

**A Brief History
of the
LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

(Updated August 2010)

July 1994 - June 1995

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees authorized the formation of the Lexington County School District One Educational Foundation on November 15, 1994. In January 1995, Mr. Richard Hook presented to the Board of Trustees a \$1,000 gift to be used as seed money to start the Educational Foundation.

The need and purpose of the Educational Foundation was conceived as a part of the district's first strategic plan completed in May 1994. The strategic plan envisioned the Educational Foundation as a 501©(3) organization governed by community members appointed by the Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees. With leadership from these community members, the Educational Foundation was expected to serve as a source of funds to support district initiatives, programs, and special activities that normally would not be funded with district funds.

July 1995 - June 1996

The first meeting of the newly formed Educational Foundation was held on September 17, 1995. James A. Compton, Michael S. Wingard, Michael V. Shealy, Dr. Lon Hamby, and Richard Hook were appointed as the founding members of the Board of Directors. Michael Shealy served as the first Educational Foundation board chairman. This Educational Foundation Board of Directors was constituted according to the first constitution and bylaws of the Educational Foundation which required that the Board of Directors be composed of at least three members who were actively serving on the Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees and the remaining at-large members appointed from the community. Dr. J. Chester Floyd, Lexington County School District One superintendent, and Dr. Karl E. Fulmer, Lexington County School District One assistant superintendent for Fiscal Services served as the district's agents and contacts to meet and work with the Educational Foundation. The Educational Foundation Board of Directors met quarterly throughout the school year and scheduled special meetings as deemed necessary.

July 1996 - June 1997

Other projects the Foundation participated in included: the marketing of three educational videos: 1) *New Horizons: Your First Year As Parents* (1996); 2) *New Horizons: Your Second Year As Parents* (1998); and 3) *New Horizons: Your Third Year As Parents* (1999), which were produced by the Lexington County School District One Office of Instruction.

July 1997- June 1998

In April 1997, the Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees approved the transfer of the district's share of proceeds from the Julia Hendrix estate to the Educational Foundation. These funds, granted to the district as unrestricted, have been used by the Foundation to provide teacher grants each year and to serve as a corpus for the Foundation's investment portfolio. The Lexington High School Picasso Project was developed to create an innovative instructional approach that would encourage students to understand and apply the interrelatedness and interdependence of all knowledge to learning and life.

July 2001 - June 2002

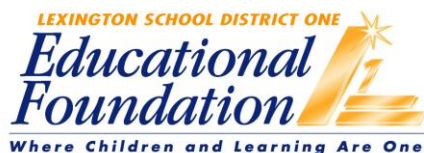
Following September 11, 2001, the Foundation served as the agent for the fundraising efforts of White Knoll Middle School raising over \$500,000 for a fire truck for New York City.

An alumni directory of Lexington One graduates was created through a contract with Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company. This was available in a book form or on CD Rom.

July 2003 - June 2004

Membership on the Educational Foundation Board of Directors changed as some Lexington School District One Board of Trustees members' terms expired, and as service terms of at-large members of the Educational Foundation Board of Directors expired. The Foundation bylaws were amended and the Board of Directors was expanded to 10 members in February 2003. Connie McFarland was appointed to serve as the Foundation's first executive director in March 2003.

In July 2003, a distinctive logo was designed and is now prominently displayed on all Foundation publications.



In October 2003, the bylaws were amended again and the Educational Foundation Board of Directors was expanded to 21 members.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing North America, Inc., and Michelin NA, Inc, joined to donate \$20,000 to the Foundation, providing funds for the establishment of the Lexington One Virtual School in June 2004.

In 2004, and each year thereafter, the Foundation and the Lexington Chamber of Commerce has co-sponsored the Celebration of Excellence in Education banquet to recognize the top 10% of the senior classes at each of the four district high schools. The 2004 Celebration was held at Lexington High School and raised \$11,000.00.

July 2004 – June 2005

In August 2004, the bylaws were revised to allow the current Teacher of the Year to sit as a member of the Board of Directors. Also, in August 2004, a Strategic Plan was approved which identified strategies, goals, and action plans, and will serve as the Foundation's "Blue Print" for the next five years. Committees were established and continued to meet providing direction to the Foundation. A budget was established for the first time in May 2005. May 2005 marked a major change for the Foundation.

The 2005 Celebration of Excellence in Education was held at the Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church Atrium and Auditorium and raised \$19,125.00. During this Celebration, the Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year Award was established and announced to recognize Mr. Bedenbaugh for his lifelong contributions to District One. The award began to be presented annually in 2006.

The Educational Foundation agreed to sponsor the writing and publication of a history of the Lexington Schools and contracted with Donning Company Publishers to publish the book.

The book is a history of how the schools impacted the growth of Lexington County and the town of Lexington. The book contains history back to 1600s and historical photographs from Lexington County back to 1910, as well as photographs of old school buildings and students dating back to the 1900s.

In partnership with Michelin NA, Lexington Site, the Foundation sponsored the Michelin Golden Apple Teacher Grants program. The objective of this program is to provide Lexington County School District One teachers an opportunity to enhance the educational experience for students by supplying financial aid for activities that would otherwise be unavailable. The intent is not to supplement normal school supplies, but to allow for more creative learning opportunities not normally supported by the school supply budget. Activities should be those that have the most impact on students and will enhance the educational experience, i.e. Field trips; Science kits; supplementary books to enhance textbooks; class instructional materials; rewards to students for special recognition; but does not provide supplies. Michelin donates \$2,500 per semester for a total of \$5,000 per year. The grants are awarded twice a year, in the spring and fall, and individual teachers may receive up to \$250.00.

An Employee Campaign, Lexington Employee Assistance Plan (LEAP), was formed in the spring of 2004. The program was designed by employees through an advisory group and was made up of representatives from each school site, the five District Office Departments, and Transportation and Maintenance. LEAP had its' own distinctive logo designed by that employee group.



The LEAP committee established three smaller committees to assist in Lexington One. They were: 1. Employee Crisis Fund - which offers financial and/or in kind services to employees during a catastrophic illness or catastrophe; 2. We Care Fund - which enhances the learning experience of students in need of medical, dental, or optometric needs that prevent the student from learning; 3. Facility Based Fund - which provides school and other district facilities with funds to enhance the working environment or to address the health, safety, and welfare of students and staff. During this the first year of the LEAP program, donations totaling \$65,439.63 were made and the program served 44 families.

A private donation by a board member and family, Richard and Kristin Hook, along with a donation by business partner, BB&T Wealth Management, provided the means to create a professionally designed promotional brochure to help market the Foundation. An electronic newsletter now provides an update of ongoing Foundation activities for all Lexington One employees, the Board of Trustees, and the Foundation Board of Directors, and can be accessed on the Educational Foundation's Web site:

<http://www.lexington1.net/EducationalFoundation/default.aspx?page=news.aspx>.

July 2005 – June 2006

In May of 2006 the board honored Michael Wingard's service as a founding member of the Foundation Board by naming him a Board Member Emeritus. He left the Board with one year remaining on his term so that he could serve as a missionary for his church. The Board was expanded from 21 to 23 members in May 2006.

In February, the Foundation continued to co-sponsor A Celebration of Excellence in Education banquet with the Lexington Chamber of Commerce. The 2006 Celebration, held once again at the Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church Atrium and Auditorium, saw the institution of a new award presented to each of the high school seniors being honored. The award, designed to provide a tangible means of recognizing a student's top 10% academic standing, was membership into the Old English Society, which included a distinctive lapel pin with their high school's logo and Old English Society displayed. The Foundation raised \$21,000 for this year's event.

The Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year Award was presented for the first time in 2006 with the initial recipient being Dr. Karl E. Fulmer, assistant superintendent of Fiscal Services at Lexington County School District One. His name was the first to be inscribed on a composite plaque to be displayed at the District Office.

The LEAP program completed its' second year with a campaign that raised \$68,591.94 in donations, and provided much needed assistance to 90 deserving employees and students in the district schools.

During this year, the new promotional brochure to market the Foundation's purpose, goals, and memberships became a reality. Special emphasis continued to be placed on membership recruitment. A number of special events intended to increase membership and to raise funds were explored and were in various stages of planning.

A concentrated effort to contact alumni of the districts' high schools progressed as we began to identify class agents for every graduating class as far back as possible. This information should provide fertile ground for potential memberships.

July 2006 – June 2007

The 2006-2007 Board year began with an increase in the number of directors from 23 to 24. The Foundation's office was relocated across the street from the District Office as all of the district's operations continued to grow. The Board of Directors found a new home for its quarterly meetings and began meeting in the conference room of the beautifully renovated Lexington Technology Center.

The LEAP program completed its third year with a campaign that raised \$74,397.54. It has continued to grow and serve more and more employees, and students with critical needs. The program assisted 94 families in the school district

A major fund-raiser, Heroes and Legends, was held on February 5, 2007. The event had several purposes, one of which was to memorialize the late Congressman Floyd Spence through the dedication of the new AFJROTC Wing at Lexington High School and another was to officially name it the Floyd Davidson Spence AFJROTC Wing. The policy of the Lexington One Board dictates that, in order to acquire naming rights, a contribution of \$100,000 must be received. Foundation Board member, Leonard Price, generously donated \$50,000 to kick off this fund-raiser. A total of \$221,517.80 was raised for this event. In addition to recognizing Congressman Spence, the Heroes and Legends event honored all of the fallen soldiers of Lexington One from all wars in which the United States military participated, especially the three who had recently given the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq. A Wall of Honor was established at each of the district's high schools, listing the names of men and women who were graduates of that school and who gave their lives fighting for their country. The keynote speaker's were two members of the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II fame. The former

Marines provided an inspiring talk to an audience of about 600 and also visited three of the high schools to speak to students.

The 2007 Celebration of Excellence in Education banquet, co-sponsored with the Lexington Chamber of Commerce, was held on February 27, 2007. Held for the first time at the Radisson Hotel in Columbia, SC, the event seemed to reach new heights and an elevated level of excitement. The top 10% of the senior classes from each high school were recognized and presented with Old English Society pins. This year's program raised \$17,375.

The 2007 Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year Award was presented for the second time. The recipient was Marie Watson, principal of Red Bank Elementary School. Her name was inscribed on the composite plaque in the District Office as the second recipient of the award.

Numerous Foundation board members met with representatives from the Council on Accreditation and School Improvement of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS CASI) as part of the evaluation process for the district's accreditation.

The Foundation, from its' inception, has been effectively managed by a conscientious Board of Directors. Growth has been carefully nurtured so that the work of the Foundation complements the district's mission statement at that time, which stated..."in partnership with the community" we can "Create Our Future Together."

July 2007 – June 2008

The Foundation experienced yet another year of exciting growth as Lexington One found its way through the 2007-2008 school year. Successful programs continued to thrive and new ideas continued to emerge. Kay Coker completed her term as board chair on a positive note, as did four board members: Donn Estes, Jimmy Spence, Samuel Tenenbaum, and Lexington One Teacher of the Year 2007-2008, Leslie Dellinger, all of whom have made significant contributions to the Foundation and its' mission. Kay was replaced as chair by Mike Shealy, and four new Board members bringing their ideas and initiatives to the Foundation were Hal Girard, Charles Jenkins, Brent Yarborough, and Lexington One Teacher of the Year 2008-2009, Pamela Light.

The LEAP program completed its' fourth year with a campaign that resulted in a record \$95,481.38 in contributions. This was an increase of \$21,000 over year three. LEAP served 123 families in the school district during this fiscal year.

On January 17, 2008 the Foundation held the first annual Heart of Lexington One event to recognize a person who has made significant and lasting contributions to the community and schools of Lexington County School District One. The first recipient selected for this honor was Mr. Raymond Caughman and the response was outstanding! Following the lead of the major sponsors, BB&T and Richard Kristin Hook, more than 750 friends and supporters of Raymond and the Foundation attended. Many others sponsored at various levels and made it possible to honor a special request by Raymond. He asked that proceeds from the event be used to update collections in the media centers of Lexington One schools. Thus, the committee adopted the Raymond Caughman Books for Children project for future Heart of Lexington One events. More than \$80,000 was raised through this event. Each school in Lexington One received monies to update the collections in their media centers based on the age of the collections and the greatest need using the most recent data. Bookplates were designed by a Lexington Technology Center student and those bookplates were placed in front of each book purchased by the monies raised at the event. The permanent Heart of

Lexington One award was designed by a White Knoll High School student and will be given to all future recipients.

Each media specialist from each school site was recognized and awarded their checks at the May 2008 school board meeting. This created a sense of confidence among those who were anticipating positive results from the Raymond Caughman Books for Children project.

The 2008 Celebration of Excellence in Education banquet, co-sponsored with the Lexington Chamber of Commerce, was held on February 26th, at the Radisson Hotel. The top 10% of the senior classes from each high school were recognized and presented with Old English Society pins. Over \$27,000 was donated to off-set the costs of the evening.

The number of scholarships available and their value continues to grow. The Foundation served as administrator of 30 scholarships totaling \$22,200.

Following months of extensive study and discussion, several new policies were approved and adopted by the Board. These policies will serve as necessary and effective guidelines as the Foundation continues to grow. These policies relate to and provide positive direction to the following: Scholarship Guidelines; Gift Acceptance Policies and Guidelines; Endowment Fund Agreements; Administrative Fee Schedules; and Fiscal Sponsorship.

The 2008 Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year Award was presented to Margaret Mitchum, principal of Pleasant Hill Elementary School. Her name is inscribed on a composite plaque in the District Office as the third recipient of the award.

July 2008 – June 2009

The Foundation, like the district it serves, began the 2008-2009 school year with a renewed sense of energy, purpose, and direction. The ideas and successes of 2007-2008 propelled the combined imaginations and efforts of both new and experienced Board members to even greater accomplishments. This year was marked by the addition of three new board members: Dr. Gregory J. Konduros, William H. Floyd, and Betsy P. Goodman, the 2009-2010 Lexington One Teacher of the Year.

As has been the case each year, we saw an increase in the number and value of scholarships available to district graduates. The Foundation served as administrator to 34 scholarships totaling \$26,200. One new scholarship, the Horace Mann Lexington One Educator Fellowship, was created with a \$1,000 donation by the Fran Halloran Agency, a Horace Mann Exclusive Agency in Lexington. This scholarship was designated for an adult recipient who is an active certified employee of Lexington One and who is a teacher, assistant administrator, administrator, assistant principal, or principal, and is working towards an advanced degree, i.e. Masters, Ed D, or a Ph D.

Following a great deal of discussion, the board decided in August 2008 to hire the professional consultants group Corporate DevelopMint of Charleston, SC, to accomplish an in-depth study of the Foundation, its' history, its' mission, its' goals, and the means by which we should expect to be successful. The original target date for completion of the study was November 2008. The November Bond Referendum consumed the Senior Leadership Team's time and made it impossible to schedule meetings. The target date was moved to February 2009 and then to May as other commitments involving unexpected budget considerations and various other challenges continued to appear. The Foundation staff spent a great deal of time gathering and providing information to be utilized by the consultants in their study and assessment with an eye on a future Capital Campaign.

The book, *Looking toward the Future through a Window to the Past, A History of Lexington County (SC) School District One*, was completed and the manuscripts were sent to the printer for publication. A tremendous amount of work has gone into this project and we expect to have great success with its promotion.

The LEAP program completed yet another record year with the fifth annual campaign raising \$121,216.08 in contributions, an increase of approximately \$26,000 over year four, serving 130 families.

The 2009 Celebration of Excellence in Education banquet, co-sponsored with the Lexington Chamber of Commerce, was held on February 24th, at the Radisson Hotel. The event recognized the top 10% of the senior classes from the district's four high schools. Each of the seniors was presented with an Old English Society pin distinguishing them as a member of an outstanding group of honor graduates. Community support for the Celebration of Excellence is demonstrated in the fact that businesses and sponsors donated approximately \$27,000 to offset the evening's expenses.

The Michelin Golden Apple Teacher Grant Awards were presented again in 2008-2009 thanks to the generosity of Michelin N.A., Lexington Site. Funded by a \$5,000 donation from Michelin, these grants provide awards to teachers who submit ideas for projects for which funds may not be otherwise available. In the fall of 2008, 10 grants were awarded to 21 recipients and in the spring of 2009 there were 10 grants awarded serving 15 teachers.

The Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year Award for 2009 was presented to Kenneth W. Lake, Director of the Lexington Technology Center. His name has been inscribed on a composite plaque in the District Office as the fourth recipient of the award.

July 2009 – June 2010

The 2009-2010 Board year was one of change and challenge. Change came in a number of ways, one being the addition of Gregg Tarlton, Dr. Elise Howell, Simran Singh and Beth Moore, the 2010 Teacher of the Year to the board.

A significant part of the year was spent preparing information to assist the professional consultants group, Corporate DevelopMint of Charleston, SC, which the board had hired in August, 2008. The work of this group had begun in late 2008, with a goal of completion by November of that same year, but the results of the study were not presented until December 2009. The time period between the original target date and actual presentation was filled with changes, challenges, and reprioritizing of commitments for district administration, trustees, and the Foundation board.

Forty business and community people identified as potential leaders and donor prospects were scheduled for interviews with Corporate DevelopMint in October 2009. The Strategic Plan, which includes the Schools of the Future, LexLearns, LexLives, LexLeads Initiatives was presented to the interviewees for discussion.

LexLearns, which focuses on 21st century learning and features centers of study; emphasizes world languages; and encompasses our science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) initiative has been designated as a funding priority for the Foundation. Learning in the STEM areas is critical to our students being able to compete in the marketplace of tomorrow.

In view of anticipated recommendations from the consultants regarding new direction, restructuring of committees, and software and database changes, a bold decision was made by the Foundation's Executive Committee and Board of Directors. It was decided that the Foundation not plan or schedule a fundraising event for 2009-2010 in order to concentrate on the Case for Support with Corporate DevelopMint. It is the goal of the board to capture energy through a new strategic plan and work toward the design of Annual, Major, and Capital Campaigns with long term rewards, as well as other fundraising events.

The LEAP program completed its' sixth annual campaign as \$133,384.32 was raised, an increase of approximately \$12,000 over the previous year. LEAP assisted over 140 families this year.

The 11th Annual Dam Swim saw 164 participants make the swim from the Irmo side of the dam to the Lexington side in memory of Drew Smith. The purpose of the event, sponsored by the LHS Swim Team, is to promote boating safety and to raise funds to finance an indoor swimming facility in the Lexington area. The September 2009 swim raised \$9,825.00. The Foundation serves as the agent for this event.

The Foundation and the Greater Lexington Chamber & Visitors Center, for the 7th consecutive year, co-sponsored the 2010 Celebration of Excellence in Education banquet on February 23rd, at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center. Local businesses and dedicated supporters of Lexington County School District One donated \$28,600 to help recognize 138 seniors, the top 10 percent of graduating seniors from the district's four high schools. Each honor graduate was presented a traditional "Old English Society" pin for their accomplishments from the Educational Foundation.

The 2009-2010 Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year Award was presented to Joseph H. Bedenbaugh, Assistant Superintendent for Administration. His name has been inscribed on a composite plaque in the District Office as the fifth recipient of the award.

Michelin NA, Lexington Site, continued their generous gift of sponsoring the Michelin Golden Apple Teacher Grant Awards. Their \$5,000 donation provides grants to teachers to fund projects which may not otherwise be possible. In the fall of 2009, ten grants were awarded to 12 recipients, while 16 teachers received ten grants in the spring of 2010.

The Foundation, which serves as administrator for a number of scholarships, saw the number grow to 36, with the addition of two new awards, April Lynn Quinton and Reed Ricard/Teddy Braveheart. The total value of scholarships presented was \$27,500.

Another area of focus was grants, and in particular, the Pepsi Refresh Grant. Memos were sent daily by E-mail to employees of Lexington One to vote online for the STEM Initiative project. The winner of this grant was decided by the amount of votes received in a one month period. Out of 1,084 applications, our submission placed 13th. We will submit our grant application once again for competition in September 2010. In searching for available Federal Grants the district's grant writer assisted in discussions with Senator Lindsey Graham's office.

New software, GiftWorksTM, was purchased with the expectation of assisting in the effective management of the growing needs and projects of the Foundation.

With work underway for the development of an exciting new Web site, the Foundation office, along with the District's Webmaster, is determined to create a site which will be informative, helpful, and a positive representation of all that we envision for the students, faculty, and

administrators in Lexington One. This will result in yet another “face” of the Foundation as we continue to expand.

The much anticipated book, titled *Looking Toward the Future Through Windows of the Past, A History of Lexington County (SC) School District One*, is scheduled to be available for sale in November 2010. Many memories will be evoked as supporters of Lexington One read the stories and see the photographs of the district's past and present.

Administrative changes for the Foundation included scheduling more frequent meetings, i.e. every other month instead of quarterly, with called meetings when deemed necessary. In March 2010 the Foundation's board meetings were moved to the board room in the District Office; in May 2010 the Foundation added a part-time assistant to its' staff; and June 2010 saw the Foundation's office move back to the District Office building after nearly four years in the Annex.

The 2009-2010 Foundation year in many ways mirrored the social and economic climate of our state and nation. There are challenges and demands for change at every turn. Not only school districts, but all government agencies and services are studying and seeking alternative means of securing funds to support their missions. But, despite the challenges of a difficult economic environment, there is a sense of anticipation for the future. It is expected that the in-depth studies by Corporate DevelopMint will provide some exciting new ideas and recommendations for the future. The results of their study, combined with the enthusiasm of the Foundation's Board, should serve as a catalyst for many new avenues of development within the Foundation.

The very essence of the Foundation's purpose is that the work never ends because the purpose will always be there.