



# Annual Report

## 2023-2024



## Message from the Board

The Winchester Education Foundation (WEF) is dedicated to elevating our community through promoting education opportunities and providing support for Winchester Public Schools (WPS), its students, teachers and staff.

Founded in 2000, we are a 501(c)3 organization which functions as a charitable education not for profit corporation to facilitate a public private partnership between Winchester Public Schools and private citizens and businesses. Our ability to support our schools to the fullest extent possible is only possible thanks to the continued support of our many wonderful donors!

## Board of Directors & Staff

- Irina Khanin**, President
- Kathy Thomas**, Vice President
- Martha Roberson**, Secretary
- Lisa Frye**, Treasurer
- William Armstrong**, Director
- Mike Birchenough**, Director
- Glenn Burdick**, Director
- Thomas Dixon**, Director
- Dennis Haston**, Director
- Madelyn Rodriguez**, Director
- Carl Rush**, Director
- Stephen Slaughter**, Director
- Larry Weiss**, Executive Director
- Dr. Jason VanHeukelum**, Ex-Officio

## THE WEF BY THE NUMBERS

**251** individual donors



**\$404,846** received in donations, pledges and grants

**\$269,186** provided to Winchester Public Schools by the WEF

**11** scholarships and grants awarded to graduating seniors



totaling **\$28,500**



**5** teachers received WEF "Come Back to Teach" grants totaling **\$22,500**



## Honoring Judy Humbert

The WEF was proud to recognize Judy Humbert with an Honorarium presented on behalf of the WEF and WPS as a thank you in recognition for her lifetime dedication to preserving the history and legacy of the Douglas School. Thanks to Judy's incredible work, the history of the Douglas School will be preserved for future generations of WPS students with the creation of the Douglas School museum and archives. The remarkable, museum-quality exhibits feature both the sights and sounds of life at the Douglas School.

*Pictured: WEF President Mady Rodriguez and WEF Director Tommy Dixon made the presentation to Judy at the June meeting of the Douglas School Alumni Group.*

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The WEF proudly awarded \$28,500 in scholarships to 11 members of John Handley High School's 2024 graduating class at this year's Baccalaureate ceremony. The WEF and the many donors who make it possible for us to present these scholarships and awards salute all the members of Handley's 100th anniversary graduating class.

Congratulations to the following students who received the scholarships:



- **Henry Felix**, *The Eugene B. Cooper Scholarship*
- **Bella Balio**, *The John and Polly Duvall Scholarship*
- **Yuliana Ordaz**, *The Wells Fargo Scholarship*
- **Yuritz Martinez and Heidi Gonzalez**, *The Mindy Loy Future Educator Scholarship*
- **Lytzy Nolaco**, *The Mindy Loy Vocational Technical Scholarship*

- **Bella Balio, Felicity Gomez, Madeline McClosky and Ruth Scott**, *The Rees Memorial Scholarship*
- **Devlin Jett and Aaliyah Robertson**, *Black History Month Award*
- **Yuridia and Yuritz Martinez**, *Hispanic Heritage Award*

## EDUCATION GRANTS



The WEF announced this year's recipients of the Loy "Come Back to Teach" Education Grants at the annual convocation ceremony. These grants are funded by a testamentary trust of the late Mindy J. Loy, John Handley Class of 1974. The goal is to assist JHHS graduates who have decided to serve as educators, administrators and other certificated

professionals for WPS. Since the grants started in 2018-19, WEF has awarded more than \$150,000 to WPS educators.

Congratulations to the 2024 recipients:

- **Savannah Hessinger**, John Handley High School (*pictured above*)
- **Kara Riley**, John Handley High School
- **Marisol Rodriguez**, Garland R. Quarles Elementary School

## Ready to make a difference?

Become a **Partner in Education** for as little as \$25 per year!

Scan the QR code or email us at

wefsuccess@gmail.com.



## 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

### The WEF Goes "Back to School"

The WEF went back to school in the fall along with WPS students and teachers. Executive Director Larry Weiss and members of the Board delivered Chick-fil-A meals to welcome the incredible teachers and staff back to their classrooms and to thank them for their dedicated service to the students and community.

The WEF is grateful for the support of Navy Federal Credit Union and Chick-Fil-A which made these visits possible.



### WEF Launches "Partner in Education" Program

The WEF's new "Partner in Education" program is designed to help provide the funding needed to continue administering existing programs and to develop new partnerships to help WPS realize the goals of their "Empower 2025" strategic plan.

By becoming a Partner in Education, you support scholarships, teacher incentives and pioneering programs. The following businesses and individuals have already committed to achieving excellence together as a WEF "Partner in Education." (*as of September 9, 2024*)



**Founder Level**  
\$2,500

Mike Birchenough  
Katherine Thomas



**Patron Level**  
\$1,000

Atlantic Union Bank  
Dr. Jeffrey Feit and Irina Khanin  
Frederick Block Brick and Stone



**Supporter Level**  
\$500

William Armstrong  
Richard and Sarah Bell  
Mark and Terese Merrill  
Martha and Wilborn Roberson  
Dr. Iyad and Colette Sabbagh  
Stephen and Amy Slaughter



**Star Level**  
\$100

Karen Schultz  
Larry and Cathy Weiss

