday Strategic Planning with Executive Comm. Handbag Raffle Fundraiser Largest Grant Application participation	4th LFR event, Revival of D&D event New coordinated mailout strategy for fundraising. Strategic planning moved to October	5th LFR Passed the \$1Million dollar fundraising goal set in 2007 New website Covid Pandemic curtails GALA and other fundraising Zoom meetings used to continue to meet	6th Liberty Freedom Ride—300 pre-registered New email, online donation portal Bill Buchanan added as director GALA postponed again	7th and final Liberty Freedom Ride held GALA honoring Janie Ripkowski fundraiser Sponsorship initiative for Mar. 4, 2023 Casino Night—very effective	First Casino Night net \$37,000 Payroll deduction Program now has 97 participants 18 Grant Applications—highest ever
Key Donations	Miles Foundation Grant	Huntington Ingalls Industries Grant, Forticq Grant Mearns Grant	Jana Marie Buchanan Grant	Bill Griffin and Frank Griffin trusts	Bruce and Tina Blake (CC)	Bruce and Tina Blake, Alumni 1973, Elite Electric, Von Schmidt Land and Cattle
Grants	\$16,178	\$14,594	\$13,500	\$28,555	\$32,991	\$37,251
Bank Acct	102,993.58	161,930.58	65,890.52	85,118.98	83,153.79	\$79,964.56
Invest. Acct.	454,901.58	575,517.07	968,270.97	1,057,755.90	885,190.44	\$994,718.62
Total Acct Value	\$557,835	\$737,447	\$1,034,161	\$1,142,874	\$968,344	\$1,074,683.18

Foundation Personnel



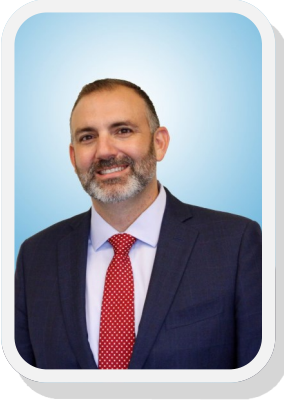
2024 Officers

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 Mychal English - Treasurer
 Margaret Gardzina - Lifetime
 Dusty McGee - Supt.

Directors

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 Katriesa Secada
 Ross Norwood
 Logan Pickett
 Rhonda Smith
 Bill Buchanan
 Allie Smart
 Nick Dennis

A Letter from Our President



Dear Friend of the Liberty ISD Education Foundation,
My name is Brandon Davis, and I am currently the President of the Liberty ISD Education Foundation and a proud graduate of Liberty High School. As you know, Liberty ISD provides a first-class education for all of its students, with programs that enable them to be successful in college, trade school, the

military or the workplace upon leaving school. The Liberty ISD Education Foundation is an independent, non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization whose mission is to help Liberty ISD students by funding classroom grants for materials and programs outside the scope of Liberty ISD's normal operating budget. Since its inception in 2007, the Foundation has awarded over \$288,000 through 86 grants to provide innovative programs and materials in the classroom at Liberty ISD. The Foundation has had well over 80 directors since 2007. The Foundation raises money by hosting fundraising events, such as the Casino Night and the annual Foundation Gala, and through donation drives in our local community. These fundraisers and donations to

the Foundation help us award more grants and improve the innovative programs and materials offered to our students. All donations to the Foundation are tax-exempt. We believe that education is the cornerstone of our communities and our country. It is imperative that, as our community and schools grow, we continue to support our students and give them every opportunity possible to be successful. With your help and your continued giving, we can make a difference in our community and in our country.

Sincerely,
Brandon Davis
President
Liberty ISD Education Foundation

About the Liberty ISD Education Foundation

About Us

Established in 2007, with the aid of the Miles Foundation, the Liberty ISD Education Foundation is an independent, non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization whose mission is to enhance the educational experiences of the Liberty public schools by fostering community support above and beyond what is provided by the district's normal operating budget.

The Foundation works closely with the school system but is completely independent. Our Board of Directors consists of residents, retired educators and business people whose commitment to public education in Liberty is strong and in the best interest of

every child in the school system.

Our Values

The Liberty ISD Education Foundation values enrichment opportunities, inventive teaching and academic exploration as we strive to promote the empowerment of teachers as an essential dimension of encouraging the academic success of students.

The Vision of the Foundation

We wish to create a partnership with the community to support students in pursuit of academic excellence. We firmly believe that investing in our students today will

return excellent leadership tomorrow.

Our Mission and Purpose

The Mission of the Liberty ISD Education Foundation is to generate and distribute resources to the Liberty ISD to enrich, maintain, and expand programs needed to ensure that each student reaches his or her full potential.

Striving to promote excellence in teaching and enhanced educational experiences for our students, the Liberty ISD Education Foundation cultivates joint public-private partnerships that will provide teachers with community support and access to additional financial resources.

2022 –2023 Donors

Platinum Partners

Bruce and Tina Blake
Brandon and Gradee Davis

Diamond Partners

Leslie and Mark Herndon
Elite Electric
Von Schmidt Land & Cattle LLC

Gold Partners

Law Office of Logan Pickett
Bill Buchanan
Carl and Laura Pickett
John Staudenmayer
Mike Fielder
Law Offices of Randall Gunter
Resse and Sara Brown
Sullins and Johnston
Tarver Abstract
Nick Dennis
Joan Jeffery
Janie Ripkowski
First Liberty Bank
Margaret Gardzina

Silver Partners

David and Margo Taylor
Jewelers Bench
Jeanette and Miriam Melasky
Prosperity Bank
Angie Patterson
Fallon Kay
Joey Root
Amy Boles
Sharon Brown
David Ripkowski
Great Beginnings Kinder - Preschool
Ross Ward
Richard Vinson

Bronze Partners

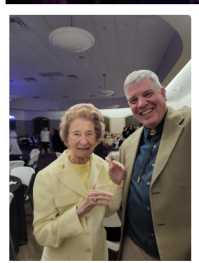
Stephen and Debbie Dugger
Nan Forney
Barbara Norwood
BJ Ford
Lamar Iverson
Mary Egan
William and Misty Robinson

LIBERTY ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Office: PO Box 10437
1517 Trinity Str.
Liberty, TX 77575

Meetings: LISD Boardroom

Phone: 936-641-0367
E-mail: libertyisdeducationfound@gmail.com
Website: www.libertyeducationfoundation.net



LISD Payroll

Deduction... Join us

Many districts use this as a significant tool to get their personnel involved. Grants benefit all of our students. Employees can give as little as 1\$ a paycheck or as much (the sky's the limit) depending on their level of support. Each donated dollar given goes to support classroom grants. Go to www.LibertyEducationFoundation.net and click on the **how can you help** menu. It only takes about 2 minutes.



Foundation Calendar 2023

Jan. 30, 2023	Annual Meeting/ Foundation Meeting (5:30PM)
Feb. 27, 2023	Foundation Meeting (5:30PM)
Mar. 4, 2023	GALA – Casino Night 7PM
Mar. 13 - 17	LISD Spring Break
Mar. 27, 2023	Foundation Meeting (5:30PM)
Mar. 31, 2023	Grant submission deadline
Apr. 4, 2023	Grant committee meeting – (Crowdfunding effort begins)
Apr. 18, 2023	LISD Board Meeting (6PM) – grants
Apr. 24, 2023	Foundation Meeting (5:30PM)
May TBD	Top 10 % Recognition Breakfast
May 29, 2023	Foundation Meeting (5:30PM)
June 26, 2023	Foundation Meeting (5:30PM)
July 31, 2023	Foundation Meeting (5:30PM)
Aug. TBD	Back to School/Payroll Deduction
Aug. 28, 2023	Foundation Meeting (5:30PM)
Sept. 25, 2023	Foundation Meeting (5:30PM)
Oct. 30, 2023	Foundation Meeting (5:30PM)
Nov. 27, 2023	Foundation Meeting (5:30PM)
Dec. 18, 2023	Foundation Meeting (5:30PM)
Dec. 20, 2023	Last Day for Donations