

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Bellevue Schools Foundation Benefit Tops \$555,000

The Bellevue Schools Foundation received an outpouring of community support as over 1,000 people attended the annual *Spring for Schools* program and luncheon yesterday at Meydenbauer Center, raising over \$555,000.

“This tremendous show of confidence by the community in the importance of results-driven excellence delivered by the Bellevue Public Schools is newly inspiring,” said **Roxanne Shepherd**, Bellevue Schools Foundation, executive director.

“With over 1,000 people choosing to attend *Spring for Schools*, we can be assured the Bellevue community values strong public schools,” said Shepherd. “In collaboration with the District, we are fostering a culture of continuous innovation and improvement.”

Julie Francavilla of KIRO 7 News was master of ceremonies, introducing speakers highlighting achievements and new collaborations throughout the Bellevue Public Schools.

Dr. Amalia Cudeiro, Superintendent of the nearly 18,000 students in the District, detailed new initiatives between The Bellevue Public Schools and the Bellevue Schools Foundation.

“We received a \$5.2 million grant to implement a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program at Sammamish High School,” said Cudeiro. “We’ll open the new Big Picture School in the fall, beginning with a 6th and 9th grade class, which offers problem-based learning and high school internships.”

Cudeiro also highlighted the new Chinese dual language program at Ardmore and a Spanish program at Sherwood Forest. Both already have waiting lists for fall enrollment.

“Second languages and the mastery of cultural diversity skills are critical for success in a global economy,” said Cudeiro.

Bellevue Schools Foundation Trustee **Bill Pollard**, spoke about reaching for excellence with challenged budgets.

“Despite the 5th year of state budget cuts, despite three budget reductions in this school year alone, and despite being the 42nd state in the country for per capita student spending – everyone at the Foundation and the District is moving forward with tremendous plans,” said Pollard.

In addition to the \$555,815 in pledges, the crowd passed pouches to raise “Bucks for Books”, netting \$6,393.

Additional speakers included **Jennifer Benson**, Clyde Hill Elementary principal with students **Logan Smoot and Parthiv Mathur**; **Eric McDowell**, Odle Middle School principal; **Michael O’Byrne**, Interlake High School IB program coordinator; and **Tania Rivers-Moore**, Interlake student.

Vicki Orrico presented Bellevue Rotary’s Teacher of the Year Award to Newport High School band director, **Matt Eisenhauer**.

Microsoft was the presenting sponsor of the event. Other top sponsors, **The Boeing Company** and **SpeeWest Construction and Global Scholar**, provided additional key funding. **Honda Auto Center of Bellevue**, **Coinstar**, and the **Heavy Restaurant Group** with **Purple, Lot No. 3**, and **Barrio** also assisted in underwriting the event.

The Bellevue Schools Foundation was founded over 30 years ago with a mission to promote and help fund the best possible learning opportunities for all students in the Bellevue School District.

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Side Bar

For more information, donations or volunteer opportunities:
Bellevue Schools Foundation, www.bsfdn.org or 425 456-4199
Bellevue School District, bsd405.org