



PANHANDLE ALLIANCE  
*for* EDUCATION



Promoting  
*excellence*  
in Education.

2021

ANNUAL  
REPORT

# A Message From the President

What does it mean to support PAFE? Our educators tell us that we enhance their classrooms with tools that allow them to extend their teaching and expand students' learning.

These "extensions" could be instructional e-clickers, welding masks, pulleys, or a weaving loom. They provide micro-moments where we give students something to "bump into," as Patrick Lynch puts it. We give them something they can latch onto and say, "this is what I want to do with my life."

While these programs teach things like

how mechanical advantage works, how to weave textiles, and how to repair speech impediments, more importantly, they teach resilience, collaboration, and self-confidence.

In the following stories, we've highlighted three of the 42 grants we awarded this past year to show you what your support looks like in the classroom today, and we spoke with three SHS graduates to show you the long-term impact of your generosity.

As we welcome newcomers to our community in more significant numbers than before, I hope you'll share these stories with them to give them an appreciation for the dedication of our educators, the drive of our students, and the generosity of our community.

Lastly, I'd like to take a moment to honor Marcia Wilson who retired at the end of our fiscal year. The legacy of her work as executive director of PAFE will influence education for students in the Lake Pend Oreille School District for generations to come. We appreciate and applaud her leadership through the years.

We thank you.  
Kelly Prior



Kelly Prior | President  
Panhandle Alliance For Education



– MARCIA WILSON –

*Thank you, Marcia, for  
16 years of dedication  
and service.*



# Board of Directors



Front row: Pierce Smith, Stefanie Nostdahl, Marcia Wilson, Matt Mire, Heather Lowman, Amy Longanecker. Middle row: Geraldine Lewis, Malia Meschko, Julie Reister-Keaton, Allison Gilmore, Matt Gillis, Susan Jordan, Hannah Vollmer, Toby McLaughlin. Back row: Tom Albertson, Wendy Dunn, Patty Staglund, Caleb Bowman, Eric Paull, Kelly Prior, Chris Blandford, Read Tuddenham. Not pictured: Dick Cvitanich, Christian Groenke, Kendon Perry, Tom Puckett, Mary Weber-Quinn, Joe Williams.

## Building Our Partnerships

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

COVID-19 made it challenging to seek support like we usually do, and hosting our annual lakeside fundraiser was not an option during the pandemic. Luckily for PAFE, our loyal supporters answered the call for flexible fundraising. Special thanks to Litehouse Foods and Lewis & Hawn Excellence in Dentistry for stepping outside the box with us to sponsor our 2020 Summer Sunset Gala - At Home Edition. Many generous community members joined this virtual event to support our educators and students. Over \$150,000 was raised that night and put into the classrooms the following school year.

### GRANTS RECEIVED:

We would like to thank and recognize the generosity of the entities who granted the Panhandle Alliance for Education significant dollars toward our mission, including: The Equinox Foundation, Innovia Foundation, STCU, Idaho Community Foundation, Believe in Reading, Avista Foundation, Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation, Washington Federal Foundation, and P1FCU.



Hope Keenan, Speech and Language Pathologist, demonstrating the SmartPalate that empowers students to be their own clinician in resolving speech impediments.

# Teacher Grant Highlights

## BUILDING RESILIENCE

“Young adults are presented with so many different options and under so much pressure to make choices; choices that have a lasting impact. I just hope to give them opportunities to wonder, “I’m good at this; can I use this, and can I make money at this?”

Patrick Lynch (Sandpoint Middle School) teaches students how to use both knots and mechanical advantage for everyday use and outdoor pursuits. The PAFE grant funded equipment needed to perform exercises and equipment not included in the school’s curriculum.

A team of students work together to rescue another group of students in a “raft.” Given the tools they need and schematics as a reference, they have 10 minutes to assemble everything and pull their classmates to safety. At the end of the unit, they bring it all together with performance tasks such as the “rescue operation.”

It’s a high-pressure, time-sensitive collaboration that requires a lot of knowledge and cooperation. They have to know many knots, tie a girth hitch,

make calculations and make sure they have a good anchor.

“I want them to understand that they are likely to fail. Sometimes it takes a few tries. But if you keep trying, you’re going to have success. They get so focused on getting it done.

“Over the years, PAFE has given me tens of thousands of dollars in grants that have allowed me to push the curriculum and find something new and fresh. I’m appreciative of their support. But when I get the validation from the parents, I know it’s worth-while.”

## RESTORING SELF-CONFIDENCE

Speech impediments affect self-confidence, willingness to speak to others, and how others perceive them, be they peers, strangers, or potential bosses. The earlier we can intervene and help children with these speech sound errors, the easier they are to fix.

Hope Keenan is a Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) in the Special Education department at LPOSD. Her program, funded through a PAFE grant, helps resolve this issue early with a “SmartPalate.”





Students in Amy O'Hara's art class at Forrest Bird Charter School learn the craft of fiber arts and collaborate on the Friendly Loom that fosters creative problem-solving and critical thinking.



Students in Patrick Lynch's class at Sandpoint Middle School work quickly to calculate mechanical advantage and tie knots to "rescue" fellow students in a drill that fosters collaboration and resilience.

Let's take a fourth-grader as an example. We'll call him Kyle. Kyle, shy and reserved, struggles to enunciate his Rs accurately. Thanks to the SmartPalate, that is all changing.

SmartPalate is a personalized plastic retainer with a sheet of sensors covering the roof of the mouth that lights up on a screen when contacted by your tongue.

Kyle becomes his clinician in that he is in control of both production and feedback. When he takes charge of his learning and is driven to meet self-created goals, he can work at his highest potential.

Grants like this are a rare specialty and give PAFE the ability to provide students in need of an extra lift. Most school districts our size don't have the funds to implement programs like SmartPalate. It is yet another example of how our donors are helping to make a substantial upstream difference in our community.

## DEVELOPING CREATIVE THINKERS

Amy O'Hara, an art teacher at Forrest Bird Charter School, has received several PAFE grants over the years. Her budget covers consumables like paper, paint, and scissors. Thanks to PAFE, she has created a working studio with a printing press, ceramics equipment, an innovative curriculum called Visual Thinking Strategies

(more on that in the future!), and now, a loom to introduce weaving and fiber arts.

The Friendly Loom is a collaborative stand-up loom that up to six weavers can use together. Said Amy: "Weaving is a forgiving art. It can be frustrating for a student who can't draw something. But weaving isn't like that. One works in patterns, and it becomes meditative and restful."

As a choice-based art teacher, Amy focuses on artistic thinking through centers of art-making. "I give them the space, show them how to operate it, and they work where they want from painting and drawing to printing and weaving. Different learners thrive in different environments, and this space accommodates that.

"Not everyone is going to be an artist. But students come to me, and they can't handle failure. They can't muscle through things. I want to see them leave my classroom as creative thinkers and problem-solvers.

"By supporting The Friendly Loom project, PAFE has given me the tools to enrich my students' education with a culturally significant art form, quality tools, and opportunities for collaborative art-making."

*Read the full stories about these grants on our blog at [panhandlealliance.org](https://panhandlealliance.org).*

# Where Are They *Now?* *The long-term impact of PAFE grants*

## HIT THE GROUND RUNNING NICOLETTE JESSEN CLASS OF 2013



Nicolette is a fourth-year med student at the University of Utah School of Medicine, having completed her pre-med at Pepperdine University in Malibu. A first-generation college student, getting into Pepperdine from a small town in North Idaho was no small feat. Getting there and then excelling is even more remarkable.

Several of PAFE's grants and programs helped the soon-to-be Dr. Jessen get where she is today. Jeralyn Mire (whose position was initially funded by PAFE) encouraged her to go big while others thought she couldn't do it.

Streamline Scholarship helped her obtain funding, and technology grants provided to her teachers in Anatomy and Physiology, AP Biology, and Collegiate Medical Terminology put her ahead of her peers.

"I hit the ground running when I arrived at Pepperdine. I was so nervous and many told me I would likely fail tests in the first year, but I put blinders on and focused. PAFE, along with the teachers at SHS, will be on my long list of thank-yous when I become a physician in May 2022."

## AHEAD OF THE GAME COLLIN JURENKO CLASS OF 2014



Collin loved building with Lincoln Logs as a young boy, but how might that translate into a life's work? In elementary school, when he participated in the Mars Rover\* program in Sagle Elementary, the idea began to formulate that he'd like to

become an engineer. With some guidance from teachers equipped with the tools they need, things started to fall into place.

Ideas were put into action when guidance counselors came into his classroom early and talked about possibilities. Teachers like Mrs. Meschko encouraged him and it was her CAD software classes (software provided by

a grant from PAFE) that exposed Collin to software he uses every day in his work.

"I arrived at Gonzaga ahead of my peers."

This experience led to an internship at Diedrich Manufacturing after his sophomore and junior years of college. "I had more CAD experience than my peers at my age and that helped me land my internship and allowed me to be a Teacher's Assistant both junior and senior years in college."

From Lincoln Logs to a design engineer at Seattle-based Genie Industries and now a project manager, you might see Genie machines renovating the Key Arena (Climate Pledge Arena) or in your local machine rental shop.

## DREAMS COME TRUE KRISTINE TERRELL CLASS OF 2014



Kristine had a plan to become a vet like her grandfather but after a few years into that track, she realized it's not what she wanted to do.

Now what?

She pushed her angst aside after sharing the news with her parents who were completely supportive. Remembering the resources made available to her at Sandpoint High School, resources designed to spark ideas for her future, she sought them out at the college level. This is when she decided to pursue the business side of animal science and she took a job with the 4-H program through the University of Idaho in Boise with a focus on school outreach.

"One of my most favorite teachers at LPOSD was Mr. Guthrie," recalled Kristi. "He believed in 'learn by doing.' For example, one time when teaching us about the effects of gravity, he swung a bucket half-filled with water, around his head to show how the force kept the water in until he stopped and held it above his head and the water dumped all over him."

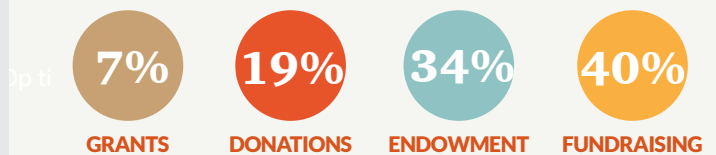
"That's how we learned and it stuck. I mean, that was in third or fourth grade and I still remember it."

When Kristine went into the schools at Boise as part of her work, those memories came flooding back. That's when it occurred to her: She wanted to be a school teacher.

Today, as a sixth-grade teacher at Sagle Elementary, she said: "It is a dream come true."

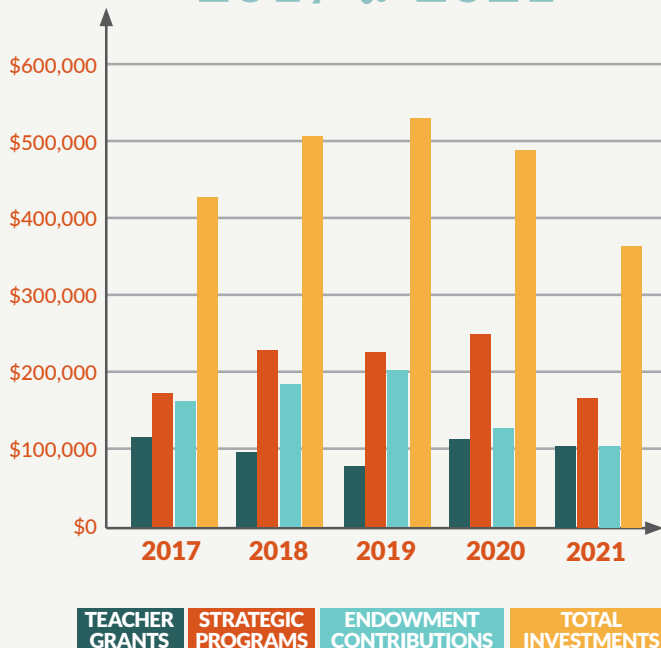
*Learn more about Kristi, Collin, and Nicolette on our blog, [www.panhandlealliance.org](http://www.panhandlealliance.org).*

# Financial Highlights 2021



## PROGRAM & ENDOWMENT INVESTMENTS

2017 to 2021



## GRANTS AWARDED TO TEACHERS SINCE OUR INCEPTION

2003 to 2021

GRANT YEARS	GRANT AMOUNT	# OF GRANTS
2003	\$35,000	15
2004	\$72,000	34
2005	\$100,000	35
2006	\$100,000	33
2007	\$125,000	51
2008	\$170,000	57
2009	\$147,000	52
2010	\$167,000	65
2011	\$111,000	48
2012	\$77,800	45
2013	\$77,340	41
2014	\$75,000	32
2015	\$100,000	52
2016	\$107,008	46
2017	\$109,320	42
2018	\$102,950	34
2019	\$118,723	44
2020	\$112,926	42
2021	\$109,628	35
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$2,017,695</b>	<b>803</b>



# Our Legacy

## SECURING THE FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN

The endowment is a secure financial strategy and ensures savings are invested wisely to produce cash flow for future needs in perpetuity. A portion of revenues are deposited each year into the endowment. Commitment to growing our endowment ensures the permanence of the Panhandle Alliance for Education and our commitment to the children in the Lake Pend Oreille School District.

At fiscal year end, the endowment stands at \$4,718,556. We are close to reaching our goal of \$5 million to help fund education in perpetuity.

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED LEAVING A LEGACY TO THE CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY?

Adding to your will or estate plan is a simple act with exciting consequences. In fact, legacy gifts generate much of the philanthropy that is at work today – right



here in our community. When you leave a charitable bequest you create a personal legacy that endures forever.

For an informative brochure about adding charity to your will, call the Panhandle Alliance for Education at 208-263-7040.



PANHANDLE ALLIANCE  
*for* EDUCATION

*Citizens, businesses and educators building an independent,  
community-based foundation for public schools.*

## MISSION

Our mission is to promote excellence in education and broad-based community support for the Lake Pend Oreille School District. As an independent organization, we will create and sustain an endowment to provide resources in support of effective teaching, learning and school management.

## ABOUT THE PANHANDLE ALLIANCE FOR EDUCATION

The Panhandle Alliance for Education (PAFE) is the designated education foundation for the Lake Pend Oreille School District #84. PAFE was created in 2002 to promote community and financial support for our students and educators. The State of Idaho's per capita funding for public education ranks 49th among the fifty states in the U.S. There simply are not enough dollars to keep Idaho public schools competitive with the rest of the country. The state is tapped out, and federal funding is a minor player at less than ten percent of the district budget. This discrepancy is a challenge that can only be resolved with individual and local support.

Stories by Lisa Gerber. Design and Layout by Keokee Media + Marketing

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For information contact Amy Longanecker, Executive Director. Or visit our website at [www.Panhandlealliance.org](http://www.Panhandlealliance.org)