

# Holdrege Public Schools

Empowering Students For Success

[www.holdregeusters.org](http://www.holdregeusters.org)

P.O. Box 2002 • Holdrege • Nebraska • 68949-2002

An Equal Opportunity Agency

May 2016

Dear HHS Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from the Holdrege Public Schools Foundation!

In order to keep you informed about the Foundation's accomplishments and goals we are sending you the attached newsletter. The HPS Foundation Committee has dedicated countless hours to fundraisers, marketing and public awareness efforts, and alumni database updates to carry out our mission to "give back to education".

Holdrege Public Schools Foundation has fulfilled its mission to 'give back to education' by making grant opportunities available to teachers who desire to strengthen and enhance educational opportunities for students.

The work we have completed has been rewarding. We have had eight grant cycles and awarded grants to aid in curricular education, educational activities, and student support services. Last summer we hosted our seventh Annual HPS Foundation Golf Tournament during Swedish Days in an effort to raise funds and inform alumni that they can use the Holdrege Public Schools Foundation as a meaningful giving vehicle. This event is a major funding source for giving back through grants to enhance educational opportunities for all students.

Our highly successful alumni recognition features are distributed through Constant Contact and are accessible at [www.holdregeusters.org](http://www.holdregeusters.org) on the HPS Foundation tab. The Foundation has continued to maintain a viable alumni database that will make reunions and communication much easier. We hope this will be a valuable service to our many HHS graduates and we invite you to register at [www.holdregeusters.org](http://www.holdregeusters.org). All you have to do is click on the Duster Alumni tab to find out about your classmates and other alumni.

We encourage you to support the mission of the Holdrege Public Schools Foundation. Your tax-deductible gift will enhance educational opportunities for students through our grant program and will help support our ongoing database efforts.

We invite you to get connected and stay informed about the Holdrege Public Schools system! Go Dusters!

*Teresa Kröll*

HPS Foundation Committee Chairman

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# Holdrege Public Schools Foundation Newsletter

www.holdregebusters.org

“Giving Back to Education”

May 2016

## Who Are We and What Do We Do?

Education foundations nationwide were created in the late 1970's as public school budgets across the country were significantly reduced. To offset the serious financial crisis in our schools, and to bridge the financial gap between what was needed for our students and state and federal funding, the Holdrege Public Schools Foundation was formed in 1988 with a \$30,000 grant from the Phelps County Community Foundation for the purpose of establishing an endowment. For the past twenty years our community has responded to the district's needs with tremendous support, recognizing that in today's world, private funding is crucial for public education. Our HPS Foundation Committee is comprised of three school board members, two staff members, and five community members who meet monthly and work on various projects throughout the year.

## HPS Foundation Committee

### HPS Board of Education

Teresa Kroll, Chairman  
Tim Gustafson  
Shaun Jensen

### Community Members

Chris Ecklun  
Grant Ericksen  
'Chelle Ham  
Mary Oman  
Jamie Rooks

### HPS Staff

Todd Hilyard  
Sandy Dunaway (Ad Hoc Support)

## HOLDREGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
4-Person Scramble \$75 per person

Saturday, June 18, 2016

8:30am Check-In

9:00am Shotgun Start

Holdrege Country Club

ENTRY DEADLINE  
FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2016  
ALL TEAMS MUST BE  
PREREGISTERED AND PREPAID

ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE AT:

HPS CENTRAL OFFICE  
(308) 995-8663

www.holdregebusters.org

FLAG PRIZES

CASH PAYOUT  
FOR TOP TEAMS



Janssen  
Motor Company



WIN A  
**CHEVROLET  
MALIBU!**

GIVING BACK TO EDUCATION

### Are You Planning a Reunion?

If so, please contact the school at (308) 995-8663. The Foundation has informative materials for you to share with your classmates about what's going on at Holdrege High!

### Join us In Our Effort to “Give Back to Education.”

If you would like to make a donation in honor or memory of loved ones, please contact the school or send a check to the Phelps County Community Foundation, HPS Foundation Fund. (See address listed below.)

*The Mission of the Holdrege Public Schools Foundation is to support and enhance the educational efforts of students and teachers by providing funding for innovative and challenging programs, learning experiences, and activities.*

## Join us in our mission!

The Holdrege Public Schools Foundation has created and continually updates an alumni database. Alumni can register on-line at the [www.holdregedusters.org](http://www.holdregedusters.org). The Foundation's goal is to maintain a viable database that will help Holdrege High School Alumni keep connected and will be a valuable tool for organizing reunions and for communicating with classmates.

Our goal is to continue reaching out to all alumni as the database grows.

We have been using Constant Contact to send newsletters through email and keep alumni abreast of the growth, development, and success of the Holdrege Public Schools system. Watch your email for news, events, and alumni recognition features.

Whether you are a Holdrege Alum, patron, or Duster fan, join us in our mission to enhance educational programs and give back to the students of HPS by playing in the golf tourney or sponsoring a hole or flag prize. Another major fundraising event for the HPS Foundation, Give2Grow, is hosted annually by the Phelps County Community Foundation. Your investment is guaranteed dividends in any economic time. If you have questions or would like to be added to the e-mail list, please register from the Alumni tab at [www.holdregedusters.org](http://www.holdregedusters.org) or call the HPS Central Office at (308) 995-8663.



Kathy Vetter

## 2016 Teacher Grants Awarded

Teacher grant requests totaling more than \$11,600 were submitted for the 2016 teacher grant cycle. Due to the unfavorable economic climate, there were no earnings available, therefore, the Board accessed the expendable balance to award two grants totaling \$2,013.44. Thanks to the HPS Foundation Committee for all their work to evaluate the grant applications, and to all those who support the HPS Foundation to make these funds available for our teachers and classroom projects. Your generosity helps us to empower all students for success. You will hear more details about the implementation of these grants in the fall newsletter. The following grants were awarded:

\$1,656.12—Betty Bricker—Makerspace inquiry based, do-it-yourself space for hands-on learning through exploration, construction, tinkering or play—HMS Library

\$357.32—Melissa Ericksen—ELMO Visual Presenter—HMS 5th Grade Classroom

One of the major fundraising activities for teacher grants is the **HPS Foundation Annual Golf Tournament**—you'll find information about this year's event on the front page.



## Volunteers Keep Database Current

Greg Kelso, Class of '65 graduate, has been working in conjunction with the HPS Foundation over the past several years. He has contributed countless hours updating alumni class lists and information. Prior to this task he took over the alumni page on the district website, where students can fill out personal information and write their own biography. The updated database and alumni page is a crucial link for former students. Thanks, Greg, for “giving back” to Holdrege Schools. Please visit [www.holdregedusters.org](http://www.holdregedusters.org) and fill out your updated information on the Holdrege alumni page.



Although Kathy Vetter is no longer formally a member of the HPS Foundation Committee and she has officially retired from her careers at HPS and the Nebraska Department of Education, she continues to work behind the scenes from Arizona. Kathy maintains the Constant Contact database for the HPS Foundation and helps to proof newsletters and alumni articles. If your email changes, please select Update Profile at the end of an HPS Foundation email or send your new address to [hpsfoundation@hpsfoundation.org](mailto:hpsfoundation@hpsfoundation.org). Kathy supports the HPS Foundation mission of "Giving Back to Education" and is pleased that funded projects benefit the students and teachers of the Holdrege Public Schools.