

# ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Volume 3, Issue 1 | October 2021



**SCOTTSBLUFF SCHOOLS**  
**FOUNDATION**

## Hello Scottsbluff K-12 School Foundation Friends!



Foundation Board President John L. Selzer thanks  
Rick Myles for his years of service as  
superintendent of Scottsbluff Schools

What is the most important thing to do right now? If you are a teacher, it is to engage your students in the process of learning. If you are a student, the most important thing is to have a mind ready to receive and apply new information. As alumni of Scottsbluff Public Schools you can be part of that process. With your support, the Scottsbluff Schools Foundation has been able to continue its mission of enriching and enhancing educational experiences for our students.

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## Welcome Home!

**New Superintendent Dr. Andrew Dick**

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At Scottsbluff Public Schools, we have an amazing story, and it is an honor and privilege to be able to tell it every day. For those of you who may not know, my roots run deep in the Scottsbluff Public Schools system. I attended Westmoor Elementary, Bluffs Middle School (BMS), and graduated from Scottsbluff High School (SHS). Seventeen years ago, I returned home to teach at SHS and then went on to serve as a building-level administrator at BMS and SHS for 13 years. My wife is a counselor in the district and we have had one child graduate, one in elementary school, and one soon to be in elementary.

Having served on the Scottsbluff Public Schools Foundation Board since 2010, I am looking forward to continuing to work alongside the Foundation to further our mission of supporting



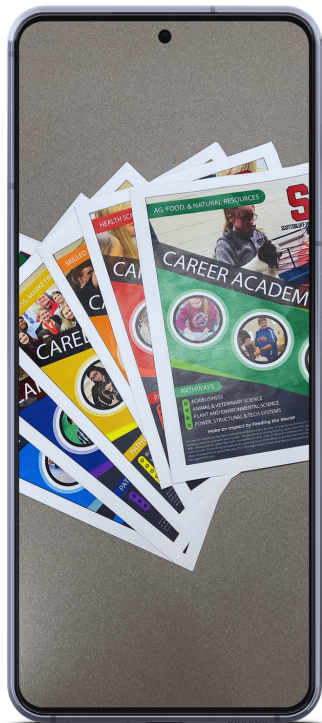
and enriching programs and educational opportunities for our students so we can collaboratively continue the upward trajectory Scottsbluff Public School has been on for the last many years. We will look to build upon our rich tradition of excellence, evaluate our current programs and initiatives, and exhibit innovation and student-oriented decision-making.

# New Foundation Director Named

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Beth Rohrer began as  
Foundation Director in March  
2021



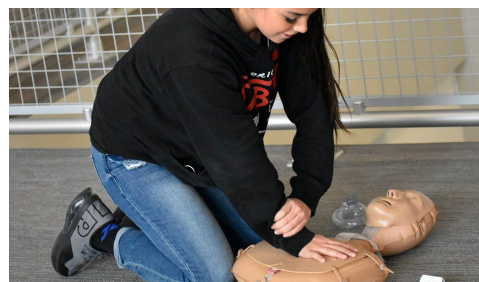
I am extremely excited for this opportunity to serve Scottsbluff Public Schools, students, parents, teachers and our community as a whole. Education has always been very important to my family. My grandparents both taught at the University of Montana while my mother became a middle school English teacher. My father, an attorney, also taught law for engineers at Montana State University. It is safe to say that I am a huge fan of everyone involved in education at all levels.

I am proud to say that Scottsbluff Schools are leading the way in focusing efforts to connect student learning in a real world context. We have six Career Academies at Scottsbluff High School: AG, FOOD, & NATURAL RESOURCES; HEALTH SCIENCES; SKILLED & TECHNICAL SCIENCES; BUSINESS, MARKETING & MANAGEMENT; COMMUNICATION, ARTS & TECHNOLOGY; and HUMAN SCIENCES & EDUCATION. Each of these academies offers teaching and training using learning and equipment currently used in the professional world. Our students are then able to participate in internships and practice the workforce skills needed by our business community. It truly is a great time to be a student at Scottsbluff. The Foundation will continue to support these efforts through our various programs, activities, scholarships and fundraisers.

At the Elementary level, the Foundation has partnered with the district to raise the funds necessary to remodel the elementary school playgrounds. We believe that the playground is an extension of the classroom and that it's time to make these areas engaging and dynamic play spaces that better reflect Scottsbluff Public Schools commitment to excellence. I will be sharing opportunities to help with this project in the coming months. Let's help our children PLAY STRONG!



Lincoln Heights Elementary School



Health Sciences Career Academy



# Classroom Grants

Awarded three times per year by the Foundation



Students in Mrs. Solomon's science class build clawbots



**Teachers at all levels are creating exciting learning experiences funded by the Foundation Classroom Grant Program**

This year we will continue to offer Classroom Grants to teachers who have innovative and unique learning opportunities to share with their students. Our latest recipient, Marylou Solomon teaches science at the Middle School. She was awarded \$5000 to help purchase a Robotics and Remote Control Unit. Marylou had this to say, "It is my desire to fuel the flames of learning for our young students before High School. This can help students to develop a love for science with hands on learning."

So what is the most important thing to do right now? For us, it is to continue to support teachers who are instilling a deep love of learning with innovative programs. For you, I would like to ask you to consider giving a one time or monthly donation to the Scottsbluff Schools Foundation. With your financial commitment, we can help to ensure our students' future success.

Your gift of \$1,000 could provide:

- classroom reading materials for an elementary classroom
- two Career Academy Scholarships for SHS seniors
- innovative classroom grant opportunities
- Excellence in Education awards for teachers and more



# Featured Alumni

## Doug Kent, Class of 1958

**Q. Do you have a favorite high school memory?**

A. "When I think of memorable moments I think of our Dixie Jazz Band. We played only Dixieland music. We were very popular in Scottsbluff and played everywhere. I was the drummer. We used to practice every morning. One morning when we were practicing I noticed a really cute girl watching me. Then I noticed that she showed up each morning. Her name was Louise Gross. One time after a concert I was talking to my friend, Kent Green, when Louise came up to me and said, 'You were so great!' then she walked away. I looked at Kent and said, 'Someday I'm going to marry her', and I did. Lucky me! She later became Louise Kent.

**Q. Do you remember a teacher who made a big impact on your life?**

A. "The teacher who made the biggest impact on me was Nellie Baron. She taught Algebra. Mrs. Baron barely talked louder than a whisper but she was a wonderful teacher and was devoted to each student. I'm not sure what her age was, but she was also one of my Dad's teachers".

**Q. What do you do for fun these days?**

A. "I play with my wife Louise. We will be married 58 years on October 12th. For a hobby, I do stained glass. I have a studio that I rent on 15th street. Hanging in the window is a piece I made that says KENT. But the most rewarding activity that I have found is volunteering at the Scotts Bluff National Monument. I have been doing this for more than 8 years now.



Volunteer Ranger Doug  
Scotts Bluff National Monument  
Enriching the lives of others one life at a time

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## Maria Torres, Class of 2011



Maria Torres

Lighting up the hallways at SHS

My name is Maria Torres and I am a 2011 SHS graduate. And, I am now a new 2021 SHS employee! I joined the SHS staff this year as a Freshman Academy math teacher. I teach Algebra and Geometry to both freshman and sophomores.

I am very excited to be back at SHS and to help build on to the wonderful things taking place here. I remember walking the halls and admiring the teachers before me. I am a strong believer that it's the little things that help build strong relationships. I had a teacher/coach who called me "spark plug" because of how energetic I was. I held on to that for an entire decade and years later, when I began teaching I wanted to make sure that I made my students feel the same way that Mrs. Behnke had made me feel.

I am excited to be a "spark plug" teacher at SHS. I plan to be "THAT" teacher. I want to be the teacher who goes all out for homecoming, the teacher who students can confide in, the teacher who uses humility in teaching, and the teacher that makes everyone learn to love math.



# Our Board Members

The Scottsbluff Schools Foundation Board was founded in 1988. It was established for the purpose of raising funds for the support and improvement of educational programs provided by Scottsbluff Public Schools. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The board of directors of the foundation is composed of volunteers from the community who believe in the importance of providing a high-quality education to the students of Scottsbluff Public Schools

John L. Selzer	Dan Charron
Hunter Kosman	Justin Shaddick
Nate Merrigan	John Marshall
Andrew Dick	Jack Baker
Ruth Kozal	Kyle Long
Bob Kelley	

If interested in serving on the board contact Beth Rohrer [brohrer@sbps.net](mailto:brohrer@sbps.net)

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## Common Planned Giving Myths

Many people believe that they are not the "right kind" of person to make a planned gift. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Scottsbluff Schools Foundation would like to demystify planned giving as a concept.

### **Myth #1 I have to be wealthy to make a planned gift.**

You do NOT have to have piles of cash laying around in order to make a planned gift. You might have property, jewelry or other assets that could be used to impact students today.

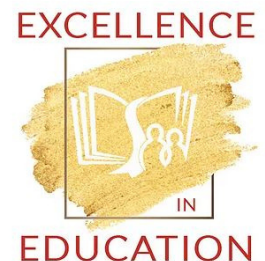
### **Myth #2 Planned giving is difficult, costly and time consuming.**

While it is possible people with complex financial pictures may choose to use an attorney to execute a planned gift, most of us can make one simply by naming Scottsbluff Schools Foundation as the beneficiary for a particular policy or investment fund.

### **Myth #3 The funds I intend to leave behind hardly qualify as a "planned gift".**

There is no donation to the Scottsbluff Schools Foundation that is not truly appreciated. There is no gift that won't help our children. We are able to do amazing things with small donations because they add up to big ones when we work together.

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## Ways you can **GIVE**

**The Foundation is set up to accept donations of almost any kind.**

**Credit card online at [sbpsfoundation.com](http://sbpsfoundation.com) click donate.  
cash or check**

**Real Estate**

**Stocks, Wills & Planned giving**

**Endowments & Scholarship Funds**

**Memorials**



**Thank you for making the SBPS Foundation part of your giving!**

# Partnership Packages for Annual Fund

As alumni of Scottsbluff High School, you are our largest group of supporters.

We invite you to join us as a partner in education with a financial commitment to help our students soar. Your commitment to the Scottsbluff Schools Foundation means that students will have educational opportunities that will prepare them for the future.

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☐ Summa Cum Laude (\$10,000)

☐ Magna Cum Laude (\$5,000)

☐ Cum Laude (\$2,500)

☐ Other

☐ I wish to remain anonymous

☐ Dean's List (\$1,000)

☐ Honor List (\$500)

☐ Academic Letter (\$250)

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## Donor Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

SHS Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Send Completed Partnership form and check to:**

The Scottsbluff Schools Foundation, 313 E. 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
brohrer@sbps.net 308-981-2917

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and your contributions are tax-deductible. Please contact Foundation Director, Beth Rohrer, for more information. Thank you for supporting Scottsbluff Schools Foundation.





**SCOTTSBLUFF SCHOOLS**  
**FOUNDATION**

Beth Rohrer, Director  
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Scottsbluff, NE. 69361

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*Nelson Mandela*

Education is the most powerful weapon  
which you can use to change the world.