

## Foundation Report – April 2013

The Cinco De Mayo Silent Auction & Fiesta on May 5<sup>th</sup> is less than three weeks away. RSVPs are coming and we are very excited for the items that will be available for bid and up for raffles that evening. Exciting items include a vacation stay anywhere in the world, jewelry, designer handbags, even a child's birthday party at the NPHS Planetarium. We hope to raise upwards of \$15,000. Remember honorees this year are Dan Reavy from Verizon, alumnus Jim Finnemeyer and educators Steve Frederick and the entire NPSD Technology and Engineering Education Department.

At the at last meeting, trustees approved \$18,000 for the first round of grants in the 2013-2014 school year. More than 25 proposals have been received from educators throughout the school district and these proposals will be reviewed shortly. Recipients will be notified by the end of the school year. Remember that in addition to this, the Foundation typically grants a second cycle of programs mid-way through the year. The success of the gala is critical to mid-year grants next year.

Since my last report, the Foundation's executive director Christine Liberaski attended and coordinated a meeting among other executive directors. A big topic of discussion is the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program and how Foundations like ours can secure more of this funding. The Foundation is looking to gear up its efforts in this area.

In grant news, I'd like to highlight a grant that we recently supported that may all sound familiar to you from your childhood. Students at Walton Farm Elementary School became familiar with how the chick embryo develops and eventually hatches. They studied posters, books, searched the internet and observed actual eggs incubating in their classroom. The eggs were even candled to see the chick developing. The students were responsible for caring for the eggs as they developed and witnessed first-hand the hatching of the chicks. They also cared for them the first days of their lives.

The Foundation believes that real-life experiences such as this, in combination with the latest technology are vital to our students' success. So, though technology may change and the demands on the student day may increase with testing and instruction, our classroom projects continue to engage our children in learning with interactive lessons they will remember a lifetime. I want to thank the teachers who offered this opportunity to their students and the thousands of Foundation supporters who fund projects like this every year.

If you have any questions about the Foundation you can contact Christine Liberaski at the ESC.