Investment in Youth Celebration

For 30 years, District 279 Foundation’s Investment in Youth celebration has honored students, volunteers, and staff in Osseo Area Schools. District 279 Foundation is honored to recognize the award recipients for their significant investment under one of the following categories:

**Their Own Learning** - Demonstrating perseverance, love of learning, or pursuit of knowledge by study or experience.

**Betterment of Education** - Showing commitment to education by giving of their time, talents, or resources.

**Helping the Community** - Exhibiting involvement and dedication toward the community and its members.

**Modeling for Youth** - Demonstrating through words and actions an example for young people.

**Overcoming Adversity** - Displaying the will and courage to overcome major challenges.

**Developing their Own Talents** - Exhibiting unique expressions of creativity or talent.

Thank You to Our Sponsors for Your Generous Support

**AWARD CEREMONY SPONSORS**

- **First Student**
  - Caring for students today, tomorrow, together.

- Russ and Kathy Funk

- **ICS**
  - A LEGENCE Company

**AWARD CATEGORY SPONSORS**

- **ATSR**
  - PLANNERS + ARCHITECTS + ENGINEERS

- Karen Jaeger

- **UHL**

**DINNER SPONSORS**

- **Anonymous**
- **Anton Enterprises LLC**
- **Linda Pascoe**

**Additional support for this event was provided by:**

- David A. Branch, Virginia Hoppenrath, Janet Jones, Amy McClelland, Roger and Caroline McHugh, Jim and Shelley Miller, Ann Mock, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Vickie Parks, Thomas Pellegrino, Marian Priest, Kathleen Seavert, Susan Simons, Brian and Linda Siverson-Hall, Betty and Don Skoglund, Scott W. Taylor, Upsher-Smith Laboratories, LLC, and Don and Biddy Waletzko
Investment in Youth Celebration
Sunday, May 7, 2023

5:00 PM  Dinner

6:00 - 7:30 PM  Program and Awards Ceremony

Welcome:  Joseph Anton, Trustee and Event Chair

Performance:  Park Center Competition Cheer Team

Awards Presentation:  Foundation Trustees and Volunteers

Thank you to Dave Kiser from CCX Media for filming District 279 Foundation’s Investment in Youth program. This program will be replayed on CCX Media Channel 20 or Channel 859 through Comcast Cable.

Channel 859
Sunday, May 14 at 9:30 PM
Monday, May 15 at 1:30 PM
Thursday, May 18 at 6:30 PM

Channel 20
Friday, May 12 at 8:30 PM
Saturday, May 20 at 4:00 PM
Sunday, May 21 at 8:00 AM

This dinner menu and cuisine was prepared by Osseo Area Schools Food & Nutrition Services staff. Special thanks to Jeff Ansorge, Melanie Gates, Chef Jim Quast, and their staff for providing a celebratory meal.
District 279 Foundation is honored to celebrate the following people as this year’s award recipients.

Significant Investment in Developing Their Own Talents:

- Unique expressions of creativity or talent.

  - Jovani Kabamba Student   Cedar Island Elementary

Significant Investment in Overcoming Adversity:

- Will and courage to overcome major challenges.

  - Temiloluwa Afolabi Student   Park Center Senior High
  - Amy Arias-Esquivias Student   Osseo Senior High
  - Sadaf Behsudi Student   Rice Lake Elementary
  - Jaleah Ferrill Student   279Online - Elementary School
  - Sky Lee Student   Park Brook Elementary
  - Kashia Lor Student   Edinbrook Elementary
  - Garriston Pete Student   Osseo Area Learning Center
  - Mya Rausch Student   Fernbrook Elementary
  - Famahlyn Roberts Student   Early Childhood Special Education
  - Dartania Willis Student   Community-Based Vocational Assessment and Training

Significant Investment in the Betterment of Education:

- Commitment to education by giving of their time, talents, or resources.

  - Jacquie Bair Education Support Professional   Maple Grove Senior High
  - Katie Borcherding Educator   Osseo Middle School
  - Susann DeTienne Educator   Early Childhood Special Education
  - Katharine Dwyer Educator   Zanewood Community School
  - Sandra Eide Educator   Rush Creek Elementary
  - Kelly Funfar & Nicole Robertson Education Support Professional   Elm Creek Elementary
  - Kelly Jechorek Educator   Weaver Lake Elementary
  - Renee Kalberg Administrative Assistant   Early Childhood Family Education
  - Hope Lehan Educator   Fair Oaks Elementary
  - Denise Morrisette Educator   Park Brook Elementary
  - Jennifer Paulson Educator   Woodland Elementary
  - Teresa Sarkela Education Support Professional   Crest View Elementary
  - Shawn Shaddrick Custodian   Rice Lake Elementary
  - Shelly Wasti Educator   Brooklyn Middle School
  - Linda Weber Education Support Professional   Oak View Elementary
  - Kelli Wever Secretary   Fernbrook Elementary
  - Royce Winford Educator   Osseo Senior High
  - Kenyari Wright Educator   Osseo Area Learning Center
### Significant Investment in Helping the Community:

Exhibiting involvement and dedication toward the community and its members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>School/Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark Bourbeau</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Cedar Island Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary and Bob Bursaw</td>
<td>Retired Educators</td>
<td>Osseo Area Retired Educators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdulahi Dahir</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Brooklyn Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Haug</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Edinbrooke Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelia Holthus</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Elm Creek Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Ly</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Garden City Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abby Merlis</td>
<td>Educator</td>
<td>279Online - Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason Reitmeier</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Maple Grove Senior High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Rosbacka</td>
<td>Admin Asst</td>
<td>279Online - Elementary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josie Schuette</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Birch Grove Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelia Yang</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Enrollment Center</td>
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### Significant Investment in Their Own Learning:

Demonstrating perseverance, love of learning, or pursuit of knowledge by study or experience.

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<tr>
<td>Suhayb Aljabari</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>279Online - Middle School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madyson Bartsch</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Osseo Education Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cora Bauer</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Oak View Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roxie Bishop</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Fair Oaks Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Van Dang</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Adult Basic Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel Eriksen</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Park Center Senior High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ricardo Gomez Zepeda</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Palmer Lake Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jay Kansara</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Maple Grove Middle School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Le</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Weaver Lake Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Lindsay</td>
<td>Tech ESP</td>
<td>Educational Service Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priya Lorntson</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Basswood Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazel McConville</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Osseo Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonma and Mie Ofo-Odo</td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>Adult Basic Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phoebe Oghumah</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Woodland Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sydneiy Piner</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Birch Grove Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Salgado Cazales</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>279Online - Senior High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyle Sananikone</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>North View Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Stewart</td>
<td>Educator</td>
<td>279Online - Senior High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amariana Washington</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>North View Middle School</td>
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<td>Leo Xiong</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Garden City Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaose Yang</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Palmer Lake Elementary</td>
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### Significant Investment in Modeling for Youth:

Demonstrating through words and actions an example for young people.

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Ahrendt</td>
<td>Custodian</td>
<td>Basswood Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dominion Anako</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Community-Based Vocational Assessment and Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Bauermeister</td>
<td>Custodian</td>
<td>Osseo Education Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annika Brooks</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Early Childhood Family Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mackenzie Brown</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Rush Creek Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabriel Dagban</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Crest View Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Davies</td>
<td>Educator</td>
<td>Maple Grove Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Parker</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Zanewood Community School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Shopp</td>
<td>Kidstop Lead Instructor</td>
<td>Educational Service Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chartered in 1991 as a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, District 279 Foundation partners with the school district, parents, students, volunteers, city officials, civic organizations, and the business community to support and make a difference in Osseo Area Schools.

**Our Mission**

Our mission is to support and enhance the district's dedication to all students.

**Our Vision**

Our vision is to provide learning opportunities for students in Osseo Area Schools by funding programs, projects, and other opportunities that are not presently available through the district's budget.

**Our Core Value**

We believe that there is a moral, social, and economic imperative to support student success and equitable student achievement.

**Areas of Focus**

1. Support students through innovative and creative projects that enhance curriculum, experiential learning opportunities, or contribute to the community.

2. Recognize the achievements of students and staff in Osseo Area Schools. District 279 Foundation seeks to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and success stories of the students, volunteers, and staff in Osseo Area Schools at the Investment in Youth celebration. This annual celebration recognizes individuals from each site for their commitment and dedication to our community.
DISTRICT 279 FOUNDATION
2022-2023
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Heather Ayer, Past President
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Rolanda DeShield
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Joan Lunceford
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Vickie Parks
Gretchen Peel
Tom Pellegrino
Josie Schuette
Don Skoglund
Don Waletzko
Martha West

DISTRICT LIAISONS

Cory McIntyre, Superintendent
Tanya Simons, School Board Member

FOUNDATION STAFF

Brian Siverson-Hall
Grace Holthaus
Susan Wineland
Save the Date

Reading is Fun 5K
Fundraiser to benefit media centers in Osseo Area Schools
Saturday, October 7, 2023, Elm Creek Park Reserve

A Night Out
Fundraiser to benefit District 279 Foundation programs
Friday, February 2, 2024, Edinburgh Golf Course