

# Holdrege Public Schools

Empowering Students For Success

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

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

An Equal Opportunity Agency

May 2012

Dear HHS Alumni,

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".

For the past five years, the 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 four grant cycles and awarded grants to aid in curricular education, educational activities, and student support services. Last summer we hosted our third Annual HPS Foundation Golf Tournament 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 raised more than \$10,000, which will be given back through grants to enhance our educational opportunities for all students.

Will you consider investing in our next project? We would like to invite you to be an annual member of the **Holdrege Duster Alumni Association**. The Foundation has taken upon the task of establishing a viable alumni database that will make reunions and communication much easier. Assisting us in this task is Greg Kelso '65, who is responsible for the design and maintenance of this website. We hope this will be a valuable service to our many HHS graduates and we invite you to register at [www.thedusters.org](http://www.thedusters.org). All you have to do is click on the ALUMNI tab to find out about your classmates and other alumni.

Enclosed is **your** invitation to support the mission of the Holdrege Public Schools Foundation by becoming a member of the Alumni Association. 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!

*Michael Waller*

HPS Foundation Chairperson

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<b>Central Office</b> Phone • (308) 995-8663 Fax • (308) 995-6956 Todd Hilyard, Superintendent	<b>Holdrege High School</b> Phone • (308) 995-6558 Robert Drews, Principal Scott Schoneman, Activities Director Dan Atchison, Guidance	<b>Holdrege Middle School</b> Phone • (308) 995-5421 Russell Baker, Principal	<b>Franklin Elementary School</b> Phone • (308) 995-4269 <b>Washington Elementary School</b> Phone • (308) 995-4339 <b>R-7 Elementary School</b> Phone • (308) 995-6179 Amber Porter, Principal Angela Ossian, Assistant Principal	<b>Holdrege Public Schools Early Childhood Education Center</b> Phone • (308) 995-8140 Catherine Shelton, Coordinator
<b>Technology</b> Brad Larson, Technology Coordinator				<b>Special Services</b> Phone • (308) 995-4048 Catherine Shelton, Coordinator

# Holdrege Public Schools Foundation Newsletter

www.thedusters.org

“Giving Back to Education”

May 2012

## 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

Michael Waller, Chairman  
Matt Allmand  
Tim Gustafson

### Community Members

Christi Anderson  
Rick Bergman  
Steve Kness  
Kathy Vetter

### HPS Staff

Todd Hilyard  
Sandy Dunaway (Ad Hoc Support)

## 2012 HHS Graduates Join Duster Alumni Association



Superintendent Todd Hilyard presents a flash drive to graduate Katherine Weed.



The members of the Class of 2012 not only have new status as HHS Alumni, but they are also the newest members of the Duster Alumni Association.

The HPS Foundation Committee presented each of the graduates with a five-year free membership in the Duster Alumni Association and a 2GB flash drive with information about the HPS Foundation.

The Foundation will stay in touch with graduates, and at the end of the five-year period, we hope that these graduates will choose to continue their membership and support the Foundation's mission in giving back to education.

Congratulations to the Class of 2012!



### 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 the Holdrege Duster Alumni Association

The Holdrege Public Schools Foundation has diligently been working on creating and updating an alumni database. Alumni can register on-line at the [www.thedusters.org](http://www.thedusters.org). The Foundation’s goal is to have 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.

The most exciting thing to come out of this database is the formation of an Alumni Association. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Our goal is to continue reaching out to all alumni as the database is completed.

In this age of technology, we will be 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 for news of the HPS Foundation coming to your email soon.

If you are a Holdrege Alum, join us in our mission to enhance educational programs and give back to the students of HPS. 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.thedusters.org](http://www.thedusters.org) or call the HPS Central Office at (308) 995-8663.

## HHS Alum Volunteers Hours to Database Effort



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

## 2012 Teacher Grants Awarded

Teacher grant requests totaling nearly \$20,000 were submitted for the 2012 teacher grant cycle. The Board granted a total of \$14,607.54. 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. This ultimately 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:

- \$388.63—Nancy Nelson—Classroom Document Camera
- \$1,000.00—Jeff Moore—Plasma Cad/Cam
- \$5,651.00—Terry Shield—Communication and Design with iPads
- \$3,779.00—Debbie Komenda—iPads for Learning
- \$370.96—Jena Deaver—Sensory Integration Room
- \$3,198.00—Don Kosmicki & Terry Shield—Robotics Equipment
- \$219.95—Julie Freburg—Elementary Career Education TB Bear

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 last page.



## Duster Alumni Association—Join Today!

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP—billed annually (couple rate—if both are HHS Alumni)**  
Please check appropriate category and submit with payment as directed below.

- |                                                                                                             |                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enthusiast—\$25 or \$35 per couple                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fan Club—\$50 or \$75 per couple              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheerleader—\$100 or \$150 per couple                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple & Gold Pride—\$250 or \$350 per couple |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Duster Lifetime Booster—\$1,500 or \$2,000 per couple—one-time only payment</b> |                                                                        |

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

EMAIL

YOUR GIFT IS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **HPS Foundation**

SEND TO: **Phelps County Community Foundation, 504 4th Avenue, Holdrege, NE 68949**

# HOLDREGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

## 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

4-Person Scramble  
\$45 per person

Saturday, July 14, 2012  
9:00 a.m.  
Holdrege Country Club

ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE AT:  
HPS CENTRAL OFFICE  
(308) 995-8663  
www.thedusters.org

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FOR TOP TEAMS



WIN A  
FORD  
FIESTA!

### GIVING BACK TO EDUCATION