

Education Foundation Launches Campaign for R-III

In Fall 2015, the Lincoln County R-III Education Foundation (LCR3EF) and Lincoln County R-III School District Administrators began in-depth discussions about a capital campaign for TBHS's new Performing Arts Center and other District and Foundation initiatives. After conducting a comprehensive community-wide feasibility study with a consulting firm and evaluating those results against the District's budget and strategic plan, the Lincoln County R-III Board of Education and the Lincoln County R-III Education Foundation's Board of Directors voted on and issued a joint proclamation to implement a \$2.5M "Campaign for R3" to fund Performing Arts Center construction costs, LCR3EF grant awards (for five years), and for the establishment of an endowment for the Foundation.

In 1929, Fredrick Bonfils philanthropically funded the construction of Bonfils Performing Arts Center to honor the memory of his parents Judge Eugene and Henrietta Bonfils. This auditorium has served our community well for over 87 years supporting community and student programs in the Lincoln County R-III School District. With the growth of our District, our community, and with theatrical technological advances, Bonfils can no longer support 21st century needs. A new Performing Arts Center will address the total creative ability of R-III students and community members. In 2014 the Lincoln County R-III School District was awarded a \$1.8M Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant to build a Tornado Safe Room, capable of withstanding 250 MPH winds. In the event of a tornado warning, our entire high school population of 1,800 students and staff will be protected from even a Category EF-5 storm. To capitalize on this grant, R-III decided to best utilize this structure by converting it into a Performing Arts Center. With \$1.8M from FEMA and \$700k already committed by R-III, an additional \$1.35M commitment from the District and a philanthropic endeavor of \$1.85M is required.

The Education Foundation's original charter was, and continues to be, to support education excellence in the R-III School District with emphasis in five academic areas. These areas are Technology, Student Enrichment, Instructional Initiatives, College & Career Readiness, and Early Childhood Strategies. Each year, educators from across our District may request program dollars through a stringent, blind review grant application process. From 2013 through 2016, LCR3EF has granted 62 applications totaling \$322,553. To successfully manage a large fundraising initiative while continuing to deliver on-going support to our educators and students, the Board of Directors elected to combine its annual gifts programs into the larger five-year efforts of this campaign, thus assuring donors that their contributions to this campaign will fulfill much of its financial needs for the near future. Through donor gifts, grants and its popular fundraising events, LCR3EF is committed to fully funding its original areas of focus and will continue to support R-III in its endeavors of being an exemplary school system in Missouri.

The Foundation's Board of Directors is also committed to the ongoing success of its organization's charter. The Board believes that it is time to take advantage of planned giving strategies and to create an endowment to ensure the perpetuity of LCR3EF to benefit

generations of students to come. A financial endowment is a donation of money or property to a nonprofit organization for the ongoing support of that organization. The endowment is structured so that the principal amount is kept intact while the investment income is available for use.

The Lincoln County R-III Education Foundation (LCR3EF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supporting education excellence in the R-III school district by funding projects and programs not otherwise possible within the constraints of the district's annual operating budget. In four short years, LCR3EF has reinvested over \$600,000 in our schools and communities. The Education Foundation also provides nonprofit and financial guardianship to Bright Futures Lincoln County, Buddy Bags and Shafer Brothers Baseball Youth Participation Fund, social service and experience organizations meeting the physical and emotional needs of the children in the R-III School District.



WHEREAS, members of the Lincoln County R-III Board of Education and the Lincoln County R-III Education Foundation Board will join forces to build collaborative relationships based on trust, teamwork and shared accountability;

WHEREAS, it is recognized that both the Lincoln County R-III Board of Education and the Lincoln County R-III Education Foundation Board are accountable to the community for operating schools that support student achievement and enrichment;

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County R-III Board of Education and the Lincoln County R-III Education Foundation Board will foster a community culture that enriches opportunities to maximize the potential of all children in the Lincoln County R-III School District;

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County R-III Board of Education and the Lincoln County R-III Education Foundation Board commit to the perpetuity of the Foundation's chartered purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County R-III Board of Education and the Lincoln County R-III Education Foundation Board are desirous of a Performing Arts Center reflecting the caliber of the District's Fine Arts programs and our communities' aspirations;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Lincoln County R-III Board of Education and the Lincoln County R-III Education Foundation Board hereby declare their united efforts to institute a Campaign for R-III.

Signed this 20th day of May, 2016.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Mills".

Ron Mills, President
Lincoln County R-III Board of Education

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robb A Krieg".

Robb Krieg, President
Lincoln County R-III Education Foundation