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EAGLES OF
EXCELLENCE

HUDSONVILLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

GALA 2022

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GOLD



SILVER



Meghan Condit, DDS, MS
Christine Vollmar, DDS, MS



Building for Life



THE PINNACLE CENTER



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Hudsonville

Education Foundation

Thank you for joining us this evening!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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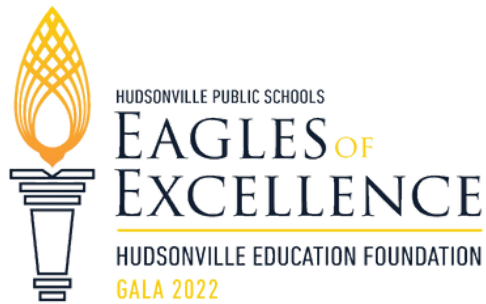
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Janessa Smit

MISSION

The mission of the Hudsonville Education Foundation is to invest in academic opportunities for Hudsonville Public School students by providing funding for resources that enrich learning.

Inspire. Invest. Innovate.



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022
5:30PM - 7:30PM
THE PINNACLE CENTER

JAZZ BAND

Craig VanderWall, HPS Music Teacher & HPS Students

WELCOME

Janessa Smit, Executive Director

BLESSING

Mark Davis, HPS Board of Education Trustee

DINNER

ORCHESTRA

Adam Davis, HPS Music Teacher & HPS Students

DESSERT

Angela Bennett, Family Consumer Science Teacher & HPS Students

VARSITY VOICES

Deb Andre, HPS Music Teacher & HPS Students

PROGRAM

Inspire

Eagles of Excellence Student Recognition
Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Induction

Invest

Drew Ysseldyke, HEF Board of Directors President

Innovate

Janessa Smit, Executive Director & HPS Administrator/Educators

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Dr. Doug VanderJagt, HPS Superintendent



2022 Eagles of Excellence Student Recognition



Taelyn Aikens
Baldwin Street Middle School
Class of 2028



Katelyn Alberda
High School
Class of 2024



Magdalena Alonzo-Mateo
High School
Class of 2023



Paxton Brechting
High School
Class of 2025



Molly Brower
Freshman Campus
Class of 2026



Chase Ciolek
High School
Class of 2024



Willow Davidson
High School
Class of 2025



Landon Dykema
High School
Class of 2025



Jael Gamboa-Zavala
Riley Street Middle School
Class of 2028



Sydney Guyot
High School
Class of 2023



Grant Heslinga
Riley Street Middle School
Class of 2027



Elli Howard
Baldwin Street Middle School
Class of 2027



2022 Eagles of Excellence Student Recognition



Ashley Johnson
High School
Class of 2024



Brayden Jost
Baldwin Street Middle School
Class of 2028



Gideon Lemmen
Freshman Campus
Class of 2026



William Mandryk
Freshman Campus
Class of 2026



Hailey Morales
Riley Street Middle School
Class of 2027



Madelyn O'Gorman
High School
Class of 2025



Brooklyn Pallas
Freshman Campus
Class of 2026



Emily Plaggemeyer
Baldwin Street Middle School
Class of 2027



Alec Snip
High School
Class of 2023



Brayah Thurkettle
Riley Street Middle School
Class of 2028



Quinn Tolsma
High School
Class of 2024



Dylan VanderJagt
High School
Class of 2023



2022 Eagles of Excellence Mentors



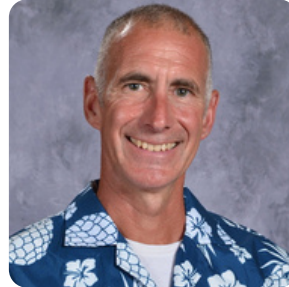
Alyssa Bellers
Student: Molly Brower



Christopher Bolhuis
Student: Dylan VanderJagt



Anna Cardinal
Student: Hailey Morales



Kevin Conkel
Student: Sydney Guyot



Sydney Crosby
Student: Jael Gamboa-Zavala



Jamie Dodson
Student: Willow Davidson



Hannah Gibson
Student: Emily Plaggemeyer



Molly Guikema
Student: Brayah Thurkettle



Jeff Henderson
Student: Taelyn Aikens



Erin Hills
Student: Brayden Jost



Joseph Kessel
Student: Landon Dykema



Christie Klaasen
Student: Ashley Johnson



2022 Eagles of Excellence Mentors



Curt Kooiker
Student: William Mandryk



Abigail Labarge
Student: Paxton Brechting



Rachel Manzer
Student: Magdalena Alonzo-Mateo



Philip Matthews
Student: Katelyn Alberda



Matthew Meerman
Student: Madelyn O'Gorman



Joe Szymanski
Student: Chase Ciolek



Jody Timmer
Student: Brooklyn Pallas & Gideon Lemmen



Jody VanZalen
Student: Elli Howard



Pamela Wise
Student: Grant Heslinga

“

The mediocre teacher tells.
The good teacher explains.
The superior teacher demonstrates.
The great teacher inspires.

- William A. Ward

”

2022 Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee



KEN SIKKEMA **CLASS OF 1969**

CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

Ken Sikkema graduated from Hudsonville High School in 1969. He participated in sports throughout his four years at Hudsonville and was Valedictorian and President of the Student Council his senior year. Ken received a BA in History cum laude from Harvard University and an MBA with distinction from the University of Michigan.

Ken got his start in politics right after college when he worked on a political campaign, which led to a job as a legislative assistant in the Michigan State Senate for four years. He then worked on environmental issues as the West Michigan Environmental Action Council Executive Director in Grand Rapids for three years. He left to pursue his master's degree in business at the University of Michigan and became a marketing Manager for Herman Miller, Inc. in Zeeland in 1984.

Ken was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1986 and served twelve years. While in the House, he served as Majority Floor Leader and as House Republican Leader in his last term. In 1998 he was elected to the Michigan Senate, where he served eight years as Senate Majority Leader during his final term. Ken is the only legislator in Michigan history to have served as leader of his caucus in both the House of Representatives and Senate.

After leaving the Michigan legislature, Ken became a Senior Policy Fellow at Public Sector Consultants, a Lansing-based public policy research firm and think tank. During his sixteen years with Public Sector Consultants, he counseled governors and legislators on the issues of education, energy, health care, and the environment. He also taught political science at Grand Valley State University for three years as an adjunct professor.

Ken and his wife Carla live in Grandville, close to their son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren. He enjoys much of what West Michigan offers: golfing, fishing, canoeing, and Lake Michigan. He immensely appreciates his time at Hudsonville High School and credits the teaching, work ethic, and values of that experience as instrumental in his later success.

2022 Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee



MATT SMITH **CLASS OF 2009** CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

Matt Smith graduated from Hudsonville High School in 2009. He then enrolled at Palm Beach Atlantic University to pursue a degree in marketing. He returned home in the spring of 2013 after graduating to be near his mother, who was battling cancer.

In 2011, Matt and his dad began the hobby of dabbling with buying and selling liquidated goods out of their barn (mainly during the summers when Matt was home). They would make trips to Indianapolis with a truck and trailer, pick up shelf pulls and return goods and then resell those items through various outlets.

Matt's mother died in October of 2013 and using some of her life insurance money, Matt and his dad purchased a small online auction in Hudsonville (Grand Valley Online Auction) and changed the name to Bid-2-Benefit-Youth. They dedicated the business in memory of Matt's mother, who was a compassionate and caring nurse, and it would reflect the purpose of developing youth as young leaders and giving back.

The two soon learned that the online auction model would prove challenging to make a profit. At about that time, the landlord for the old Carter Lumber building complex on Balsam Drive heard about the Smiths' vision and rented the building to them for a fair price. Matt hatched the idea of a retail outlet store to work alongside the auction. A second building was soon leased, and Matt secured a contract to receive all liquidated goods from a name-brand big box store. Now Bid-2-Benefit-Youth was on the map.

In the spring of 2015, the outlet store of B2BY became the central revenue-producing piece of the business. With that, the name was changed to "Benefit Twice Outlet Stores" to reflect the two-fold benefit of customers receiving a good price on products while giving back to the community with every purchase. Additional stores were added in other communities throughout West Michigan.

Today, Matt Smith is the CEO of B2 Outlet Stores. At 31 years old, he no longer leads a small business but a growing and innovative company. B2 Outlets Stores has given back over \$1.5 million to over 250 non-profit groups throughout Michigan and beyond. With twenty-seven stores and 400 employees, the company is positioned to double the number of stores in the next five years, with the goal to give back \$1 million to non-profits annually.

Matt represents a tough, resilient, yet kind and level-headed entrepreneurial spirit that has weathered many storms and proven what a young man from Hudsonville can do. Matt and his wife Rebecca live in Hudsonville.

2022 Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee



LARRY BYLE **HONORARY & POSTHUMOUS** SERVICE TO HUDSONVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS/COMMUNITY

Larry Byle graduated from Kelloggsville High School in 1950. He then attended Grand Rapids Junior College and received an Associate Degree in Education and in 1954, he received a BS (with an emphasis in Science and Physical Education) from Albion College. He received his Master's Degree in Education from the University of Michigan and got his first teaching job at Berlin High School in Marne.

In 1957, Larry began his teaching career at Hudsonville, teaching freshman English and Bible class. The following year, he moved to the Science Department, where he remained teaching Earth Science (his passion) until his retirement in 1995.

During his time at Hudsonville, Larry coached varsity baseball for thirty-seven years, JV football for twenty-one years, was a varsity football assistant coach for four years, and the freshman basketball coach for two years. Larry was inducted into the high school football and baseball coach's hall of fame. He was also the first to receive person the Hudsonville Athletic Boosters Eagle Legacy Award.

His biggest love of all was teaching science. In 1978, Larry Byle and Dave Bolhuis founded the Summer Science Institute and began taking twenty-six students out west for three weeks each summer to take an in-depth look at Field Geology and Biology.

Over the three weeks out west, the students travel by bus through the Badlands, the Black Hills, Wind Cave Park, Devils Tower, the Tetons, Yellowstone, and Glacier Nation Park. The group tents at their destinations, prepares their meals, takes turns setting up and cleaning up, and bonds through the challenge. Students learn teamwork, discover a new way of life and make lifelong friends. They push their minds and bodies every day. The students return home and become the leaders of their class. The teachers who lead these students do not teach just one hour a day but have them all hours of the day for three weeks.

Today, the Summer Science Institute has been operating for forty-three years. As of 2022, 1,006 students have participated in the Summer Science Institute. It has afforded students career goal aspirations, self-confidence, a love of the outdoors, and a yearning to learn, among many other things.

Larry Byle passed away on July 28, 2021, at the age of 89. He is survived by his wife, Gloria, four children and their families. In his obituary, Larry wrote the following words to his students of forty-one years of teaching: "One of the aspects of teaching that is the most rewarding is getting to know and working with young people. You were all special to me."

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION



The Hudsonville Education Foundation and Action Water Sports share a desire to invest in future generations, which has led to the creation of an initiative called Leadership in Action. Jerry and Kristalyn Brouwer's generous donation will provide this year's Eagles of Excellence students and their staff mentors with a scholarship to access the same leadership development tools and training they provide to their Action Water Sports employees. Leadership in Action will launch in 2023.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

A new Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame will be constructed in 2023. The display case is located outside the Fine Arts Auditorium at the current Freshman Campus. The previous electronic Hall of Fame was displaced due to the renovations at the High School. The permanent display will honor past inductees while providing room for additional inductees in the future. The installation is made possible by a generous donation from Ken Wierda in memory of his late wife, former Hudsonville Public Schools educator and 2017 Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame inductee, Marcia Wierda.



SUPPORT EXTRAORDINARY EDUCATION



Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, the Hudsonville Education Foundation is able to enrich learning for students by providing funding for resources in classrooms across the district. Your gift, great or small, will provide tangible, meaningful support to students and educators at Hudsonville Public Schools. By making a tax-deductible contribution to the General Fund, Endowment Fund, or Scholarship Fund, you are making the education at Hudsonville Public Schools truly extraordinary.

2022 TEACHER GRANTS - \$15,000 AWARDED

BAUER ELEMENTARY

- Raz Kids Reading App - Ms. Lindsay Morris, Ms. Natalie Klapko, Ms. Jessica Kopka

GEORGETOWN ELEMENTARY

- Schoolwide Shared Decodable Book Library - Ms. Jennifer Stutz, Ms. Jennifer Baker, Ms. Kierstin Mowinski, Ms. Julie Reifschneider
- Soft Start Morning Tubs - Ms. Allix Hutchison

JAMESTOWN LOWER ELEMENTARY

- Literacy Tool Kit for Phonemic Awareness - Ms. Lindsay Horlings, Ms. Heather Keil, Ms. Karli Sanders, Ms. Heidi Boeve

PARK ELEMENTARY

- Balanced Classroom Literacy Library - Ms. Jodi Durham

RILEY STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Earbuds for Grade-Level Audio Books - Ms. Lauri Achterhof

HIGH SCHOOL

- Digital Choir Piano - Ms. Deb Andre
- Special Education Adaptive Percussion Ensemble - Mr. Craig VanderWall
- Graphing Calculators - Ms. Andrea Twigg
- PSAT/SAT Scientific Calculators - Mr. Joe Szymanski
- Laser Engraver & Cutter - Ms. Kris Payton

DISTRICT-WIDE - ENGLISH LEARNER LANGUAGE

- Imagine Learning Literacy Tool - Ms. Aimee Dittmer



CLASS OF 2022 SCHOLARSHIPS - \$4,000 AWARDED



Joseph Fogt
Hope College



Elsa Groenink
Secchia Institute for
Culinary Education GRCC



Mikayla Meyer
Michigan State
University



Elizabeth Neifert
Ross Business School
University of Michigan



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