

# OF NEWS

Fall 2016



## CHIPPEWA DESIGN LAB: A Creative Space for Student Innovation

Okemos 7th and 8th grade students are enjoying a variety of brand-new design equipment this fall. The Chippewa Design Lab, located in 7th grade science teacher Mark Tomczak's classroom, contains a 3D printer, vinyl cutter, color printer, several single-board computers, and three portable sewing machines. This equipment is being used in a new Chippewa elective called "Design Thinking," in which students learn the elements of good design, are taught how to safely use the equipment, and are then encouraged to use their imaginations to create their own projects.

Jessa is creating a colorful cloth bag that will hang from her bed frame. She's using one of the sewing machines to stitch fabric pieces together into a bag of her own design. She will then attach the bag to the bed frame using a plastic hook that she created with the 3D printer. She had never used either type of

machine before and is looking forward to using her finished project. Owen designed a decal using software on his district-supplied learning device (laptop computer). He then used the vinyl cutter to print the decal and decorated his device with his own personal logo. John is using the 3D printer to print a nosecone for a rocket. He downloaded the cone's design from the Internet but will use his own ideas to create the rocket body and parachute system. The vinyl cutter will help him personalize his rocket with decals. He expects the project to take all trimester and will probably involve some trial-and-error, an important part of the design process. "Mistakes are necessary in any part of





learning because they lay the foundation for success. Failing at something is the first step to being great at it,” advises Mr. Tomczak.

The Chippewa Design Lab will also be used by students in the Science Olympiad after-school club and is open to other students who have been trained on the equipment. Eric, an 8th grade student, has used the 3D printer to help him create the plastic nosecone and fins for a rocket project he worked on at home with his dad. After launching their initial design, they made a few adjustments to improve performance. Eric’s dad reports, “It flew way, way up until we lost sight of it. After the timed delay, the parachute charge ejected and we saw a puff of smoke. Based on the motor and design, it should have flown somewhere between 1,200 and 1,500 feet high. This is the best rocket we’ve made!”



“We know our students have the imagination and creativity to visualize amazing projects,” says OEF Chair Martha Hentz. “This new equipment gives them the tools to make those ideas come to life.” The Okemos Education Foundation received a grant from the Dart Foundation to purchase the equipment and supplies for the Chippewa Design Lab. **Thank you, Dart Foundation!**



### OTHER DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

Chippewa students also have access to the “CMS Library Makerspace,” which contains rotating hands-on activities for students in the areas of art, technology, science, and coding. In addition, the Chippewa Parent Group purchased a 3D printer that is part of the Chippewa Design Lab.



## Announcing the 2016 Okemos Education Foundation Award Recipients

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Okemos Education Foundation Awards, and we're celebrating by welcoming Dr. Dan C. Wertz as our keynote speaker. Dr. Wertz led Okemos Public Schools as its Superintendent for many years, and he founded the Okemos Education Foundation in 1984.



*Dr. Dan C. Wertz*

The Okemos Education Foundation Annual Awards Banquet honors the faculty, staff, volunteers, and alumni who have made a significant impact on the Okemos school community. We are pleased to introduce you to this year's deserving recipients and to invite you to help us honor them at the banquet.

The banquet includes a social hour (*cash bar with live music provided by OHS strings students*), dinner, and an uplifting awards presentation that will leave you feeling proud of not just those being honored but of the entire Okemos school community. Please consider joining us at this community celebration of educational excellence. For more information about the OEF Awards or to purchase banquet tickets, please visit our website at [www.oefsite.org](http://www.oefsite.org)

### The 2016 Okemos Education Foundation Awards Banquet

featuring keynote speaker **Dan C. Wertz**  
and hosted by **Mark Bashore**  
**Thursday, November 17, 2016**

Kellogg Center at Michigan State University  
5:30 pm: Social Hour  
6:30 pm: Dinner and Program

**Please purchase banquet tickets by Nov. 9**



*Sue Angell  
RTI Coach at Chippewa and Kinawa*



*Cindy Erickson  
Cornell Kindergarten teacher*



*Marian Murembya  
Kinawa 6th grade teacher*



*Stacey Molenda  
Executive Assistant*



*Dr. Michael Litos, Class of 1998*



*Theresa Weber  
OPM at Central PPK teacher*



*Justin Turner  
Kinawa Special Education teacher*



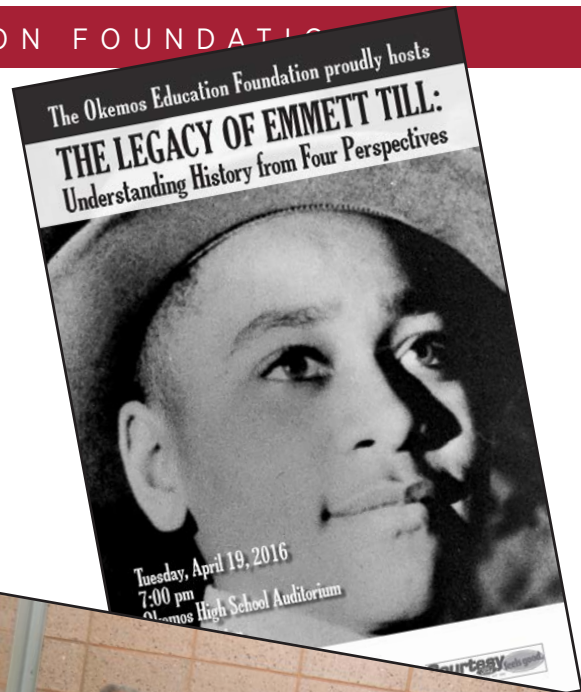
*Bob and Ann Helmick  
Volunteer*



*Julie Lawton-Essa  
Volunteer*

# HISTORY WAS ALIVE AT OHS ON 4/19/2016

Last spring, the Okemos Education Foundation presented a panel discussion about the 1955 murder of Emmett Till, one of the pivotal events that sparked the American Civil Rights Movement. ***The Legacy of Emmett Till: Understanding History from Four Perspectives*** featured guest speakers including Emmett Till's cousin, Wheeler Parker Jr., who was an eye witness to the events, author and historian Dr. Chris Crowe, FBI agent Dale Killinger who reopened the case in 2005, and MSU English and African American Studies professor Dr. Tamara Butler. The program was experienced by every Okemos High School student during the school day and by over 500 community members who attended the evening session. The OEF is grateful to OHS English teacher Jane Phillips and the OHS Black Student Union for their hard work in bringing this special event to our community. Visit [www.oefsite.org/till](http://www.oefsite.org/till) for more information, including event photos, participant comments, and video footage.



## What people said....

This event changed my life and the lives of my family. It brought history to life and our community together. But more importantly, it provided content for meaningful school and family discussions on what this means to us as human beings today-- what can we learn and what can we do in our daily interactions with one another to keep that learning alive ("don't hate, appreciate"). **Survey comment**

I'm really glad that Wheeler Parker was able to come because it gave us a view of what it was like to be there when it happened. I liked that the speakers interacted with us and answered our questions. **OHS student**

I loved hearing my students share their thoughts and insights on what they took out of the presentations. **Jodi Totte, OHS teacher**

I am so pleased that this event was brought to my community and hope that discussions of civil/human rights will be ongoing. The message of Emmett Till and the viewpoints shared by the panel and attendees were powerful. Thank you for shining such a powerful light! **Susie Black, OPM Central teacher**



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The Okemos Education Foundation is grateful to the following individual and business sponsors for helping us bring this valuable educational experience to our students and to our community. Thank you!

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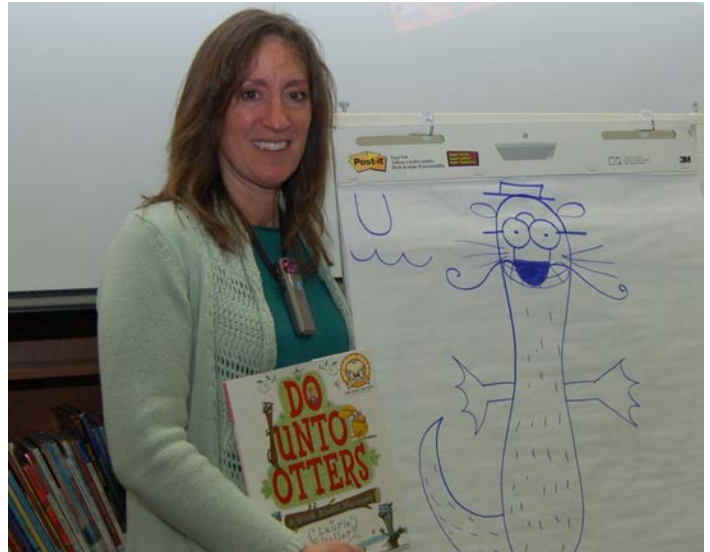
### In Memory of

Emmett Till

### In-Kind Donations

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Holiday Inn Express-Okemos, Sudar Photography

## Author/Illustrator Laurie Keller visits Okemos Schools



Michigan author/illustrator Laurie Keller visited Okemos elementary schools for “March is Reading Month.” Students were already familiar with Keller’s work, since her popular title **Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners** is a 2015 *Michigan Reads! Featured Title*. Keller shared how she develops story ideas and the importance of re-writing and editing. Keller ended her programs by giving step-by-step instructions on how to draw two of her beloved characters: the otter and Arnie the Doughnut. Students drew along with her and took home their very own versions of her characters.

The Okemos Education Foundation partners with Horizon Bank each spring to bring a different author to Okemos elementary students. “When I was young,” Keller told the audience, “I loved writing stories and drawing pictures, but I never realized that you could do this for a living.” This visiting author program helps inspire young students to pursue their own passions in creative writing and drawing, and helps them imagine that they, too, can someday have their work published. More information is available at [www.oefsite.org/author](http://www.oefsite.org/author)

# Grant Highlights

The Okemos Education Foundation approved funding for 44 grants last year. Grant requests came from every building and every grade level in the district and focused on many different academic areas. The complete list of approved grants can be found on our website ([www.oefsite.org/grants](http://www.oefsite.org/grants)).

## Fit Desks – Chippewa

Seventh grade teacher Tom Hopper received an OEF grant to purchase 3 “Fit Desks,” tall desks equipped with bicycle pedals to help kids expend some energy as they sit in class. Students commented that they like the desks because they “sit up higher,”



are “more comfortable,” “different,” and they “keep you active while working so you don’t get off task.” One student told OEF Chair Martha Hentz, “I don’t get in trouble as much” when he uses a Fit Desk, because “I can focus on my work.” The Chippewa Parent Group also purchased a Fit Desk for the building.

## Math Learning Materials – Commitment to Excellence Award Grant

Chippewa teacher Lee Ballor received an OEF Commitment to Excellence Award in 2013 for her outstanding teaching. Recipients



of this award each receive a \$1,000 grant to “support their continued contributions to education,” which is interpreted in a variety of ways by recipients. Some purchase technology

for their classrooms, some spend the grant on educational experiences, such as a guest speaker for their classroom or continuing education for themselves, while other recipients purchase classroom supplies. Ms. Ballor purchased a variety of educational supplies to help her math students, including math manipulatives as shown in the photo.

## OHS Author Visit



Author Kristine Brickey (*Flowers for Rodney; They Said She Was Crazy*) visited OHS last spring, sharing her insight with students about the writing process and about suicide prevention. Brickey, who is also a Mason 8th grade teacher, lost her 16-year-old son 6 years ago. Thank you, OHS Librarian Sandy Fields and the OHS English Department for bringing Brickey to our students. The Okemos Education Foundation funded a portion of Brickey’s visit through the OEF Micro Grant program.

## The Art Memory Project – OHS



OHS art teacher Rebecca Butler received an OEF Micro Grant last year to fund The Art Memory Project, an opportunity for her students to create special portraits of orphaned children. Organizers of the project send photographers to take photos of children at orphanages in various countries (Butler’s class was paired with a group from Bolivia). These photos are sent to art students like Butler’s

who create special portraits from the photos. The portraits are then delivered back to the children, who often have very few childhood keepsakes. Ms. Butler’s students were sent a heart-warming video of the children receiving their portraits. “I love this project. Thank you!” says Butler.



# 2015-2016 Clubs



## WORLD LANGUAGE CLUB – OHS

“This year we focused on learning about different cultures and had guest speakers from within OHS share their culture with our club. We also celebrated the Day of the Dead, hosted the Mardi Gras Carnival Float competition, learned how to merengue dance, and learned how to play games from around the world. We visited two museums in Grand Rapids in April, ending the evening at a Mexican restaurant. We talked about art, shared stories and shared many laughs.” Jose Gutierrez, club advisor



## KINAWA CROSS COUNTRY

“The 2015 cross country season was our biggest ever at Kinawa, with 107 participants. I especially like to see the reluctant kids, whose parents make (or encourage?) them to join for social or conditioning reasons, realize how much fun it is to run and be part of the team.” Marian Murembya, Kinawa Cross Country advisor



## ASIAN CULTURE CLUB – OHS

This student-led club hosted an OHS event (Asian Club Food Day), participated in community events, and learned new skills like Japanese calligraphy, Furoshiki, and Japanese tea ceremonies from the Michigan State University Asian Studies Center. A favorite memory of Annie, the club’s president, is of their participation in the Lunar New Year festival at the Meridian Mall. “Members were able to participate in and see firsthand Chinese – culture food, clothing, and artwork. The event was also a chance for the club to give back to the community. Being able to see the young kids come to the table and interact with members felt so fulfilling. Not only was the club providing opportunities for high school students to learn about Asian culture, but it was also teaching kids and igniting their passion to explore other countries from a young age.” Diane Dockus is the faculty advisor for this club.



## CULINARY CLUB – OPM AT CENTRAL

This is a very popular club with the elementary students at Okemos Public Montessori. Advisor Susie Black has fun watching her students enjoy their self-made delicious concoctions.



## ARCHERY – KINAWA

Club advisor Andy Sheufelt explains that his favorite part of the club is “seeing boys and girls gaining confidence in their archery abilities which in turn gives them an overall boost in their confidence. Also, we end up with a core of students who come to the archery club who make archery a permanent part of their lives. Thanks to the OEF for making it possible!”

APPROXIMATELY  
2,000 STUDENTS  
PARTICIPATE IN  
OEF-SPONSORED  
CLUBS

# 2015-2016 Financial Report

How OEF  
donations are  
spent on our  
students...

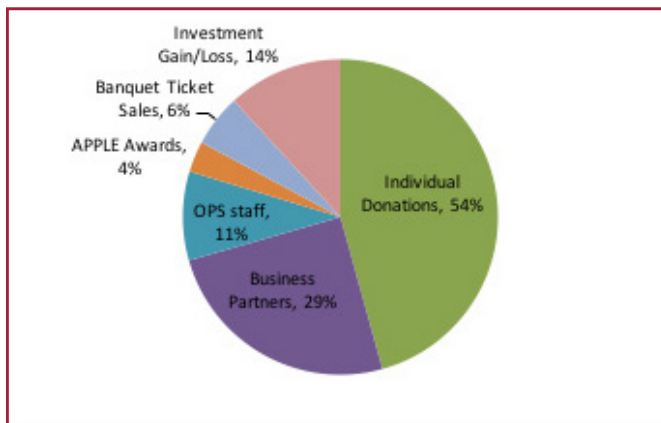
## A Message from OEF Board Chair Martha Hentz

The 2015-2016 school year was especially rewarding for the Okemos Education Foundation. Not only did we approve \$101,028 in funding for OEF grants, educational programs, and after-school clubs, but the April 19th panel discussion *The Legacy of Emmett Till* proved to be even more moving, influential, and better-attended than we had hoped. And, with six new OEF trustees who bring new ideas and energy to the board, plus a batch of new grant requests from Okemos teachers for innovative educational materials, the 2016-2017 year is off to a great start. If you are already a regular OEF donor, THANK YOU, and please know that your support is appreciated. If you have not donated in the past, please consider making a contribution today. OEF donations support Okemos students in every building and at every grade level of the district.

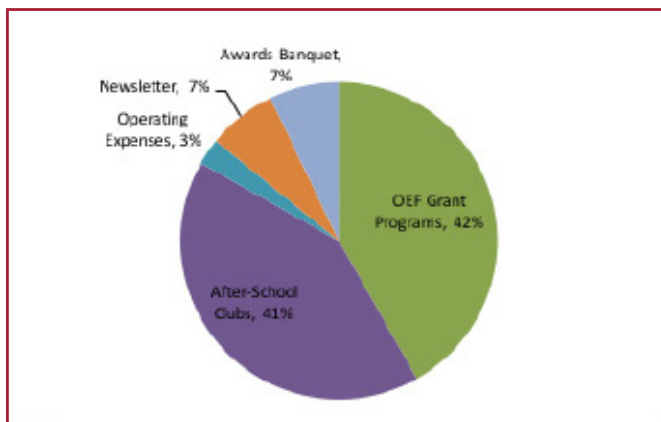
**Donate today ... together, we can provide the extra funding necessary to ensure a bright future for Okemos students.**

### OEF Approved Grants by Subject Area 2015-2016:

Bldg. materials/Educ. Enhancement:	\$11,102
Language Arts:	\$7,727
Fine Arts:	\$7,493
Social Studies:	\$6,000
Science:	\$5,852
Commitment to Excellence Awards:	\$5,000
Professional Development:	\$3,037
Club Grants:	\$2,750
Special Education:	\$1,311
Math:	\$500
.....	
	\$50,772
.....	
OEF Funded Clubs 2015-2016:	\$50,256
<b>Total Approved 2015-2016 Funding:</b>	<b>\$101,028</b>



**Revenue Sources  
2015-2016**



**Expenses 2015-2016**

### WHO ARE OKEMOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION DONORS?

- Parents of Okemos students
- Parents of Okemos graduates
- Alumni
- Grandparents of Okemos students and graduates
- Okemos district staff
- Area businesses
- Community members

People who believe in the importance of high-quality education for our youth ... People just like you! Please donate today! Use the donation form on the back page or donate online at [www.oefsite.org](http://www.oefsite.org).

Your support makes a difference in the lives of Okemos students.



**OEF Funded Clubs 2015-2016:  
\$50,256**

**Okemos High School**

- ACTION (*Community service*)
- Asian Club
- Connect (OHS freshman mentoring)
- Earth Club
- Gay/Straight Alliance
- Political Club
- Quiz Bowl
- SADD (*Students Against Destructive Decisions*)
- Theater Club
- World Language Club

**Chippewa 7/8**

- Student Government
- Art Club
- Computer Coding Club
- Homework Club

**Kinawa 5/6**

- Archery Club
- Cross Country Club

**Bennett Woods Elementary**

- Chieftain Champs (*mentoring program*)
- Safety Patrol

**Cornell Elementary**

- Chieftain Champs (*mentoring program*)
- Safety Patrol
- Student Government

**Hiawatha Elementary**

- Chieftain Champs (*mentoring program*)
- Safety Patrol
- Student Government

**Okemos Public Montessori at Central (OPM)**

- Culinary Club
- Safety Patrol
- Student Government

## THE OEF PARTNERS WITH THE CAPITAL REGION COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Okemos Education Foundation's endowment fund is now being managed by the Capital Region Community Foundation (CRCF). The CRCF is a local, tax-exempt, non-profit organization that manages more than 400 endowed funds with assets totaling over \$80 million. Contributions to the OEF's endowment fund can be made either directly to the CRCF (indicate "Okemos Education Foundation" on the memo line of your check) or to the OEF using our donation form. Either way, it will be safely invested by the CRCF's team of professional advisors and will remain as a permanent legacy to support the mission of the Okemos Education Foundation. Learn more at [www.crcffoundation.org](http://www.crcffoundation.org).



### BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Let the OEF help you advertise your business to the 2600 families in the Okemos Public School District. Contact Board Chair **Martha Hentz** for more information about how your support can help our students.

Our donor list is always available on our website at [www.oefsite.org](http://www.oefsite.org). Make a donation today and we'll add your name right away.

## Okemos Alumnus Supports Chippewa Auditorium Improvements

During a class reunion trip to Chippewa in the fall of 2015, Rod Ellis and his peers from the Class of 1965 were treated to a student vocal performance. Rod noticed that it was difficult to hear the performers in certain areas of the auditorium, and he decided to take action. Thanks to Rod's generosity, the Chippewa auditorium now has new sound equipment that will be enjoyed by students, staff, and audiences alike. Come out and hear the improvements this fall. **Thank you, Rod!**

# 2015-2016 OEF DONORS

(7/1/15 through 6/30/16)

The Okemos Education Foundation relies on financial donations in order to fulfill its mission. Thank you to our 2015-2016 Partners in Education for supporting Okemos students!

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# At Our Core and In Our Hearts

Superintendent's Message: **Dr. Catherine J. Ash**

It is not my intent to make a political statement or offer a political spin to the “superintendent’s message.” However, I have to be honest, one of the most impactful speeches I have heard in a long time was the one delivered by Michelle Obama in July, 2016. She truly gave a riveting speech about strength, diversity, and unity. As she was speaking, I continued to see each of us and all of us within the Okemos Public Schools.

In the spirit of full disclosure, while taking some “artistic” license, I am using many of Michelle Obama’s words and certainly much of her content.

Doesn’t this sound like what we do? Who we are? What we believe? What’s at our core and in our hearts? Doesn’t it reflect all of us (educators, parents/guardians, community members) who interact with youth in such an important and relevant way?

- We form the foundation for who children will become! How well we manage their experience can truly make or break them.
- Our words and actions matter.
- We fight to give everyone a chance to succeed.
- We give back even when we’re struggling ourselves.
- We are relentless in our efforts to make a difference in their lives.
- We teach our children that everyone in the classroom, school, district, community, and country matters.
- When challenges hit, we don’t turn against each other. Instead, we listen to each other, we lean on each other, because we are always stronger together.

Each of us within the Okemos Public Schools has always moved public education forward, and ultimately society forward by all of us coming together on behalf of our children. We know the importance of our individual and collective roles and contributions. With every word we utter, with every action we take, we know our children are watching us. We, as educators and parents/guardians, are the most important role models for our children.

We cannot afford to be tired or frustrated or cynical with those who see public education differently and often impose their will. Instead, we will continue to pour every last ounce of our passion, our strength and our love into our journey of educating all children.

The essence of Michelle Obama’s speech truly describes who we are, what is at our core and what is in our hearts, describing our beliefs and our values. It’s imperative that our commitment includes sustaining and enhancing these efforts by utilizing the lens of cultural competency and responsiveness. We will be identifying actionable strategies to ensure the vision captured in our Equity Plan (March 2016) becomes a reality for our students. That is truly how we will positively impact the lives of ALL of our children in a meaningful and relevant way. It’s not one more thing to do, but a lens through which we must do everything! It’s what is in our hearts, and enhanced by our strength and sense of unity!

There’s an old African proverb that says “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” Let’s continue on our journey together, educating with excellence, inspiring learners for life!



# Meet the School Board Candidates

**Election day, Tuesday, November 8, 2016**, will give voters an opportunity to fill four seats on the Okemos School Board, each with a 4-year term expiring December 31, 2020.

Each candidate submitted the following biography. More information can be found on the Okemos Public School's website: [www.okemosschools.net/election](http://www.okemosschools.net/election).



## MELANIE C. LYNN

Nine year residents of the Okemos community, Melanie C. Lynn and her husband, Wayne, are the proud parents of three (3) Okemos Public School graduates - Lauren (Central Michigan University), Britney (Howard University) and Chanel (Washington University).

Melanie earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Clemson University and an MBA from the University of South Carolina.

Melanie is employed with the Board of Water and Light as an Electrical Engineer/Project Manager.

Melanie is committed to sharing her leadership skills and experiences with the community and proud of the service that she renders on behalf of children. She served as the Regional Director for the Mid-Western Region of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated, a national organization that promotes leadership development, community service and civic engagement for children 2 - 19 years old. In addition to her leadership in the local Greater Lansing Chapter, Melanie has served the organization in various leadership capacities, managing teams that coordinate enrichment programs for children in the region's eight states.

Melanie was appointed to the Okemos Board of Education on October 28, 2010. Elected to serve the Okemos school district in 2011, she currently serves as President of the Board of Education.



## TONYA RODRIGUEZ

Tonya Rodriguez was raised in Okemos and graduated from Okemos High School. She returned to Okemos in 2012 to be closer to family and to give her daughter the benefit of the excellent educational opportunities available at Okemos Public Schools.

Ms. Rodriguez earned a Bachelor's of Science from Michigan State University. After earning her undergraduate degree, Ms. Rodriguez served as a Community Health Educator for the Peace Corps in Niger, West Africa. Ms. Rodriguez then earned a Juris Doctorate, Cum Laude, from Michigan State University College of Law. While in law school, she worked at Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM) providing legal assistance to the economically disadvantaged. Ms. Rodriguez practiced law in Southern California for several years before returning to Okemos. Ms. Rodriguez is currently serving as in-house counsel for Auto-Owners Insurance Company.

Ms. Rodriguez was elected to the board in November 2012 to fill a partial-term position vacated by former Board Member Ron Styka. She is involved in the Policy Committee and currently serves as Vice President. She has previously served as Parliamentarian and as representative to the Okemos Education Foundation.



## SARAH WOHLFORD

Sarah Wohlford and her husband, Justus Nieland, a professor of English and film studies at Michigan State University, have lived in Okemos since 2006. They have two children in the Okemos Public Schools.

Ms. Wohlford has a Bachelor of Arts in English from Grinnell College, a Master of Arts in English Literature from Rutgers University-New Brunswick, and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan. Prior to attending law school, she worked for the Indiana University Center for Innovation in Assessment as a Social Studies Content Specialist, and as a Marketing Assistant for Indiana University Press. She was an associate at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn, LLP, before she joined the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services in 2011 as a Senior Staff Attorney.

Ms. Wohlford is a current member of the MSU Community Music School Choral Program Advisory Council. She has served on the Okemos Public Schools World Languages Committee, and as past president of the Montessori Radmoor School Parent Guardian Association. She was a member of the State Bar of Michigan Insurance and Indemnity Law Section Council and past president of the Mid-Michigan Region of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.

Ms. Wohlford was appointed to the Board on May 9, 2016, and serves as a representative to the Okemos Education Foundation.



## ERICA WOLF

In 2012, Erica and her family moved to Okemos based on the great reputation of the schools and have not been disappointed. Her son is currently enrolled at Okemos Public Montessori at Central and she has been impressed by the dedication of staff and parents.

Erica is a collaborative person and believes that teachers and schools are at their best when they have full support of the community. As a daughter of a public school teacher, she knows the tough job teachers and administrators have, especially when revenues from the State are in flux. She knows that a supportive school board is a must to help any school district continue to move forward.

Erica graduated from Oakland University with a B.S. in Environmental Health. Later she received her J.D. from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. She has worked for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Air Quality Division for 13 years, ten collecting air monitoring samples and the last three dealing with policy issues. Erica is a former school board member for Stepping Stones Montessori, is an active member of the Greater Lansing Alumni Chapter of Gamma Phi Beta, and is a member of the ToastNotables Toastmaster Club.

# APPLE Awards

The following Okemos staff members were honored with an APPLE Award from July 2015 – June 2016.

## APPLE AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Melissa Allis  
Ashley Andersen  
Mariana Austrins  
Mike Backus  
Lee Ballor  
Christine Batora  
Michelle Beck  
Tori Benton  
Susie Black  
Mary Braun  
Jora Brummette  
Christina Burke  
Janet Campbell  
Karen Canestraight  
Nita Carpenter  
Tim Case  
Karen Casler  
Marsha Chance  
Joy Chase  
Stacy Christensen  
Allison Cironi  
Adam Clements  
Josh Coty  
Jamie Coy  
Staci Davis  
Steve Delp  
Jennifer Eddy  
Kathleen Eiya  
Larry Erdman  
Cindy Erickson  
Alison Evenson  
Briana Fankhauser  
Trish Finnerty  
Ryan Fountain  
Molly Francis  
Ashleigh Fesko  
Tara Fry  
Jennifer Garmon  
Trisha Garvey  
Elizabeth Gauthier  
Kathy Gibson  
Sheri Gunns  
Colleen Guysky  
Adrienne Hagon  
Lisa Hall  
Kathy Harbert  
Brian Harrod  
Sally Heisler  
Jenny Hendrix  
Paul Hinze  
Lisa Holcomb

Jennifer Holcomb  
Lisa Holmes  
John Hood  
Jill Hoort  
Tom Hopper  
Lori Howe  
Sheryl Hudler  
Jonathan Hughey  
Tyler Hursey  
Angela Hussain  
Jamie Ianni  
Lauri Johnson  
Sue Kebler  
Leah Kelly  
Gary Kinzer  
Brian Kushion  
Erin LaFrier  
Penny Lantz  
Kathy Lanzetta  
Jean Lee  
Sara Leggett  
Beth Lieber  
Phil Magsig  
Megan Malkus  
Jocelyn Mankowski  
Breanne Mason  
Marilyn McCarthy  
Margie McJames  
Amanda Medina  
Amita Messerschmidt  
Julie Mittan  
Susan Mlaker  
Don Mowry  
Marian Murembya  
Denise Nelson  
Erica Nishon  
Theresa O'Donnell  
Colleen Palmer  
Amy Petersburg  
Alana Pignataro  
Ladonna Price  
Matt Prinz  
Paula Pulter  
Dezrae Roberts  
Sara Roland  
Kristin Rosenbrook



Melissa Samluk  
Ivy Schmidt  
Kris Schoen  
Joel Schut  
Christine Sermak  
Megan Shannon  
Robb Shubel  
Christena Simila  
Christine Skoutelas  
Melissa Smith  
Joni Steinhaus  
Kristen Terreri  
Holly Thornton  
Mark Tomczak  
Patty Trelstad  
Sue Usiak  
Carmen VanAlstine  
Kara VanDyken  
Hedlun Walton  
Jessica Warren  
Theresa Weber  
Leslie Wertz  
Kortney Whitmyer  
Jenny Woodruff

## APPLE AWARD DONORS:

Jack Adair  
Jensen Adair  
Rayna Adams  
Jackson Allen  
anonymous  
Naren Harshakumar  
Dhruvsai Aylum  
The Baek family  
Anagi Balachandra  
Bridget and Ric Balesky  
The Beardslee Family  
Alison Beegle  
The Beegle Family  
The Behan Family  
Chris and Angi Beland  
Jace Beland

The **Okemos Education Foundation APPLE Award** offers families a way to publicly honor Okemos staff members who have touched the lives of their students. For a \$20 donation to the Foundation, the OEF will deliver a full-color, personalized 5x7 certificate that includes the specific reason why that person is being honored. This program is a win-win: it gives a “pat on the back” to our deserving staff and also provides needed donations to the OEF to fund programs for our students. APPLE Awards are available at any time of the year and can be ordered at [www.oefsite.org](http://www.oefsite.org).

**Thank you for your support!**

Beloskur Family  
The Bonemer Family  
The Buck-Hentz Family  
Santa Budida  
Sangkyu Byun  
The Casey Family  
Colin Cavanaugh  
Elias Choi  
Cornell Kindergarten Teachers  
Marissa Cruz and Gabe Hausbeck  
Raymond Donahue  
The Elliott Family  
The Fritzsche Schwartz Family  
Misa Fukushima  
Bin Gao and Zhenmei Zhang  
Blake Gardner  
The Grant Family  
Greenway-Farrell Family  
Annu, Susan & Jai Grewal  
Sunnan Hargy  
Ben and Laura Haskel  
Heath Family  
Audrey Hillman  
Hirchert-Walton Family  
The Hoag Family  
The Igel Family  
Thomas Jose Junior  
The Kalfa Family  
The Kerekes-Pollex family  
Bumjune Kim  
Hyunjunz Kim  
Vijay Korakoppula  
Parnika Koya  
Esha Kumar  
HaYoung Lee  
Noah Leiby and Family  
Anna Li  
Zenggang Li  
Parker Lisk  
Haitao Liu  
Qun Liu  
The Loebig Family  
Valerie and Christopher Long  
Jill Mazzola

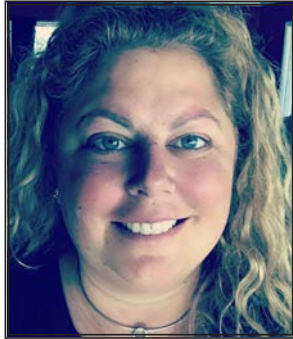
Hassan Ameen Mezori  
Kevin and Suna Monroe  
Jackson Nowlin  
Shreya Padamati  
Yuktha Padamati  
Liam Peck  
Mauricio and Andi Pincheira  
Daniela, Joe and Clara Pinella  
The Poltavets Family  
Laasya Puvvada  
Auden Randels  
The Richards Family  
The Rigg Family  
Faith Rodriguez and Family  
Sandra  
Jordan Schweitzer  
Max Schweitzer  
Jody and Patrick Seeling  
Matthew and Michelle Selby  
Lexie Sermak  
Maddie Sermak  
Eshaan Shenoy  
Robb, Courtney, Nolan and Luci Shubel  
Anugraha Sriram  
Sath Sudhanthar  
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The VanderKlok Family  
Kavish Vani  
HongYing Wang  
The Wohlford-Nieland Family  
Kevin Wu  
The Yan Family  
The Yang Family  
Jindong Zhang  
Peng Zhang and Hui Liu  
Yin Zhang & Yimin Xiao  
Jack Zheung



# Meet the New Trustees



Aly Boggs-Smitley



Kimberly Cronin



Kimberle Midgley



Smita Sawai



Pratin Trivedi



Sarah Wohlford

## OKEMOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION 2016-17 TRUSTEES

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Ron Styka  
Antoinette Tessmer  
Pratin Trivedi  
Sarah Wohlford

Ex-Officio:  
Robert Miller, Jr.

Learn more about the new OEF trustees at [www.oefsite.org/board](http://www.oefsite.org/board).

### WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE OEF

**Make a Donation** The OEF relies on financial donations from the Okemos community to fund the many grants and programs that it supports. Your contribution will help to enhance the education of all Okemos students.

**Become an OEF Sponsor** By sponsoring a specific club, OEF program, or the annual OEF Awards Banquet, you can give targeted support to one area of need.

**Leave a Legacy** Support Okemos students with a planned gift through your will or trust.

**Purchase an OEF APPLE Award** to honor an Okemos staff member.

**Attend** the annual **OEF Awards Banquet** and celebrate with us.

**Volunteer** We need help with **development, publicity, graphic design, and website support.**

Contact OEF Chair Martha Hentz at [chair@oefsite.org](mailto:chair@oefsite.org) for more information.

**Thank you!**



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



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**Thank you for supporting the Okemos Education Foundation.**

Please include this form with your donation. Donations are tax-deductible, as permitted by law. Please see our website for recognition benefits based on levels of giving. Online donations can be made at **www.oefsite.org**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Check all that apply:**

- Parent/Grandparent (circle one) of Okemos student
- Parent/Grandparent (circle one) of Okemos grad
- Okemos Alum (year: \_\_\_\_)
- OPS staff (current/former)

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