

# PEORIA EDUCATION FOUNDATION



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

A non-profit organization, supporting excellence in the Peoria Unified School District

### 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

#### COVID-19 RESPONSE

During the first few months of 2020, the COVID-19 virus started spreading throughout the country, including Arizona. With that came many challenges for the Foundation. While the student scholarships program and Education Night was held, the annual Education Visionary Award dinner and the Arts & Cultural Festival had to be cancelled.

#### MEETING STUDENTS' URGENT NEEDS

The Foundation launched the Emergency Needs Fund, which provides principals with the opportunity to support a student or family with an immediate need with a reimbursement up to \$500 from the Foundation.

### EMBRACING OUR LEGACY

#### CELEBRATING THE PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

In 2020, the Peoria Education Foundation brought business and community partners together for a special update on the district's response to COVID-19, a forecast on how the pandemic would impact the 2020-21 school year and to highlight the district's plans for future ballot initiatives. The virtual event included the past, present and future district superintendents:

- Dr. Denton Santarelli, former superintendent
- Linda Palles Thompson, the present superintendent
- Dr. Jason Reynolds, the incoming superintendent for 2021

#### PRIDE OF PEORIA

The Foundation was able to support Pride of Peoria, the district employee recognition program, by providing commemorative pins.

#### EDUCATION VISIONARY AWARD

Even though the Education Visionary Award dinner was cancelled, the Foundation still recognized the following winners through a variety of media, advertisements, the website and social media.

- |                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Visionary               | Peoria Mayor and City Council |
| Community Partner       | André Licardi                 |
| Business Leader         | Z's Fine Jewelry              |
| Nonprofit Collaboration | HART Pantry                   |

### 2020 FINANCIALS

#### THE FOUNDATION'S FIGURES

Annual Operating Budget	\$125,840
Student Scholarships	\$45,150
Teacher Arts Grants	\$18,968
Teacher General Education Grants	\$13,945

#### FUNDRAISING RESULTS

\$16,472	Total Amount
\$395	Direct Donations and Who Cares Club
\$2,037	Valley of the Sun United Way
\$5,411	Other Unrestricted Donations
\$0	Event Cancelled (COVID-19) Visionary Awards Dinner
\$0	Event Cancelled (COVID-19) Arts & Cultural Festival

#### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

The Foundation prides itself on being good financial stewards with a laser focus on supporting the students and staff in the Peoria Unified School District. With an operating budget of approximately \$125,840, the Foundation has very little overhead and keeps its administrative costs at or under 10% of the overall budget.

# ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Since 1987, the Peoria Education Foundation has supported the educational experience of students through teacher grants and student scholarships within the Peoria Unified School District.

Funded by donations, the Foundation recognizes students in five scholarship categories, which are available to eligible graduating seniors pursuing any continuing education pursuit, and two types of teacher grants which are awarded to eligible teachers.



## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

### Against All Odds

For those who have overcome tremendous obstacles in their family or education and are still on track to graduate and pursue post-secondary education.

### Community Service

For students with academic excellence, a strong commitment to their community and have completed a minimum of 100 community service hours throughout high school and plan to further their education with post-secondary education.

### Dr. Denton Santarelli Leadership

Named after our very well-respected former superintendent, this scholarship is intended for those graduating seniors who have demonstrated excellence in leadership throughout their high school career.

### Joseph McCord Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was named after Peoria Unified Board Member Joseph McCord. Mr. McCord served on the Peoria Unified Governing Board and had a passion for history and strong commitment to community. This scholarship is designed for college-bound students who share Mr. McCord's enthusiasm.

### Unified Champions Scholarship

The newest scholarship of the Foundation, able-bodied students and those with special needs participate in the Unified Sports or Arts program. The principle idea is training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding others' challenges. The scholarship is intended for graduating seniors who plan to pursue a career or education to work with people having special needs.

## TEACHER GRANTS

Grants fund innovative projects that will significantly improve student achievement. Priority is given to projects that can be replicated in other classrooms or can impact the learning environment of an entire school. There are two grant categories: General and Arts.

## CONTACT US

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## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION

You can give students the gift of education and support opportunities to develop their potential. Your donation directly impacts students and teachers across the West Valley. It also helps build a healthy and well-educated community. Below are all the ways you can donate to make a difference.

### Make a Direct Donation

Donate to the Peoria Education Foundation directly by going to [PeoriaEdFoundation.com](http://PeoriaEdFoundation.com) and select "Donate Now."

### Visionary Awards Dinner

Purchase a table or seat at the annual dinner that celebrates educational visionaries in our community. Enjoy a delicious dinner and live auction. Past auctions have featured a variety of luxury getaways and experiences along with items such as jewelry, exclusive sports and theater tickets and more.

### Whoo Cares Club

Make a monthly donation to join our Whoo Cares Club at [PeoriaEdFoundation.org](http://PeoriaEdFoundation.org) and click on the "Donate Now" tab.

### Valley of the Sun United Way

Select the Peoria Education Foundation through United Way as one of the many organizations that benefit. Donations can be made at [vsuw.org](http://vsuw.org), and many companies and businesses provide a way for employees to give through their paychecks. All donations are tax deductible.

### Thank-A-Teacher

Purchase a customized "thank you" card for a Peoria Unified teacher or employee during the Thank-A-Teacher campaign dates.

### Education Night

Purchase spring training tickets at the Education Night game at the Peoria Sports Complex. Twenty-five percent of the profits from ticket purchases where purchasers mention Education Night is donated back to the Peoria Education Fund.

### Rewards

- Fry's Food Stores: Register your Fry's V.I.P. Card online at [www.frysfood.com](http://www.frysfood.com) and add the Foundation as the organization you want to support.
- Amazon.com: Create an account at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and shop as normal. Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases.
- Get Away Today: For every vacation booked through [Get Away Today](http://Get Away Today), a portion is donated back to the Foundation.
- [RoundUpapp.com](http://RoundUpapp.com): Select the Foundation as your preferred non-profit. Every transaction from your debit or credit card will automatically round up and donate to the Foundation.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Foundation's board is made up of a diverse group of individuals consisting of parents, community members and business owners who support the Peoria Unified School District. The board members include a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and historian and meet once a month.