



2019 Annual Report



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A Message from our President

UCS Foundation 2019 Annual Report

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LOOKING AHEAD

Dear Friends,
2019 was a productive year for the Utica Community Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence.

The twelfth annual Evening of Excellence provided a spotlight for some exceptional students of the Utica Community Schools.



The UCS Foundation expanded the

Teacher Grant Program this year and is now accepting applications biannually to better serve the needs of our teachers. We provided a pool of \$15,000 to be distributed for the 2019-2020 school year. Over the last 3 years since reinstating this program, we have been able to provide over \$40,000 to help our teachers in the classroom.

The 26th annual Career Focus Luncheon was held last May. Every UCS sixth grader, along with hundreds of business professionals, community representatives, teachers, media center specialists and principals gathered to explore careers, enjoy a working lunch collaborating about their futures. Our keynoter speaker was Patricia Lopez from Rose-A-Lee Technologies.

This year, the Foundation improved its branding and marketing efforts. We have a new and improved website and logo. We have begun using social media to connect with UCS Alumni and publish updates on recipients from our grants.

All of these activities are thanks to the support of our generous event sponsors and donors. Additionally, I want to thank our Century Club members who help defray and support everyday operational expenses. As a result, the Century Club annual dues and additional contributions from club members enables the Foundation to direct monies raised toward student programs and scholarships.

Thank you for your support of the Foundation!

Michael Sherman Abdo
UCSFEE

Mission

The mission of the Utica Community Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence is to be a non-profit fund-raising organization that encourages and supports quality efforts by educators to enhance educational experiences for students of the Utica Community Schools.

Vision

To be a financial resource that positively impacts the educational experience of every student in the Utica Community Schools.

Our Impact in 2019

The UCS Foundation continues to support students and teachers in the pursuit of educational excellence.

IMPACT 1

Supported Superintended Scholarships, including the Momentum Award for 7 Young Women Leaders with a Purpose (see page 3)

IMPACT 2

Patty Lopez joined the UCS Foundation as a board member after presenting the keynote speech at the Career Luncheon (see page 4)

IMPACT 3

Supported our educators' innovative ideas to provide a meaningful teaching experience for the students. (see page 5)

IMPACT 4

Greater outreach to our community through revamped website and compelling social media presence (see page 9)



Evening of Excellence Gala - a Benefit for Scholarship

Since its inception, the Evening of Excellence has raised monies to support scholarships for deserving UCS seniors. Seniors apply for the Superintendent's Scholarship each fall. The students who are selected embody the meaning of UCS Success by excelling in academics, displaying leadership qualities, serving the community, and overcoming personal challenges. Scholarships are given during a memorable celebration dinner. We are proud to support higher educational opportunities for these outstanding students. Through funds raised by the UCS Foundation, over \$350,000 in academic scholarships have been awarded since 2010.

Together we have an impact

Through your continued generosity we were able to help many graduating students go on to prove, as they have time and time already, that anything is possible with hard work and dedication.

The UCS Foundation is proud to support such strong leaders.

We look forward to following their journey to becoming successful role models.



Thank you to our 2019 Evening of Excellence - A Benefit for Scholarship Sponsors

Presenting Sponsor

GCA Services

Ph.D. Degree

Barton Malow

Master's Degree

Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick
Integrated Design Solutions
LLC

Bachelor's Degree

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Graduation Alliance
Lusk Albertson PLC

Associate's Degree

Clark Hill PLC
Detroit Zoological Society
Kaiser Studios
Plante Moran
UCS Business & Finance
UCS Cluster 1 Principals
UCS Cluster 2 Principals
UCS Cluster 3 Principals
Wesner Tuxedo
Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral
Home
ZSPACE, Inc

Individual Donations

A-1 Handyman
Valeta Carpenter
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Dr. Christine Johns &
Mr. Robert Haines
Gene Kilda
Tim McAvoy
Miller, Canfield, Paddock &
Stone
UCS Auxiliary Services

26th Annual Career Focus Luncheon

Since 1993, the annual Career Focus Luncheon brings together area workplace and community leaders with over 2,000 sixth-grade UCS students for a 'business lunch' experience. The adults act as mentors, sharing educational experiences and career acumen to the 8-10 students at their luncheon table. The distinctive community event encourages students to explore career options and interests. All sixth-grade students, with support from their teachers and media center specialists, create digital resumes and share their future career aspirations after high school. Career Focus has been fortunate to host many well-known state and local officials, sports figures, celebrated business leaders and prominent UCS alumni as keynote speakers.



Together we have an impact

Thank you to Ms. Patty Lopez for an outstanding Keynote Address at the Career Focus Luncheon. As the president of Rose-A-Lee Technologies (RAL), Ms. Lopez shared her educational and career experiences stressing to the students that they should "Never stop learning - ever".

Ms. Lopez was so moved by her experience surrounded by 2,000 young and bright minds that she has joined the UCS Foundation as a trustee and we are fortunate to have such a community minded leader in our ranks.

Thank you to our 2019 Career Focus Sponsors

Presenting Sponsor

Lynn & Paul Alandt Foundation

Media Center Scholarship Sponsor

LaGrasso, Abdo & Silveri Law Office

Major Sponsors

A-1 Handyman, Inc., City of Sterling Heights, City of Utica, Community Choice Credit Union, Crest Automotive Group, Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals, Kirk, Huth, Lange & Badalamenti, Lusk Albertson PLC, Mathnasium of Shelby Lakeside, Michigan Works! Macomb/St.Clair, Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone, P.L.C., MNP Corporation, O'Reilly Rancilio, Oakland Community College, Preferred Dental Practice - Pediatric Dentistry, and Orthodontic Specialists of Michigan, REALTEAM Real Estate, SME, Inc., Sterling Heights Area Community Foundation, Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce, Student Painters, Jason & Kendall Truman, Tull & Laubach, Attorneys at Law, United Shores Professional Baseball League, Urban Land Consultants, Utica Community Education

Corporate Sponsors

AEW, Inc., Barton Malow, Charter Township of Shelby, Emagine Macomb, GLP & Associates, Integrated Design Solutions, Messina Trucking, Inc., Utica Education Association, Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home,

Double Major Sponsors

Nicolaus Stifel, Jason & Kendall Truman, UHY

Table Sponsors - Business

AGS Automotive, Autoliv, Christian Financial Credit Union, Crawl, Walk, Jump, Run Therapy Clinic, Duncan Elementary, Gompers, Cornish & Barr Insurance Agency, Christina Haemmerle PHD PC, Honeywell Building Solutions, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, Macomb Township, Morgan Elementary PTA, Plante Moran, RAL Technologies, R. Shafer Builder, Testing Engineers & Consultants, Inc., Steve & Pam Truman, Warner Norcross & Judd LLP, Weingartz Supply Company

Table Sponsors Individual & Non-Profit

Beacon Tree Elementary, Beck Elementary, Family Volunteers, Browning PTA, Bruce Collins PTO, DeKeyser PTCG, Dresden PTOE., Gilbert & Sons, Ebeling Elementary, Gallo Companies, Kiwanis Club of Sterling Heights, Macomb Community College, Macomb Intermediate School District, MEA Financial Services, Messmore Elementary, Dr. Donna McMinn & Robert Van Camp, Monfort Elementary School Volunteers, Inc., Oakbrook Family Tree, Plumbrook Elementary Parents, RE/MAX First, Roberts Elementary, Schuchard Volunteer Organization, Shelby Travel Agency, UCS Board of Education, Wiley Elementary

Donation

Crissman Elementary

Special Thank-You To

Palazzo Grande Banquet Center and the mentors who gave their time to make this event a success.

Educational Grant Program

The Educational Grant Program has awarded over \$40,000 in grants to over 35 UCS educators. Grants are awarded to elementary and secondary teachers looking to innovate and exceed UCS curricular goals. Recent selected grant examples include Coding Comes to Life, Ozobots Across the Curriculum, and Broadcasting News and Events. The Foundation is pleased to enrich and expand educational opportunities for UCS students through educational grants that are relevant, engaging, and impactful.



"With each Educational Grant award, I am reminded of the selflessness and dedication of our educators as provide an above and beyond educational experience to their students"

**Robert Van Camp
UCS Foundation Trustee
Education Grant Coordination**

The UCS Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2019-2020 Educational Grant Program:

Meaningful Maze Making - Julie Lambert - Duncan
ElementaryCode Igniter - Rachel Krone - Heritage Junior
HighSTEAM Museum - Mary Beth Merlo - DeKeyser
RAZ Kids - Jennifer Paslean - Wiley Elementary
MindTap for AP - Derek D'Angelo
More CS for our UCS kids! - Shannon Spisak - Shelby Junior High
BrainPop Jr. - Monica Smyka - Wiley Elementary
Take Home Math Bags - Beth LaBaere - Burr Elementary
Digital Drawing: International Auto Show Poster - Dr. Lisa Grunewald - Henry Ford II High School
Lights, Camera, Action! Bringing STEAM to life - Jacqueline Zawierucha - Beacon Tree
Mystery Science Web Based Science Program - Ruth Klida - Wiley Elementary
AVID Technology Boost - Kate Walker - Henry Ford II High School
Bringing Private Practice Medicine to UHS - Melissa Rice and Lisa Schmidt - Utica High School

Century Club Dinner

The success of the Utica Community Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence is in part due to the charitable hearts of the Foundations' Century Club members. The 2019 Century Club dinner was held at the local Da Francesco's Restaurant and centered around the recognition of the one of the most committed members of the Foundation, Utica Community Schools, and the community as a whole - Mrs. Gene Klida. Her commitment to the community will serve as inspiration to many who follow.

Together we have an impact

"... a lifelong servant leader through word and deed. She made a difference every day, without ever asking for anything in return. I looked up to her then, I look up to her now" - 2013 International Baccalaureate Academy graduate Deanna Galer says of Mrs. Gene Klida



2019 Century Club Membership

Corporate, Foundation & Organizational Members

A-1 Handyman
Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick
Barton Malow
DTE Energy
E. Gilbert & Son
Five Star
GLP & Associates
Kiwanis Club of Sterling Heights
La Grasso, Abod & Silveri
Lynn & Paul Alandt Foundation
Messina Trucking
O'Reilly Rancilio
Pentagon Ready Mix
Plante Moran
Presidio
Shamrock Pub
Shelby Travel Agency
Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce
TLM & Associates
UHY Advisors
Utica Education Association
Wesner Tuxedo
Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home

Individual Members

Brian LaPorte
Cheryl Cunningham
Christian Mueller
Christian Wilson
Dr. Christine Johns
Dominic Aversa
Frank & Nancy Stoneking
Heather Blum
Jeffrey Henderson
Jill Tomy
Dr. Joan Sergeant
Juli Sala
Justin Washington
Kim Charland
Kristina Tepper
Laurie Pritchard
Lisa Keyes
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Michael Nowicki
Michael Sturm
Mike Hoad
Nancy Brunetz
Nina Carver-Hardiewich
Dr. Renee Fiema
Dr. Robert Martin
Robert Monroe
Robert Van Camp
Stephanie Eagen
Steve & Pam Truman
Susan Rosso
Thomas Lietz
Tim McAvoy
Valeta Carpenter
Vivian Constand

UCS Foundation Board & Staff

Dedicated to supporting the Utica Community Schools community.

Executive Board



Sherman Abdo
PRESIDENT



Juli Sala
VICE PRESIDENT



Michael Nowicki
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



Nate Tallman
TREASURER



Linda Colton
SECRETARY

Trustees



Brent Bohlinger



Les Gilbert



Susan Rosso



Jeff Vollmar



Ron Chriss



Ray Lope



Michele Templeton



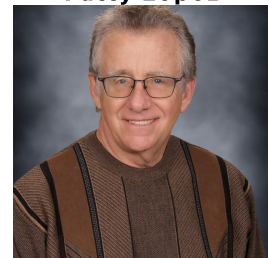
Dan Wesner



Linda Colton



Patty Lopez



Bob Van Camp

Paul Alandt
(not pictured)

Administrator



Jessica Broadwell

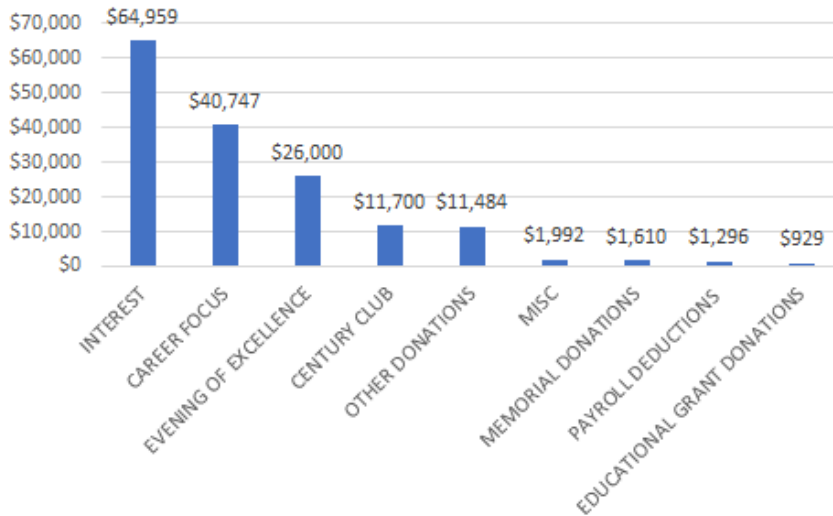
Ex-Officio



Dr. Christine M. Johns, Ed.D.

Financial Report

Income



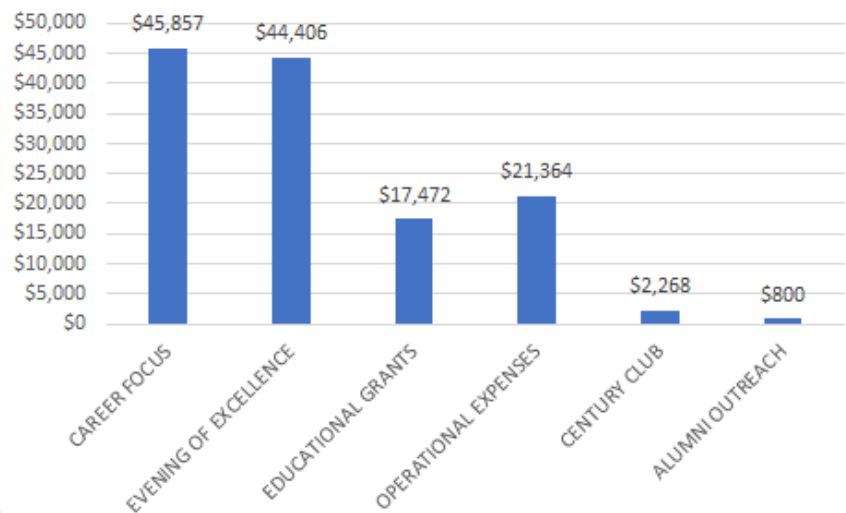
2019 Income

Utica Community Schools raised a total of \$160,717 through the generous contributions of our community, including the businesses that continue to support education.

2019 Expenses

In total, \$132,167 in outgoing expenses, of which \$107,735 goes towards our most impactful events, scholarships, and grants.

Expenses





Looking Ahead: 2020

As always, the UCS Foundations' first and foremost duty is to support the Utica Community Schools students and teachers, as such we strive to improve each and every year.

The Foundation's 2020 priorities include:

- Continue growth in donations by creating a comprehensive Corporate Sponsorship Initiative
- Reestablish the Annual Golf Outing event
- Expand Educational Grant program
- Establish "Brand" presence through continued focus on website and social media outreach, especially UCS Alumni
- Create a New Fundraising Event