



Davenport Schools Foundation

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Mission Statement

The Davenport Schools Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, seeks to provide otherwise unavailable resources to enhance the District's educational environment to help students pursue full potential.



Becomes a Reality

GREAT MINDS, the new Davenport Schools Foundation project which will make distinguished persons, places and performances available to students, has come to fruition.

With the assistance of retired Fine Arts Coordinator and educator David Dix, the Davenport Schools Foundation is excitedly anticipating the first interactions which they hope will inspire students to a greater awareness, appreciation and understanding of the world. Dix has hit the ground running as he officially implements the pilot program at McKinley and Truman Elementary Schools, Williams Middle School and West High School.

Since September is a very busy month for both administrators and teachers, Dix has been setting up his office and networking with various community resources. In addition, Dix has established relationships with the University of Iowa Speaker's Bureau and Hancher Auditorium.

In order to provide teachers with easy access to event information, Dix has constructed a database that will include all the GREAT MINDS opportunities. He is also exploring the possibility of further enhancing accessibility through the creation of a website which would catalog the listings. His experience with

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Teachers and administrators learn about the GREAT MINDS project as the program prepares to introduce its first students to previously untapped experiences.

GREAT MINDS Program Takes Off..

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administration has been a great asset as he has quickly created and organized the documentation needed to keep GREAT MINDS running smoothly.

Dix has also been presenting the GREAT MINDS programs to the staff at the pilot schools and to groups of principals at all grade levels. These meetings showcase the many possibilities that the project holds for teachers and their students and have been met with enthusiasm, generating diverse concepts for ap-

plication of the program. West High School departments, for example, have submitted requests that range from bringing a poet into the classroom to visiting the cadaver lab at Palmer College of Chiropractic.

GREAT MINDS aims at offering a variety of experiences from which teachers can choose those best suited to their curriculum or classroom goals. Therefore, the program welcomes input from individuals, businesses and community groups on potential functions ranging from shared speakers to behind-the-scenes visits;

workshops to recitals. David Dix can be contacted by phone at 336-5028 or via email at dixd@mail.davenport.k12.ia.us. The GREAT MINDS office is located in the lower level of the Administration Service Center.

As this structure is put into place, the fundraising initiative is also moving forward. Led by Foundation Chairman Lisa B. Arbisser, M.D. and President Larry Minard, the fundraising goal has been set at \$1.4 million over a seven year period.

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Endowment - What Does It Mean, Anyway?

Endowment. It's a word often heard in connection to charitable foundations, yet one that few may think is connected to them. "Endowment" tends to conjure up images of vast wealth or national scope. Yet in reality, an endowment is something that is tailored to the individual, and something that anyone can do.

The dictionary defines endowment as furnishing with an income; the part of an institution's income derived from donations. But in more practical terms an endowment is planned giving. It is a way for anyone to give a gift of any amount of property, stock or money to an institution through a will or trust. It can be done in memory of a loved one or in honor of a friend, and you don't have to wait until you pass away to give the endowment. Plus, in the case of the Davenport Schools Foundation, the gift will directly enhance the students of the School District.

In the past the Foundation has raised money as a project warranted, as

with *Schools of Excellence* and *Classrooms of the Future* where \$1.8 million was raised by the Foundation and matched by the School District.

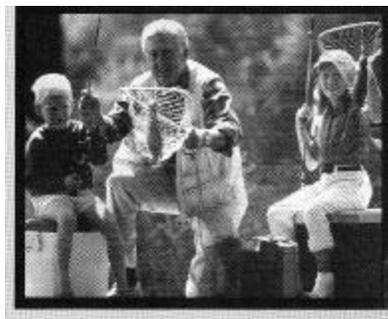


Photo courtesy of
Leave a Legacy

As the Foundation has grown, however, the board members have realized the need to establish an endowment fund that would continue to provide our students with resources

beyond the School District's means.

With that thought in mind, the Foundation has joined Leave a Legacy. Leave a Legacy is a joint initiative of the Quad City Planned Giving Council and the Quad City Estate Planning Council, created with the mission of promoting "interest in planned charitable giving through a will or an estate plan." The group "works hand-in-hand with professional advisors and non-profit organizations including social service and civic clubs, foundations, educational institutions and other religious, environmental and philanthropic groups to encourage planned giving."

The Foundation will be working with the Leave a Legacy campaign this fall to publicize the many options available for those interested in planned giving. It is a powerful means in which to enhance the education of generations to come.

...And Welcomes Community Support

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Individual members of the Board of Trustees have already committed \$40,000 to the program as Arbisser and Minard prepare to discuss the project and its benefits with other sources. The Foundation is grateful for the generosity with which its previous project, *Schools of Excellence*, was met and looks forward to working with community leaders and Davenport School District supporters in ensuring the viability of GREAT MINDS.

Within the larger \$1.4 million goal

there are many opportunities for smaller gifts to benefit students directly. Individuals with interest can sponsor students when specific interactions require that additional fees be paid by the participants. For example, in March 2002 vocal music students from all three high schools plan to attend a performance and master class of the King Singers at Hancher Auditorium in Iowa City. A fee of \$4 per ticket will be required of students. However, a single donation of \$20 would allow five young singers, who might otherwise find this finan-

cially challenging, to attend the workshop.

The Foundation anticipates that the initial positive response to GREAT MINDS will continue to grow as more and more students come in contact with the unique experiences for which it provides.

Hundreds of Alumni Enjoy their High Schools

Coming together to celebrate the past also opened a view to the future as alumni from all three high schools enjoyed guided tours of their alma maters as a part of reunion activities this summer.

While visiting their old stomping grounds and reminiscing about their former classrooms and activities halls, the alumni also witnessed the changes that have taken place at the schools in recent years. Attendees toured the extensive interior renovations at Central; the new media and office areas at West; or the new auditorium, food court and gymnasium at North, as well as seeing more familiar settings.

The Foundation worked with the class reunion chairs and the administration from each high school to organize these tours. The Foundation wishes to thank the administrators, many of whom worked on Saturday mornings as guides, for making this possible.

As news of this opportunity travels, we hope that more reunion classes will participate. The tours are free of charge and can be tailored to reflect the interests and size of the group.

Anyone who is involved in planning an upcoming reunion may inquire about this opportunity by calling Laura Cleaveland at 336-5004.

New Davenport/ Central High School Directory



Central High School

BC Harris Publishing is at work on an update of the Alumni Directory for Davenport/Central High School.

The last directory was published in 1994. The new directory will include all classes through 2001 and will be available in book form and on CD-Rom.

Graduates will receive a post card or telephone call to update their directory information. Please reply as promptly as possible to help us revise our alumni records.

