

**A BRIEF HISTORY  
OF  
THE LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**  
(Updated August 2008)

The Lexington School District One Board of Trustees on November 15, 1994, authorized the formation of the Lexington School District One Educational Foundation. 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 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.

The first meeting of the newly formed Educational Foundation was held on September 17, 1995. James A. Compton, Michael S. Wingard, Michael B. 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 that required that the Board of Directors be composed of at least three members who were actively serving on the Lexington School District One Board of Trustees and the remaining at-large members appointed from the community. Dr. J. Chester Floyd, Lexington School District One Superintendent and Karl Fulmer, Lexington School District One Assistant Superintendent for Fiscal Services, served as the District's agents and contacts to meet and work with the Educational Foundation.

Membership on the Educational Foundation Board of Directors has changed as some Lexington School District One Trustee members' terms have expired on the District's Board of Trustees and as service terms of at-large members of the Educational Foundation Board of Directors have expired. The Educational Foundation bylaws were amended and the Board of Directors was expanded to ten members in February 2003. Connie McFarland was appointed to serve as the Educational Foundation's first executive director in March 2003. In October 2003, the bylaws were amended again and the Educational Foundation Board of Directors was expanded to twenty-one members and 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. The Educational Foundation Board of Directors meets quarterly throughout the school year and holds special meetings as deemed necessary.

In July 2003 a distinctive logo was designed and is now prominently displayed on Foundation publications. In August 2004 a Strategic Plan was approved which identified strategies, goals and action plans and will serve as the Educational Foundation's "Blue Print" for three years. Committees were established and continue to meet providing direction to the Foundation. A budget was established for the first time in May 2005.

The Educational Foundation, since inception, has been a continuously growing and evolving support arm of the District. The alternative sources of funding generated through the Educational Foundation have been focused on grants to programs and initiatives that enhance the quality of educational experiences for students in Lexington School District One.

Among the District initiatives supported by the Educational Foundation are a number of partial college scholarships offered annually for students who desire to continue their education. Most of these scholarships have been made possible from community, organizational and individual contributions to the Educational Foundation.

In April 1997 the Lexington 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 unrestricted, have been used by the Educational Foundation to provide teacher grants each year and to serve as a corpus for the Educational Foundation's investment portfolio. Other projects the Educational Foundation has participated in include: the marketing of three educational videos, "New Horizons: Your First Year As Parents", "New Horizons: Your Second Year As Parents", and "New Horizons: Your Third Year As Parents", produced by the Lexington School District One Office of Instruction; an alumni directory of District One graduates through a contract with Bernard C. Harris publishing Company; and the Lexington High School Picasso Project 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. Following 9/11/2001, the Educational Foundation also served as the agent for the fundraising efforts of White Knoll middle School to raise over \$500,000 for a fire truck for New York City.

The Educational Foundation agreed to sponsor the writing and publication of a history of the Lexington Schools and has contracted with Donning Company Publishers to publish the book. In partnership with Michelin North America, Lexington Site, the Foundation has sponsored the Michelin Golden Apple Teacher Grants program. Toyota Motor Manufacturing North America, Inc. and Michelin North America, Inc. joined to donate \$20,000 to the Foundation providing funds for the establishment of the Lexington One Virtual School in June 2004.

A private donation by a board member 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.

An Employee Campaign, named LEAP or Lexington Employee Assistance Plan, was formed in 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, Transportation and Maintenance. LEAP had its' own distinctive logo designed by that employee group. The LEAP committee established three committees to assist in District One. They are: Employee Crisis Fund – offers financial and/or in kind services to employees during a catastrophic illness or catastrophe. We Care Fund - enhances the learning experience of students in need of medical, dental, or optometric needs that prevent the student from learning. Facility Based Fund – 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.

In 2004 and each year thereafter the Foundation has co-sponsored with the Lexington Chamber of Commerce a Celebration of Excellence in Education Banquet to recognize the top 10% of the senior classes at each of the four district high schools. The Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year Award was established and announced at the 2005 Celebration. Mr. Bedenbaugh was recognized for his lifelong contributions to District One. The award will be presented annually beginning in 2006.

May 2005 marked a major change for the Foundation. After ten years of service as Foundation Chair Jimmy Compton was replaced by Betty McWhorter. Also replaced after ten years as vice-chair was Mickey Wingard and Secretary/Treasurer, Richard Hook. In May of 2006 the Board honored Mickey's service as a founding member of the Foundation Board by naming him a *Board Member Emeritus*. Mickey left the board with one year remaining on his term so that he could serve as an overseas missionary for his church. The board was expanded from 21 to 23 members in May 2006.

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

The Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year Award was presented for the first time in 2006 with the initial recipient being Dr. Karl Fulmer.

The Foundation continued to co-sponsor "A Celebration of Excellence in Education" with the Lexington Chamber of Commerce. The 2006 Celebration saw the institution of a new award presented to each of the seniors being honored. The award, designed to provide a tangible means of recognizing a student's top 10% academic standing, is membership in the "Old English Society" and includes a distinctive lapel pin with their high school's logo and "Old English Society" displayed.

A 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 are 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. New software was purchased to enable us to effectively manage the growing needs and projects of the Foundation.

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. We began to meet 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.

A major fund-raiser named "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 and the naming of the new AFJROTC Wing at Lexington High School "The Floyd Davidson Spence AFJROTC Wing". District One Board Policy dictates that \$100,000 be contributed to acquire naming rights. Board member Leonard Price generously donated \$50,000 to kick off this fund-raiser.

In addition to recognizing Congressman Spence the "Heroes and Legends" event honored all of the fallen soldiers of Lexington District One from all wars in which the United States military participated, especially the three who died most recently 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 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 Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year Award was presented for the second time. The recipient was Marie Watson, principal of Red Bank Elementary.

The 2007 "Celebration of Excellence in Education", co-sponsored with the Lexington Chamber of Commerce, was held on February 27, 2007. Held for the first time at the Radisson Hotel, the event seemed to reach new heights and an elevated level of excitement.

Volunteer 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 has from its' inception 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, which states ... "in partnership with the community" we can "Create Our Future Together".

The Foundation experienced yet another year of exciting growth as District One found its' way through the 2007-2008 school year. Successful programs continued to succeed 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 is replaced as Chair by Mike Shealy, and four new Board members bringing their ideas and initiatives to the Foundation are 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, an increase of \$21,000 over year three.

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 District One. The first recipient selected for this honor was Mr. Raymond Caughman, and the response was outstanding! Following the lead of 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 District 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 District One received monies to update the collections in their media centers based on age of collections and greatest need using the most recent data. Bookplates were designed by a student at the Lexington Technology Center and those bookplates will be 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 student from White Knoll High School and will be given to all future recipients.

Each media specialist from each school site was recognized and awarded their checks at the May 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 26 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 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.

The number of scholarships available and their value continues to grow. The Foundation served as administrator to 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; Fiscal Sponsorship.

The Educational Foundation, like the District it serves, will begin the 2008-2009 school year with a renewed sense of energy, purpose and direction. The ideas and successes of 2007-2008 will most certainly propel the combined imaginations and efforts of both new and experienced Board Members to even greater accomplishments.