

Lafourche Education Foundation, Inc.
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Seeds 4 Success

Sowing the Seeds of Success in Lafourche Parish Public Schools

Spring/Summer 2008

OUR SUPPORTERS

The success of the Lafourche Education Foundation, Inc. is rooted in the commitment of our Board of Directors and the support of our generous donors. Join our effort to enrich public education in Lafourche Parish and strengthen our community for decades to come.

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*Thank you for your support
of the Lafourche Education
Foundation, Inc.!*

*For more information on
the foundation's
programs or donating,
contact Dr. Judy Theriot
at
info@seeds4success.org
or
judy.theriot@nicholls.edu*

*Call her at
(985) 448-4315 or
(985) 446-8036.*

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Community Support is Key to "World Class" Education

Louisiana Superintendent of Education Keynotes Annual LEF Gala

Over 200 supporters of the Lafourche Education Foundation, Inc. and local public education celebrated the organization's fifth annual Gala on May 8 in the Cotillion Ballroom of the Donald G. Bollinger Student Union on the Nicholls campus. The celebration featured a cocktail reception, silent auction and dinner which raised over \$100,000 for LEF programs that benefit local schools and teachers.

Paul Pastorek, Louisiana's

State Superintendent of Education, told supporters of public education in Lafourche Parish that the parish is one of ten in the state with a non-profit foundation that raises money to make improvements to schools. "This is a sign that the parish is committed to finding solutions to problems as evidenced by the strong community involvement and support of public education."



J.P. Morgan Chase representative Marguerite Knight (center) presents a donation of \$10,000 to LEF President Charlotte Bollinger (left) and LEF Executive Director Judy Theriot. The Chase gift will be used to fund Paul Ruth Teacher Grants and School-Wide Grants.

Pastorek shared his desire to make the state's public education system "world class."

Each year, a graduate of a Lafourche Parish Public School who has distinguished himself/herself in the community is selected as the community speaker.

The 2008 community speaker was **Dr. Michael Marcello**, a graduate of Lockport High School and a prominent Raceland physician who shared some of his experiences

as a public school student. He spoke about some of his heroes, former teachers who had a positive impact on his life. Dr. Marcello commended the public and businesses who support LEF and who depended on public schools to prepare students for the workforce.

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Foundation Awards Over \$20,000 in Teacher and School-Wide Grants

The Lafourche Education Foundation, through its Grant Program, recognizes and supports Lafourche Parish Public Schools and educators who implement innovative and creative projects that increase student academic achievement. Awarded through a competitive proposal process and blind reviewed, the grant projects represent a variety of subject areas and reach students at all levels.

Ten teachers were selected to receive a Paul Ruth Teacher Grant of \$700 each and three schools were selected to receive a School-Wide Grant valued at \$5,000 each for the 2008-2009 school term. A complete list of grant recipients is included in this newsletter.

PAUL RUTH TEACHER GRANT RECIPIENTS 2008-2009

<u>ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>BRIEF SYNOPSIS</u>
Lockport Lower Elementary	Mechel Taylor	Let's Discover	\$694.54	Development of a classroom discovery center which will introduce preschool children to science.
South Thibodaux Elementary	Jenny Bonvillain	Leveled Learning Stations	\$620.00	Construction of literacy stations to strengthen students' fluency rates and self confidence in reading.
St. Charles Elementary	Bonnie Martiny	Read to Me Please!	\$698.00	Increasing the selection of books available for check out appropriate for students in K-1st grade.
Golden Meadow Upper Elem.	Greta Terrebonne	Making Learning Fun	\$695.56	Development of games based on curriculum skills which will allow families to work together to help children learn.
Larose Upper Elementary	Rebecca Comeaux	Engaged in the History of the Americas	\$700.00	Purchasing trade books which will provide opportunities for students to increase their knowledge of historical events of the Americas.
Larose Upper Elementary	Melissa Eymard	Live Cycles – Alive and Up Close	\$700.00	Providing hands-on manipulatives and science instruments to help students understand metamorphosis and photosynthesis.
<u>HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>BRIEF SYNOPSIS</u>
Central Lafourche High	Stephanie O'Rourke	"What Would Your Doctor See?"	\$691.50	Providing hands-on exploration of areas related to maintaining good health; the structure and systems of the human body.
Central Lafourche High	Jessica LeBlanc	"What You Don't See"	\$669.90	Providing the opportunity to view microscopic organisms through preserved, prepared slides to increase comprehension of life sciences GLE's.
Thibodaux High	Sue C. Aysenne	Dependable Data	\$593.00	Providing electronic equipment to measure motion, force, sound and voltage in physics lab.
Thibodaux High	Wade Rodrigue	A Bagful of Fables	\$616.00	Providing simple sets, costuming and materials needed for the Drama Department to prepare performances of "A Bagful of Fables" for area elementary students.

Total funded: \$6,678.50

Paul Ruth taught in the Lafourche Parish School system for 10 years at Golden Meadow Upper and Larose Elementary. He also taught in St. Bernard and St. Charles parishes. A native of North Louisiana, Mr. Ruth worked for years at the Saenger Theatre in New Orleans. Upon his death, Mr. Ruth left a generous bequest to education in Lafourche Parish. The LEF, as the recipient of this bequest, has decided to name the LEF Teacher Grants, The Paul Ruth Teacher Grant Awards.

Foundation Co-Sponsors Professional Development Programs for Educators

The Lafourche Education Foundation co-sponsored Larry Bell, Educational Consultant, Motivational Speaker and Author for the Professional Development Day for Lafourche teachers and administrators in January. His presentation, "The Power of a Teacher," focused on creating a classroom culture of high expectations. Mr. Bell, a 25 year veteran in education, taught at Garfield High School, a school with over 3,000 students, and was recognized for his classroom strategies that allowed his so-called "Tough Kids" as

well as the "Gifted and Talented" to excel. He shared some of those strategies with his audience.

LEF is co-sponsoring the 2008 Lafourche Parish Administrators' Summer Institute entitled "Who I Am Does Make a Difference." Topics to be discussed include Disproportionality, School Safety Relationships, Planning for Effective Technological Implementation and Integration, Diversity and Family Engagement. Presenters are Ian Jukes, Sue Nelle DeHart, Bill Bond and Dr. James Patton.

SCHOOL-WIDE GRANTS FUNDED 2008-09

TOTAL FUNDED: \$ 14,655.92

SCHOOL	APPLICANT	TITLE	REQUEST	BRIEF SYNOPSIS
Larose Upper Elementary	Diane P. Terrebonne	Books, Books, Books	\$ 5,000.00	Birthday books, One Book Read books, LA State Library nominated books will be purchased and activities implemented to involve families so as to encourage students to become lifelong skilled readers and discover the joy of reading.
Central Lafourche High School	Julie Carriere	Building Relationships	\$ 5,000.00	Implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports as a means of building a community of students, parents and teachers who hold each other in high regard. Monies will provide incentives for students, school employees, parents, and community members who have demonstrated achievements both within the academic and community realm.
Thibodaux High School	Anne Granier	AR Read for Success Contest	\$4,655.92	An expansion of the Accelerated Reader program to include all students in an effort to engage them in on-going reading activity outside of the English classroom. Implementation of a school-wide AR Reading Contest.



From the President...
Charlotte Bollinger

Good to Great

Summer vacation. Just saying the words conjures up carefree thoughts of how we spent our time off as children. Playing marbles, tag, hide and seek, and follow-the-leader on our bikes all around Lockport were at the top of my summer to-do list. We did not participate in organized sports when I grew up. My summer job was to deliver all of my mom's checks to the various stores around town. She paid me the saved postage and I usually earned about fifty cents. That wasn't bad considering I could get a nickel nectar drink or a five-cent ice cream cone from Goaux' Drug Store any time I wanted one. Keeping the family shoes shined was another of my jobs. (Do people anywhere still shine shoes?)

We never gave much thought as to how our teachers spent their summer vacations. I still remember how excited I would get to see one of my teachers just doing ordinary things. "Look—there is Mrs. Rupe (my third grade teacher)! Isn't she pretty?" I would say to my mom. Many teachers made such a difference in my own life. I am sure you can think of quite a few who opened up a whole new world to you.

Watching this community rise to the occasion in support of public schools and teachers is such a joy. This year's Gala has been our best yet in terms of financial success. Our two stellar speakers were Superintendent of Schools Paul Pastorek and Dr. Mike Marcello. Both spoke from their hearts. Both presented great challenges to us as a community concerning our schools. Be assured that the monies raised will be used for the many good programs that are the keystone of our LEF.

Our grant program for teachers and schools is in full swing. No one who did a proper grant application this year was denied. We co-sponsored, with the Lafourche Parish School Board, a Professional Development Day for the teachers and administrators. The teachers we interviewed thought that the presentation was terrific and inspiring.

Treat yourself to a delicious and entertaining Sunday brunch on August 17th as we celebrate the outstanding teachers from each of our parish schools. This year the Teacher of the Year brunch will be held at the Larose Civic Center. Put on your most colorful clothes and be part of our Fiesta! theme. You will have a marvelous time and help honor the best teachers in our parish.

Good to Great. That's our goal as we work to have the best public schools in Louisiana. With your help, we can do our part in making that happen.

LEF Gala

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Due to the change in deadlines for Louisiana's Teacher of the Year Program, LEF announced the top three teachers for Lafourche Parish at the Gala.

Claudette LeBlanc of Larose Lower Elementary, **Franky LeBlanc** of West Thibodaux Middle and **Susan Mayet** of South Lafourche High School were named winners in their respective divisions. All of the Lafourche Parish Teachers of the Year will be recognized at LEF's Teacher of the Year Brunch, which will be held at the Larose Civic Center on Sunday, August 17th.

Congratulations to the 2008 Lafourche Parish Teacher-of-the-Year Winners!

- Cassidy Dryden – Bayou Blue Elementary
- Myrtle Wright – Bayou Boeuf Elementary
- Stephanie Molaison – Chackbay Elementary
- Elizabeth Comeaux – Cut Off Elementary
- Shantelle Toups – Galliano Elementary
- Erin Pitre – Golden Meadow Lower Elementary
- Regina Blanchard – Golden Meadow Upper Elementary
- Rebecca Templeton – W.S. Lafargue Elementary
- Claudette LeBlanc – Larose Lower Elementary
- Jerrilyn Hebert – Larose Upper Elementary
- Susan Gremillion – Lockport Lower Elementary
- Dustie Folse – Lockport Upper Elementary
- Chrissy Chaisson – Raceland Lower Elementary
- Bobbie Babin – Raceland Upper Elementary
- Catherine Bryan – St. Charles Elementary
- Silvia Pouwels – South Thibodaux Elementary
- Terry Degruise – Thibodaux Elementary
- Amanda Clement – East Thibodaux Middle
- Bridgette Broussard – Golden Meadow Middle
- Louise Dykes – Larose Cut-Off Middle
- Elisabeth Gaiennie – Lockport Middle
- Shawn Whitt – Raceland Middle
- Judie Ratcliff – Sixth Ward Middle
- Franky LeBlanc – West Thibodaux Middle
- Jody Dufrene – Central Lafourche High
- Susan Mayet – South Lafourche High
- Leslie LaRose – Thibodaux High

A Word From One of Our Sponsors



Don Hingle, President of Whitney Bank for the South Central Region and an Honorary Member of the LEF Board of Directors has this to say about his involvement and support of the Foundation.

• *How and why did you get involved with the Lafourche Education Foundation?*

We have been actively supporting the Terrebonne Foundation for a number of years and when I heard Lafourche was getting its own foundation started, I wanted to help. I contacted Charlotte and the rest is history.

• *Why do you think your company or business' partnering with LEF is important?*

Whitney Bank's footprint is deep in Lafourche. Education is the backbone of our society and students are our future. It is, in my opinion, a moral obligation for both companies and individuals to do all they can to support education. LEF is a great avenue to help support education in Lafourche.

• *What do you see happening through LEF that is making a difference in public education in Lafourche Parish?*

Honoring teachers and giving grants does so much to lift the entire school system. Not only do the direct honorees and benefactors benefit, but the entire system as well. A rising tide lifts all ships. LEF is lifting the entire school system and as a result, our society.

Twenty-Five Lafourche Parish Teachers Achieve Perfect Attendance

To the 25 teachers who achieved perfect attendance in the classroom this year, the Lafourche Education Foundation and the Community say THANK YOU! Your choice of being at work every day makes a difference in the lives of children.

In appreciation for their perfect attendance, each teacher was presented with a gift card made possible by the Wal-Mart Foundation, Galliano and the Lafourche Education Foundation.

Congratulations to:

Maleena Bailey, Christine Barrios, Kim M. Bernard-Suggs, Holly Bouzigard, Brian Callais, Sandy A. Callais, Kaffie Cunningham, Mary Beth David, Margaret M. Doucet, Barbara H. Foret, Karen K. Foret, Charlotte D. Gaubert, Mona Hatcher, Renee Himel, Ramona Hymel, Debra Knight, Joseph Laird, Bobbi D. LeBlanc, Michael Lefort, Samuel C. Merrifield, Shannah Ordoyne, Judy E. Roberson, Stephen Toups, Lana Vegas and Wendy L. White.

FOUNDATION OFFICE ESTABLISHED AT NSU

Dr. Stephen Hulbert, President and Dr. Deborah Bordelon, Dean of the College of Education have agreed to house the Lafourche Education Foundation in the College of Education on the Nicholls State University campus. As of July 11, the LEF office is now located in Room 138 of Polk Hall.

This location on the Nicholls campus will provide visibility to the Foundation and increase education majors' awareness of a resource available to them once they are in the classroom. They will also become aware of service opportunities available with community groups.

As a result of this move, the new phone number for the Foundation will be: 985-448-4315 and the email address will be: judy.theriot@nicholls.edu

Outstanding Educators to be Honored at 2008 Teacher-of-the-Year Brunch

Tickets Now Available for August 17th Event

The Lafourche Education Foundation (LEF) will salute the 26 winners of the 2008 Teacher-of-the-Year awards at the fifth annual LEF Teacher-of-the-Year Brunch scheduled for Sunday, August 17 at 11:00 a.m. in the Larose Civic Center. New Orleans native and comedian Jodi Borrello will provide the entertainment for the Mexican-themed brunch. Whitney Bank is the proud sponsor of the event and the Daily Comet is the media sponsor.

The teachers who will be saluted represent elementary, middle and high schools in Lafourche Parish. One new addition to the celebration is that 2008 marks the first year that every winner will receive a cash prize. The prizes are made available through an endowment established by Dr. James and Joyce Leonard. Mrs. Leonard is a retired teacher and wanted to establish an award to recognize outstanding teachers. In addition to the cash award, each teacher will receive a gift of appreciation.

Tickets to the August 17th brunch are \$25 each or \$150 for a table of four and are available by calling 985-448-4315 or 446-8036, or emailing info@seeds4success.org.