HEF

Foundation FOCUS

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

2026 HEF Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

Dear Lacey,

As a member of the Hudsonville Education Foundation's Hall of Fame Committee and Board, I have the privilege of taking part in one of the most rewarding responsibilities our community offers: helping to recognize the alumni whose lives reflect the very best of what a Hudsonville education can inspire. It is important work that reminds me each year just how far the reach of an Eagle can extend.

The standard we hold for Hall of Fame induction is high, and intentionally so. This honor is reserved for graduates whose achievements, character, and lasting impact set them apart, and our committee reviews every nomination with the care and seriousness that distinction deserves. We are not simply looking at résumés. We are weighing the difference these individuals have made in their fields, their communities, and the lives around them.

That work would not be possible without the people who take the time to submit nominations. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who shared a story this year, those who have witnessed an honoree's influence firsthand, who have

learned from them, worked alongside them, or been shaped by their example. Your words give the committee a fuller picture of each candidate, and they remind us that a person's true legacy is written in the lives they've touched.

This year, two exceptional Eagles rose to meet that high standard, and they will be recognized at our upcoming Eagles of Excellence Gala on November 2 at the Pinnacle Center. Please join me in celebrating:

Ronald Vander Molen, M.D.
Class of 1958

Paul DeBoer, CPA
Class of 1981

Congratulations to our 2026 inductees. Make plans to celebrate them and our student Eagles of Excellence. Proceeds from the event fund the scholarships and programs that help the next generation of Eagles begin writing legacies of their own.

Sincerely,

Deb Watson

HEF Hall of Fame Committee Member, Board Secretary

"One of the things I appreciated most about being inducted into the Hall of Fame was sharing the experience with family, friends, and people who were part of my journey.

The Gala isn't just about recognizing accomplishments—it's about celebrating a community that believes in its students and investing in the success of those who will follow."

David DeJong
2025 Hall of Fame Inductee
Class of 1987

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YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 2026

EAGLES

of Excellence Gala

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

5:30-7:30 PM

PINNACLE CENTER
3330 HIGHLAND DRIVE
HUDSONVILLE, MI

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS $50
REGISTER AT HUDSEDFOUND.ORG/GALA

HUDSONVILLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

EAGLES OF EXCELLENCE

PRESENTED BY

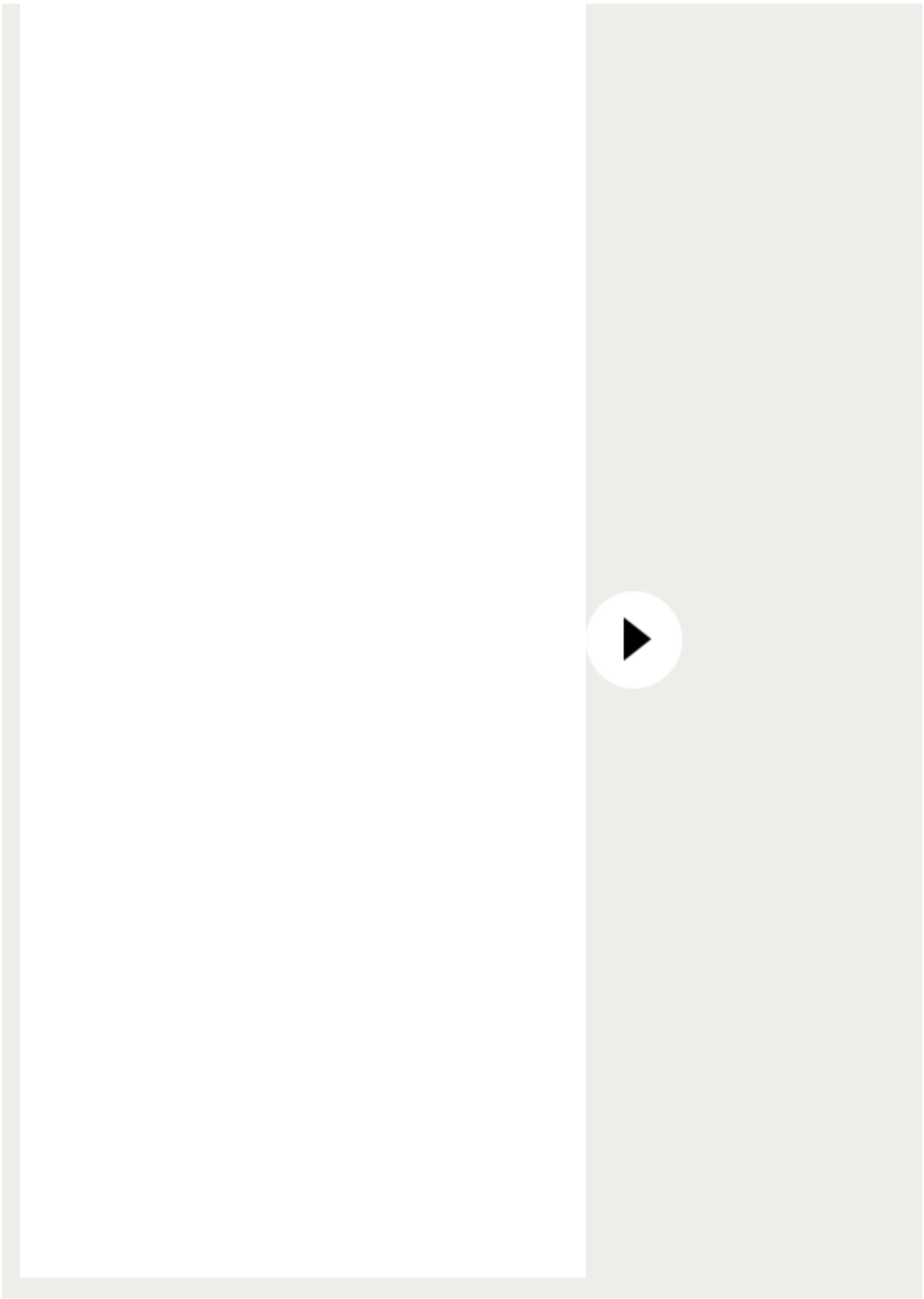
GEMMENS ACE Hardware

GALA TICKETS

GALA SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

2026 Eagles Day at GVSU: Get Tickets Today!





PURCHASE TICKETS HERE

SECOND GRANT APPLICATION CYCLE OPENS SOON

Great news for the amazing educators in your world: HEF is adding a second grant application cycle this year, opening in September.

HEF funds classroom innovation that aligns with and strengthens district curriculum and instruction, often impacting students for years to come.

Applications grounded in research, impact, and innovation will stand out most to the review committee.

The Key: Memorable, transformative, and powerful learning experiences in action.

Cycle #1 Awardees Announced: August 24

Cycle #2 Applications Open: September 10

2026 Remaining Funds in General Pool: $4,370.14

2026 Remaining Funds in AP Educator Pool: $3,115.01

READ ABOUT RECENT GRANT AWARD IMPACTS HERE

Your donations help make more grant awards possible! Click here to help.

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SAVE THE DATE(S)

Eagles Day at GVSU Game/Tailgate: October 3

Eagles of Excellence Gala: November 2

Spring SOARée: May 5, 2027

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