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THE HUNTINGTON FOUNDATION  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

# OUR WORK



## OVERVIEW

**The Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education** is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation which was founded in June 1993. Our organization is a group of volunteers dedicated to improving the quality of education for the children of Huntington by funding innovative learning opportunities, which would otherwise not be offered due to district budget constraints. Since its inception, the Foundation has funded over One Million Dollars in educator-requested grants ranging from creation of the Robotics Club at Finley Middle School, building the AP Biology cell culture lab and supplying technical measuring tools at the High School, to founding and supporting leadership clubs at the primary schools. We support bringing the latest technological advancements into our schools to keep our students as prepared as possible for the challenges they will face in college and beyond. With your help, we will continue to support the passion of our teachers to provide our children with the high level of education they deserve!

## WHO WE ARE

A volunteer group of education supporters who work with a board of directors to fund innovative and exciting educational opportunities for all children in the district. This funding affords our teachers access to educational programs that are not funded by the school budget. Often these new programs are then incorporated into the curriculum on an ongoing basis.

## OUR MISSION

The Huntington Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of the Huntington Union Free School District in education, the arts and athletics. From state-of-the-art technology and equipment to cutting-edge teaching techniques, the educator-generated grants we fund expand our students' curriculum as well as their enthusiasm for learning.

## HOW WE DO IT

We primarily raise funds through our annual Gala event. We also seek grants from other foundations and organizations which support education. We are always looking for new ways to fund the grant applications submitted by our educators. Our goal is to fulfill every Star and Mini Grant that is approved by our board. We know we can do it...and graciously thank all our supporters.



The Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education

# 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Friday, March 8, 2019



*Honoring*

**John Amato**

**District Honoree**

*Principal, J.T. Finley Middle School*



**Dr. Inna Gellerman**

**Community Honoree**

*Gellerman Orthodontics*





## Huntington Union Free School District

*"A Tradition of Excellence since 1657"*

James W. Polansky

Superintendent of Schools

March 8, 2019

Dear Friends,

Please accept my sincerest gratitude for your support of the Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education (HFEE) and the Huntington School District. As I am sure you are aware, the organization has worked tirelessly to secure funding for a broad range of innovative resources and programs that have benefited students in all Huntington schools. HFEE members clearly understand the importance of providing students with well-rounded educational experiences, both within and beyond the classroom.

Your attendance at this year's gala is appreciated by Huntington students, staff, parents and community members alike. Tonight, we are very proud to honor Finley Principal John Amato for his long-time commitment and contributions to the district and Dr. Inna Gellerman, who has given so much to our schools and programs through the years.

Thank you to those joining us this evening and additional thanks to the HFEE Board for, once again, outdoing itself with this beautiful event and for over 25 years of partnership with the Huntington School District!

Sincerely,

James W. Polansky  
Superintendent of Schools

# PROGRAM

**Alice Marie Rorke**

*President*

*Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education*

**Mr. James Polansky**

*Superintendent of Huntington Union Free School District*

**John Amato**

**District Honoree**

*Principal, J.T. Finley Middle School*

**Dr. Inna Gellerman**

**Community Honoree**

*Gellerman Orthodontics*

**Dr. William Spencer**

*Suffolk County Legislator*



**Kimberley Steinberg**

*Gala Chairperson*



Dear Friends of the Huntington District and Community,

It is my pleasure to welcome and thank all of you here tonight and to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our very special and deserving honorees Mr. John Amato and Dr. Inna Gellerman. I am proud and honored to be celebrating their contributions to our great district. The Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education is a 501 (c)(3) organization that began in 1993 raising funds for the purpose of awarding grants to teachers to further grow their programs and enrich the education of every child in the district.

Here we are 26 years and 1.2 million dollars later and our foundation has made remarkable strides in the introduction of many new programs that otherwise would never have been implemented by the district budget alone. With the increasing interest in STEM initiatives in education, combined with the excellence of our music program and the diversity of our district, we continually strive to grow and sustain these programs with a focus on the future of education.

Some of the many grants awarded this year reflect the changing climate of education specifically in the areas of classroom learning. From a large format printer for the Virtual Enterprise class at the High School, to the inquiry based learning approach called "Makerspace" for all school libraries, to "Move, Pedal, Achieve" ...focusing through movement with new desks for the 5th grade at Jack Abrams STEM school.

Please refer to the listing of our sponsors and generous benefactors for 2018-2019 in this journal and on our website [www.huntingtonfoundation.org](http://www.huntingtonfoundation.org) and remember to patronize their business to show your gratitude for their support of HFEE!

Many thanks to Mr. Jim Polansky, the Huntington School Board, the administration, teachers, aides and district employees as well. Your continued support is deeply treasured!

Finally, I am forever grateful to the amazing HFEE team including all executive, board and youth board members as well as volunteers. Your tireless commitment to our mission is admirable and so appreciated!

I wish you all an enjoyable evening with us, and thank you again for your support of the Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice Marie Rorke".

Alice Marie Rorke – President  
Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education

# MENU



## SALAD

Tri-color Lettuce with Port Wine Poached Pears,  
Toasted Pecans and Pear Glaze

## DUET ENTRÉE

Grilled Sterling Silver Filet Mignon with Caramelized Garlic Mashed Potatoes,  
Tied Haricots Verts and Baby Carrots in Port Wine Demi-Glace  
&  
Pan Seared Chilean Sea Bass with Steamed Jasmine Rice and Citrus Fondue

## DESSERT CAFE

by Daniel Andreotti

White Chocolate Mousse with Fresh Raspberries

Dark Chocolate Mousse with Fresh Strawberries, Croquembouche,  
Warm Apple Strudel Station

Assorted Fruit Sorbets and Gelato accompanied by Biscotti and Madeleine,  
Warm Caramel Sauce

Vanilla Ice Cream and Whipped Cream, Sweets and Treats Station,  
Pastry Chef's Selection of Cakes and Pies

Cheesecake Station (American, Cappuccino and Chocolate)

# STAR GRANTS 2018

## **Sensory Classroom, Flower Hill Primary School, Ms. Kopf, Ms. Escorbores**

*Alternate seating choices for Kindergarten classes to create sensory classrooms which help students stay focused, concentrate and be more attentive. These alternate seats allow students to wobble, rock, or gently bounce. The forty-eight seats encompass a sensory PVC cushion, stability ball chair with base and a NeoRok stool.*

## **Spheros, Washington and Flower Hill Primary School, Ms. Sementilli**

*The five Spheros Robots are utilized in computer time in both schools. Students draw, utilize coding blocks, and write text to program the robots. Coding aids in the development of problem solving, logic, and creativity. In addition, robots are great interdisciplinary tools that build student's collaboration and literacy skills.*

## **Talk Technology, Flower Hill Primary School, Ms. Soto**

*This technology, which enhances communication for non-English speaking families will be utilized at any parent meetings. The parents use an earpiece and a translator can discreetly translate during a presentation in real time. Up to fifteen parents can be reached at one time.*

## **Greenhouse Repair and Restoration, Huntington High School, Ms. Kenny**

*This grant supports the repair and restoration of the Greenhouse which is utilized by Science Research and AP Environmental Science students. The Greenhouse supports students in conducting accurate tests on plant based projects. The ability to control climate is essential in this research.*

## **Green Bin Project, Huntington High School, Ms. Cooper**

*An initiative to increase recycling of plastic/paper at HHS through the funding of 90 receptacles. The amount of items per school year that will be recycled is almost 300,000. This gives students the opportunity to be an active participant for sustainability in their school community.*

## **Large Format Printer for Virtual Enterprise Class, Huntington High School, Ms. Furman, Ms. Biagi**

*The printer is a necessary component of this class, a global business simulation, which offers students a competitive edge through project-based, collaborative learning and the development of 21st century skills in entrepreneurship, global business, problem solving, communication, finance and technology. The printer will be used to create promotional marketing material for the many competitions and challenges which culminates in an International Trade Show. The grant also funds initial necessary supplies for the printer.*

## **Curriculum Connections with Makerspace, District-Wide, Ms. McCoy, HUFSD Library Media Specialists**

*Makerspace is a program which brings to life the inquiry-based learning approach. The program also promotes and encourages self-directed, hands-on real world learning. It is a "think outside the box" approach. The program, housed in the school libraries, will be directed by the library media specialists. This grant supports many of the supplies necessary such as 3D pens, robotics, and Legos as well as bean bag chairs and cubby storage units.*



**Move, Pedal & Achieve – The Body Brain Connection, JA Stem Magnet School, Ms. Moro**

*This grant supports the simple fact, supported by research, that physical movement can benefit both health and academic performance in children. The thirty two pieces of equipment purchased include single pedal desks, standing desks with a foot swing and a tabletop standing desk. This supports all students, including special education students.*

## MINI GRANTS 2018

**Social–Emotional Learning, Nathaniel Woodhull Intermediate School, Ms. Allegretti**

*This grant improves social–emotional learning for students with socially based learning disabilities through various behavioral curriculum guides, which help students develop a better understanding of their own thinking and social behaviors. They also learn strategies to help with better self–regulation and ultimately success in school.*

**Life–Skills Self Contained Class, Nathaniel Woodhull Intermediate School, Ms. Williams**

*This supports these students who experience processing in sensory information such as textures, sounds, smells, brightness, etc. The items requested, fidget balls, wedge cushion, concentration rocker etc. all will be used during sensory breaks which help with transition.*

**Classroom Headphones, Flower Hill Primary School, Ms. Cuthbertson**

*This grant supports headphones for first grade students to be used with chrome books, thus aiding in more independent work without distraction.*

**First Lego League Jr., Jefferson Primary School, Ms. Marotta**

*This supports the registration, Lego WeDo set and event participation cost for several lego teams. Student's explore real–work scientific problems, construct a motorized model and learn about teamwork. The season culminates in an Expo which allows teams to showcase their work as well as meet other teams.*

**Expanding Expression, Jefferson Primary School, Ms. Milewski**

*This grant supports speech and language therapy for students with the goal of increasing oral and written language expression. The product also includes articulation storybooks and tools to build narratives.*

**9–10 ENL, Illustrated, Abridged Classics, Huntington High School, Ms. Araoz**

*Based on the fact that the largest achievement gaps are between non–proficient English language students and other student groups, this grant fulfills additional reading material for these ENL students. The goal is to not only increase the percentile on the NYSESLAT but to develop comprehensive academic language proficiency.*

**Helping our Brains and Bodies, Jack Abrams Stem Magnet School, Ms. Sherrard**

*This grant supports a filtered drinking water fountain, including a bottle filler, for all students. Hydration is not only essential for good health but also for alertness and readiness to learn. Use of the bottle filler will also reduce the use of plastic water bottles.*

# OUR DISTRICT HONOREE

## JOHN AMATO



J.T. Finley Middle School Principal John Amato is many things. Leader. Galvanizer. Advocate. Motivator. Organizer. Referee. Pillar. Ally. These are just a few of the titles we received when soliciting feedback to prepare this article honoring Principal Amato. When we sat down with Principal Amato to discuss his tenure at Finley and the legacy he hopes to leave, it was clear that these terms were all accurate but that the challenge wasn't in explaining all of the many amazing things he is, but rather to accurately describe the intangible, yet incredibly powerful, influence he has had on Finley. The underlying legacy of Principal Amato exists not solely in the titles or successes, all of which are impressive, but rather in the day-to-day impact he leaves on everyone who has passed through the halls of Finley since 2006.

Alice Marie Rorke, President of HFEE remarked "John was genuine to the core from the moment I first met him many years ago. He has a natural ability to make others feel comfortable and valued. John does that with everyone he meets, works with, mentors or befriends especially his students and staff. He is a natural leader and a true HFEE supporter for as long as he's been in district! HFEE is thrilled to honor John Amato! He is very deserving of this honor and I am looking forward to celebrating with him, his family, Finley and the whole Huntington Community!"

Superintendent Jim Polansky shared "Mr. Amato has always been a big fan of kids in general, and has been a great fit with middle school students. His authoritative but personable demeanor has worked well with Finley students and staff alike. He has been a champion not only of Finley, but of the entire Huntington district through the years. He is a true team player. John is the type of person who is definitely much more comfortable in a pair of flip-flops than dress shoes. He looks pretty good in the referee garb as well. No matter the day or the situation, his sense of humor is always intact – an attribute that I have always appreciated and one that I will surely miss, among many, in the years to come."

Principal Amato can't help but point to the successes and ideas of others when interviewed about his own impact. The reason for this is evident—in each and every project or idea brought forth by an educator, staff member, or student at Finley, there was an understanding that it would be met by an open mind from a committed galvanizer of innovation and ideas. While Principal Amato is first to give credit to others, the thread that becomes clear is how comfortable and close knit the Finley team is—a credit to Principal Amato's open and supportive approach to leadership. When the environment is inviting and collaborative, the best of the best comes out in our schools. We are proud to honor Principal Amato this year because his influence is far more than a series of acts and successes. It is the culmination of all the successes over a decade at Finley that will continue on for many years to come—Principal Amato's impact will be forever ingrained in the successes of the entire Finley community.

Finley PTA President Michele Sabatino reflected "I first met him in 2015 when my older daughter, Giulia, started at Finley. I noticed his care for the students right away and the helpfulness he had towards the parents. In all events that PTA plans, the students are always his number one priority. He is always there to lend a helping hand with events. He's been the referee at March Madness for several years, takes part in pep rallies and reindeer games, and plans to play in a basketball game against the Harlem Wizards in April (which Finley will be hosting). I am glad he is being honored and look forward to celebrating him at the Gala."

In the legendary words of Principal Amato "Make it a great day or not, the choice is yours."

# OUR COMMUNITY HONOREE

## DR. INNA GELLERMAN



Dr. Inna Gellerman is passionate that all things can always be done better. From her contributions to the orthodontic community to her contributions to the Huntington community, Dr. Gellerman's limitless drive and determination is entrenched in a long history of deeply intertwined professional pursuits and philanthropic activity.

With roots in the Soviet Union, Dr. Gellerman is inspired by a family lineage of engineers who approached problems committed to finding the best solutions. As an orthodontist, Dr. Gellerman was one of the first on Long Island to bring AcceleDent, Propel and SureSmile systems to her practice. Utilizing cutting-edge advanced orthodontic technology, Dr. Gellerman's visionary approach to orthodontics enables Gellerman

Orthodontics to serve much of our children's needs while reducing the time required to complete procedures and care.

HFEE President Alice Marie Rorke shared "Inna and I met about 12 years ago while working together through the Junior Welfare League of Huntington. I was immediately drawn to her warm nature, her concern for the underserved, her drive for excellence and her kind and generous heart. I am continually impressed with her level of dedication and focus to whatever project on which she is working. She gives the Huntington Community everything she can, sharing her time, talent and resources for the betterment of the community. I am proud to call her my friend!"

Dr. Gellerman's interest and commitment to the advancement and utilization of technology extends far past her own practice. In fact, Dr. Gellerman's contributions to the Huntington Robotics team during its founding helped ensure we could provide Huntington's newest engineers with what they needed to form and launch a successful team. Supporting innovative educational programs such as these is a major tenet of Dr. Gellerman's philosophy of empowering our youth to become tomorrow's technology adopters and problem solvers.

Funding the Robotics team is just one part of Dr. Gellerman's ongoing contributions as she has helped sustain HFEE for many years. Serving as one of HFEE's largest benefactors, Dr. Gellerman has enabled us to fund many of the grants our children enjoy today and will continue to benefit from for years to come. Brian Reynolds, robotics/technology teacher states "Dr. Gellerman has been a pivotal piece of the Huntington robotics success. Without her strong community presence, her extreme competency in her business practices and her financial support, we wouldn't have become the respected team that we are, so quickly. Her endorsement allowed Huntington robotics to get access to supplies and learning opportunities that never would have been possible. Her leadership and commitment to these kids fueled our success. She took a chance on us before anyone else did."

When you ask Dr. Gellerman what motivates her to stay so committed to the Huntington community, she sparkles. The love Dr. Gellerman has for Huntington is evident, whether she is describing her love of the Art Museum at Hecksher Park or the extended community that passes through her doors daily for treatment. The ability to offer dental externships to Huntington students, to provide mouthguard programs to our athletes, and to support both the emotional and physical well-being of her young patients are just a few of the ways Dr. Gellerman has become such a fixture on the Huntington horizon. Among her many philanthropic roles, Dr. Gellerman is also well-known for her involvement on the Pink Aid Advisory Council and Board of the Junior Welfare League of Huntington.

We are so thankful for her incredible support of our schools and honor her contributions today and for years to come.

# #THISISHUFSD



**Miss Murray** @ValerieeeeMurray · Jan 25

It's safe to say my students are OBSESSED with our Makerspace 🥰! It is so amazing to see the students trying something new and discovering new ideas and sharing them with one another 🧑🏻‍🔧🧑🏻‍🔧! #makerspace #circuits #robots #futureengineers #futurearchitects #ThisisHUFSD @ScottOshrin



**Ms. VCS**  
@MsValerieCS2

Follow

I enjoy observing our first graders "creating" and "building" in our new Maker Space this year. #thisishufsd @HUFSD #makerspace #creating #building



**Jim Polansky** @jim\_polansky · 28 Sep 2018

Learning by doing in Huntington! Pleasure to see it in action - from the Flower Hill makerspace to the Physics classroom at Huntington High School. Thank you to Ms. Caras, Ms. Saggese and students!! @B\_Cusack @HUFSD #HuntingtonSchools @hufsdHFEE



**hufsd\_hfee**  
Huntington High School (New York)

hufsd\_hfee Tonight we vote on which mini grants to fund this year! But did you know our mini grants have supported Huntington Union Free School District needs for over a decade? Throwback to 2007-2008 school year when one of our mini grants supported the purchase of anatomical models for the AP Art Class! Now that's something to dance about (speaking of, did you know we'll be dancing the night away on March 15th at the annual Reach for the Stars Gala? See you there!) @hufsd\_ny #education #arts #philanthropy #gala





# #HFEEINACTION



**Jim Polansky** @jim\_polansky · Jan 24  
Congrats to Huntington's first year Virtual Enterprises class/team Poppy Inc. - Long Island finalist! Show them what a business model really looks like! Great job team and Mrs. Furman! @PoppyNY1 @VEInternational #HuntingtonSchools #BlueDevilPride #ThisIsHUFSD





**Susan Graber** @suesical · 6 Nov 2018  
Mr. Battista and Mr. Gelfer representing @hufsd presenting about uke club. Lots of praise for @hufsdHFEE for supporting this project!



## JOIN US:

 /HFEEHuntington/

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## #HFEEGALA2019



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hufsd\_hfee Did you know studies have shown a greater ability to stay focused and achieve when non-interruptive movement is available? Start-up spaces may have started the movement but our STEM school is following suit with this innovative approach to learning—thanks to our Move Pedal Achieve Star Grant! If you have a 5th grader at STEM, ask them about the new desks! #innovatetoeducate #MeetHFEE #GetToKnowStarGrants #doyouknowwhatourstargrantsdo



Liked by alicemarielorke and 28 others

# OUR GRATITUDE

## *...to the following Donors*

Patricia Adams	Stacey Effman	Janine Luca	Caitlyn Palermo
Maria & Frank Algieri	Emersen Evans	Marilyn & Jimmy Maggio	Darin Reed
John Amato	Paige Furman	Meagan Malone	Brian Reynolds
Christine Ambers	Dr. Inna Gellerman and Staff	Toniann Mangan	Alyson Richman
Arthur Beckmann	Celia Gordon	Candido Martinez	Dr. Richard Rongo
Joann Bellistri	Francesca Greco	Michele & Bob McKean	Trish Rongo
Jason Boccard	Jackie Higgins	Susannah Meinersman	Jerry & Alice Marie Rorke
Wendy Bonilla	Huntington School District	Laura Mills	Bette & Paul Schneiderman
Corey Burke	PTA's	Noah Morris	Amy Schnitzer
Laura Cheshire	Jackie Joseph	David Mosden	Bernice Simpson
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Noelle Detroia	Jeannine Libutti	Dr. Nguyen	Joe Tizzio
Jeff DiDomenico	Emely Lopez	Kelly Paci	Cynthia Vitulli

*With a special thanks to Mr. Gelfer, Mr. Battista and the J.T. Finley Ukulele Club*

## **HFEF Star Donations**

The McGrath Family, Nader Azizi, JoAnn Bellistri, Carrie Semelsberger, Joe Cannillo, Algieri Family, Dr. John E. Coraor

## *...to the following Businesses/Services*

Absolute Yoga	Finnegan's Restaurant	MaBella Restaurant	R & S Meats
Ageless Bella Medi Spa	Fiorello Dolce	Main Street Nursery	Rockabilly Barbers
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Atlantic Lexus of 110	Funky Om Yoga and Wellness	Milena Massage Skincare	Sapsuckers Restaurant
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Bia's Waxing	Huntington Booster Club	NY Auto Giant	60 Sixty Hotels
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Bon Bons Chocolatier	Huntington Crescent Club	Osprey Vineyards	String It Up
Cassis Restaurant	Huntington Indoor Tennis	Osteria da Nino Restaurant	The Beauty Window
Country Village Chemists	HVLAX	Palm Beach Design	The Paramount
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Dr.'s REMEDY	Kerber's Farm	Pixi by Petra Cosmetics	Volunteers for Wildlife
Eatalia Restaurant	Kids Hitz	Anthony M. Polinimeni, DMD.	William Alfred Walker, DMD.
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John Amato

Dr. Inna Gellerman

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pHountain

# CLAIRE FRIEDLANDER FAMILY FOUNDATION

## GRANT SUPPORT HAS IMPLEMENTED STEM INITIATIVES FOR ALL STUDENTS

HFEE has been fortunate enough to receive the support of the Claire Friedlander Family Foundation in the form of grants for the past 4 years, significantly impacting the school district and the high school specifically in several ways. This support has been instrumental in the addition of a new Robotics course, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, a Project Lead the Way class, at Huntington High School. As a direct result of this grant, the district was able to purchase a CNC Milling Machine to run the course, and the class added to the curriculum, beginning in the 2017–18 school year. It has brought new STEM opportunities to a wide array of students from all walks of life. It helps students discover and explore manufacturing processes, product design, robotics, and automation and apply what they have learned to design solutions for real-world manufacturing problems.



**Miss Murray** @ValerieeeeMur... · 1/31/19  
Students final science project for the topic of Dynamic Earth is creating structures in the Makerspace to protect landforms 🌋 from Wind 🌪️ and Water Erosion! They did such an amazing job working together in their STEM Groups! #ThisIsHUFSD @ScottOshrin @MsJJohanson

The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation has also assisted with the implementation of our Makerspaces throughout the district. These areas have been created in all schools and facilitate not only learning, but challenge a student's way of thinking. Makerspaces incorporate a format designed to include a topic or challenge for the students to cooperatively investigate as a team, in contrast to a standard classroom environment. Although there is guidance, Makerspaces are primarily self-directed activities which build upon student communication, critical thinking, problem solving and communication skills through hands-on exploration.

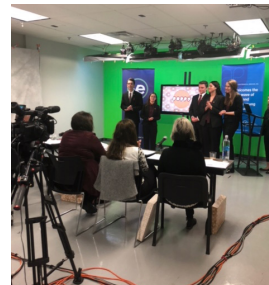
The Board of Directors of HFEE, along with the Huntington Union Free School District and its students extend a heartfelt thanks to the board of The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation for their generous support.



# HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL'S INAUGURAL VIRTUAL ENTERPRISE CLASSES HAVE HIT THE GROUND RUNNING!

The two companies, ABODE led by Suzie Biagi and Poppy, Inc., led by Paige Furman, have spent the year creating and running their own virtual businesses. They run their own financials, create their own marketing campaigns, and make trades with other virtual enterprise firms throughout the world. With the help and support of Huntington staff and administration, as well as a generous grant from HFEE for a large-format printer, the students were able to compete in trade shows and impress judges at regional business competitions. The printer was used to create banners, logos, "Employee of the Month" posters, and other signage to increase brand awareness.

Poppy, Inc. is excited and proud to announce that they have advanced to the National Business Plan Competition round among only four other teams from the area. They have certainly made their mark in the Virtual Enterprise world and look forward to representing Huntington again in April at Nationals!



# MEET THE HFEE YOUTH BOARD

The 2018–2019 Youth Board of the Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education is made up of eight volunteer High School Seniors. They support the organization's mission and efforts by engaging in meetings and projects, developing new skills and expertise along the way.

Additionally, the intern on the HFEE Youth Board works with all board members, receiving weekly guidance to support their participation. Each intern receives one credit for their work across the year in concert with the HHS College Office in the Guidance Department.

Candido Martinez is the HFEE Intern working with Alice Marie Rorke, the Foundation President. Candido has attended grant writing and fundraising seminars, learned first-hand about HFEE's grant process, shared information at monthly meetings with peers and board members, wrote solicitation letters for the annual gala and developed skills in charitable education foundation leadership. Candido states "I am glad that I got to be a part of HFEE my final year at Huntington. They're made up of parents and alumni from Huntington who truly care about providing students with tools to enhance their learning environment. I've learned numerous skills through my internship with HFEE ranging from grant seeking to accounting skills. It has been a joy to be part of this amazing group of individuals".



Caitlyn Palermo is a member of the Youth Board and the Video Producer for the 26th Gala. She graciously accepted the important assignment of filming, producing and editing the video that is shown tonight which represents true Huntington community leaders who have inspired and served our students. Caitlyn states "Through creating this film I have learned that children are the passion and focus of the two amazing honorees; they both want to do everything in their power to have a positive impact. It was an honor to meet and film Dr. Gellerman, who I had never known but had heard of from friends and Mr. Amato, who I learned a great deal about from this experience. I also learned that HFEE raises and awards the funding for important educational experiences that provided materials for my classes as well as future HHS students".

Our additional Youth Board Members are Andrew Knowles, Emely Lopez, David Mosden, Francesca Greco, Noah Morris and Meagan Malone. They have worked individually and collectively to generate ideas to increase awareness about HFEE and the range of ways it impacts students' educational experiences in Huntington. In particular, they have increased HFEE's presence on social media by using Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat and painted the rock to promote HFEE awareness on the HS campus. This year, our YB members actively distributed flyers and spoke about our mission at the many events in our schools this past Fall and Winter; engaging families to increase knowledge and participation! Members also observed the process the board engages in when reviewing and determining HFEE mini grant awards. The team also attends tonight's gala, selling raffles, signing in guests, and helping manage the numerous tasks involved in making this a successful night. They have greatly contributed to the gala's success, developing their skills through their assigned roles. They participate in the monthly HFEE Board meetings and additionally learn the process of being team members of a charitable education foundation.

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# 26 YEARS OF GRANTS FUNDED



## **By the Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education**

New Sound Systems, J. Taylor Finley Junior High School and Huntington High School

3D Stereo Scopes for Science Research, Huntington High School

Outdoor Classroom, Jefferson Primary School

Alpha Better Desks, Washington Primary School

Digital Fabrication (Robotics and Engineering), Huntington High School

Talk Technologies, Nathaniel Woodhull Intermediate School and Huntington High School

NewsELA Pro, English Department, Huntington High School

Remote Telepresence Robot, Huntington High School

Funding of the Robotics Program, J. Taylor Finley Junior High School

Laser Cutters, 3D Printer, Hydroponics Lab, J. Taylor Finley Middle School

Freshwater Pond (for study of abiotic & biotic factors of an ecosystem), Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School

Marching Band Percussion Instruments and Instrument Trailer, Huntington High School

Creation of the Heritage Museum, Huntington High School

Hydration Filtered Water Filling Stations, J. Taylor Finley Junior High School and Huntington High School

Dozens of Smart Boards and related devices including movable Technology Stations,

Nathaniel Woodhull Intermediate School and J. Taylor Finley Junior High School

Renovation of the Weight Room, Huntington High School

Boats, Radios and Trailer for the Crew Team, Huntington High School

Cell Culture Lab for the Biology and Science Research Program, Huntington High School

iMac for the Photo Lab, Huntington High School

Kitchen for the Life Skills Class (special education), J. Taylor Finley Junior High School

Leadership Club, Washington and Jefferson Primary Schools

Makerspace, Inquiry based Learning, All Schools

Move Pedal Achieve Desks, focusing through movement, Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School

Large Format Printer, Virtual Enterprise Class, Huntington High School

*and much more thanks to your generosity!*