

GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ed Foundation announces highest # of grants and funds awarded

Huntington – As has become routine in the past 5 years, all staff in the Gateway Regional School District were invited to apply for funding for special classroom and school projects during the current school year. In a record-breaking night, the Gateway Education Foundation Board of Directors was able to award funding to all 11 applications, also committing its highest level of funding to date for a single round of applications - \$7,505.

“We have a lot of individuals and businesses to thank for the growth of the foundation,” reported President Shirley Winer. “The growing support of our local business sponsors, recent grant funding from United Bank Foundation and the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, and the growing number of parents, staff, alumni and community members who take part in our fundraisers.”

The following projects will receive funding this school year: \$200 for Chester Elementary School’s Family Literacy Night; \$500 to Littleville Elementary School for their yearlong “Pawsome Reading Challenge and Literacy Night”; \$1500 to the high school’s Life Skills Program for a vocational business enterprise at school; \$800 to the Chester 5th Grade for an overnight STEM program at the Chimney Corners Berkshire Outdoor Center next spring; funding for elementary musicals at Chester and Littleville (1 for upper grades, 1 for younger grades at Littleville); \$700 for a student-led musical “The Last Five Years” at the high school; \$375 to the high school for interviews with holocaust survivors using distance learning; \$1700 to the elementary schools to purchase a 6-piece set of xylophones and metallophones to be used in elementary music classes; \$800 for new items for the Littleville PreK and K playground; and \$610 to the high school athletics department to take part in the MIAA Student Ambassador Program.

“We just want to keep growing the Foundation, and I think more and more people are aware of and supporting the Gateway Education Foundation,” said Superintendent David Hopson. Hopson added that participation in the 50/50 raffles at each school’s Open House was up this year, and that the entire board was grateful for this support.

With a rising interest among Gateway staff applying for funding comes a growing need for the Foundation to raise money. Up next is the 2nd Annual Homecoming Weekend, which runs from October 12-15. “This event is taking on a life of its own,” reported organizer Wendy Long, who is the Clerk of the Foundation. Several of the scheduled events that weekend will raise funds for the Foundation, including dinner at the Chester Common Table on Thursday, October 12 (4 – 10 p.m.; the restaurant is donating 15% of their sales to the Foundation); the Shipman Memorial Concert on Friday, October 13 (6:30 p.m.; \$5 students, senior citizens; \$7 adults); and lunch at the Comfort Kitchen and Bar on Sunday, October 15 between 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. (the restaurant is also donating a percentage of sales to the Foundation that day).

A new offering at this year's Homecoming is the "5K Dam Run" hosted by the high school's Boys Cross-Country Team. The race will follow Gateway's home cross-country course, which was increased to a 5k run this year. This race will be timed and is free of charge, although the team will be gratefully accepting donations to the Education Foundation from runners.

Other fundraisers this year are two online donation drives: Giving Tuesday (November 28) and Valley Gives Day (May 1); and a Springfield Thunderbirds game next spring (more information to come on this!). Donations are tax-deductible and can also be made anytime by mailing a check to the Gateway Education Foundation, 12 Littleville Rd., Huntington, MA 01050 or online on the GEF website. Business sponsors are also being sought for 2018; please contact Wendy Long for more information (wlong@grsd.org or 685-1003).

For a complete schedule of events for homecoming weekend, please visit the Gateway Education Foundation website: <http://www.GatewayEducationFoundation.org> .

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Photo: The Gateway Education Foundation continues to support the high school's Model United Nations (MUN) club, which competes at colleges throughout New England and New York.