

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 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 and the Greater Lexington Chamber & Visitors Center, for the 7th consecutive year, co-sponsored the 2010 Celebration of Excellence in Education banquet on February 23, 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. Out of 1,084 applications, our project was 13th. We will place our application once again for competition in September 2010. The district's grant writer assisted us in discussions with Senator Lindsey Graham's office in searching for Federal grants.

New software, GiftWorks™, 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 history of Lexington County School District One, titled *Looking Toward the Future Through Windows of the Past* is expected 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 quarter, 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 Administrative 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.