

Public School Proud

*featuring stories of the students,
teachers, and alumni of the
Worcester Public Schools*

WEDF Welcomes McHala Brophy as Executive Director

The Worcester Educational Development Foundation, Inc., is pleased to announce McHala Brophy as the organization's executive director July 1, 2023. Brophy, a Worcester resident and Worcester Public Schools parent, has been active in the community and WEDF, and has worked at other educational organizations. According to WEDF President Stephen Mills, "We are delighted to welcome McHala as WEDF expands its commitment to helping to ensure equity and extraordinary experiences for students in the Worcester Public Schools."



2023 Mini-Grant Award Winners

In April, WEDF announced that it funded over \$5,000 in mini-grants for educators in the Worcester Public Schools. Grants awarded aligned with WEDF's four main areas of focus:

- Health & Wellness
- Arts & Culture
- College & Career Readiness
- STEM

Congratulations to this year's winners!

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
Dina Taylor	Worcester Technical High	Children's Library
Meg Cook	Elm Park	Harvesting Healthy Habits
Gregory Jones	South High	Modernizing Physics Classroom
Dane Quercio	Claremont	Cougar Coding Club
Jane Dowd	Burncoat High	BHS Memorial Courtyard
Brenda Hernandez	Worcester East Middle	Peace Over Violence
Anrea Cook	Buncoat Middle	Thrills & Chills
Tom Donington	Burncoat High	Burncoat Billygoats
Jackie Latino	North High	Happy Beans Coffee Shop
Alanda Juneau	Worcester Arts Magnet	Clay All Day!
Debra Bianculi	Tatnuck	Light, Shadow & Color
Michele Petty	Roosevelt	Getting Moving in PE!

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Worcester Public Schools Hall of Fame 2023 Inductees



The purpose of the WPS Athletic Hall of Fame is to select and honor outstanding athletes, coaches, individuals, and teams who have contributed significantly to an athletic program of the Worcester Public Schools. This year's inductees include:



Joshua Awuma	Doherty Memorial High School
Kelly Bates	Burncoat High School
Ken Bates	Burncoat High School
Ryan Keddy	Worcester Technical High School
Raymond McGrath	South High School
James McDermott	Coach
John Murray	Worcester Technical High School
Michael Paladino	Doherty Memorial High School
Joseph Perry	Doherty Memorial High School
Hannah Quinn	Doherty Memorial High School
Jim Reynolds	COACH
Yawin Smallwood	Doherty Memorial High School
Joseph Thompson	Outstanding contributor

Youth Climate Summit

Worcester Public Schools students participated in the Youth Climate Summit on Saturday, January 28, 2023 at Broad Meadow Brook. Students from Doherty, North, Burncoat and Shrewsbury joined representatives from the Boston Nature Center for a day of learning and fun.

Students heard from panelists on the causes and impacts of climate change. They also took a

“sustainability tour” of the Broad Meadow Brook wildlife sanctuary and facilities. Some students participated in an “activism” project by making colorful prints on recycled t-shirt fabric. Each group/team began making plans for a Climate Action Project, which they will develop and conduct in the spring before reconvening and sharing their actions. Students served as Summit planners, tour leaders, panel moderators, and emcees.



WEDF Presents O'Neil with Mills Founder's Award

Susan O'Neil is the exemplar of one dedicated to the overall development of our most precious resource, our children. Sue graduated from Clark University, obtained her master's degree from Harvard, and holds a Ph.D. in Education from the Lynch School at Boston University. Her career in education has spanned over 40 years, including multiple roles within the Worcester Public Schools as a teacher, principal, manager, and most recently before her retirement, deputy superintendent. Her dedication is noted by her desire to continue to provide extraordinary opportunities to students through her undertakings as a board member of WEDF, a position she has held for five years.



Sue's incredible energy, linked to her keen intelligence, insurmountable experience, and sincere compassion, drives her ambition to advance the mission of WEDF, and WEDF is grateful to her for her leadership role in its revitalization, and in April presented her with the Stephen E. Mills Award for Advancing the Mission of the Worcester Educational Development Foundation.

Sue, a Doherty High School alumna, continues to share her expertise with others through various institutions of education. She and her husband Michael are spending time with their grandchildren.

The Stephen E. Mills Award

The Stephen E. Mills award was established a decade ago to honor WEDF's founding president, Stephen Mills. The award is presented to an individual who has promoted WEDF's mission of connecting students and teachers with needed resources, enriching the student experience, and advancing equity through collaboration.

Studying The Past To Prepare For The Future

"You can't take the teacher out of me." Maybe it's a calling, for sure it is passion, and it is fortunate for the children of Worcester that 14 retired teachers engage them with local history through the Worcester Historical Museum's Culture LEAP program, Building Community: Having a Place and a Voice. In a recent interview with Angela Casey and Sharyn Eaton, both Worcester Public Schools retired teachers and both alumnae from the district, North and South Highs respectively, the women became teacher docents for the Museum because they miss the classroom, love the children, and are delighted to lead fifth graders through local history.



The students, well prepared in the classroom before they arrive at the museum, are warmly welcomed by LEAP teachers. There they learn about items invented in Worcester, including horseshoes, the rat trap, the jukebox, and of course, the internationally recognized smiley face. For so many students, this opportunity would not be possible without the generous funding of two local foundations, and commonly heard from the kids is, "This is the best day of my life."

ABOUT CULTURAL LEAP

Culture LEAP (Learning through Arts Partnerships) is a collaborative initiative among the Worcester Public Schools and cultural institutions, funded by the George I. Alden Trust and The Stoddard Charitable Trust and facilitated by the Worcester Educational Development Foundation. This year, more than 24,000 Worcester students will participate. The Worcester Historical Museum is the only institution devoted to local history. The program is managed by the Museum's William Wallace and Lynn Soucy. Teacher docents are: Elizabeth Casello, Sandra Lian, John Riccio, Beth Sannella, Helen Panagiotopoulos, Angela Casey, Paula Police, Judy Rothbard-Tate, Mary Ann Toll, Sharyn Eaton, Jennifer Tanoglu, Carol Manning, Barbara Luby, and Vicky Proch.

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