

Annual Update 2024



**OVER \$159,900 RAISED
AT THE MARCH 2024 GALA**

Your contributions have supported opportunities for ACES students and staff



Auto shop technology upgrade



Spirit team



Reading room

Save the date-21st annual Gala-March 27, 2025

Special thanks to our 2024 Gala Top Sponsors



20th Annual Gala Highlights



Eugene Crocco

During his 44 year career at ACES, Gene was instrumental in the development of the ACES Transition program and he secured integrated work experiences for 14 to 21 year old students and ACES adults with typical workers at ACES and job in community businesses.



Carolyn Nelson

Carolyn teaches groups of students self-advocacy, work ethics and how to navigate the changes that will take place after graduation. Carolyn is continuing to provide quality vocational experiences and career development at ACES.



Randy Sylvester

Randy dedicated his teaching to high school students that had an emphasis on work, work ethics, production and social skills. Randy retired after 40 years of teaching and dedication to ACES students in August of 2021.



Darrell Wellington

Darrell is currently a 5th year student at Whitney High North in our Post Graduate program. Throughout his time at ACES Whitney High School North, he has proven himself a leader among our students who has consistently demonstrated the ability to make good choices and be a role model for other students.

On March 21, 2024, the ACES Education Foundation celebrated its 20th annual gala at Anthony's Ocean View, New Haven, CT. The Foundation honored Eugene Crocco, Carolyn Nelson, Randy Sylvester and Darrell Wellington.

2024-25 Foundation Grant Awards

Due to your support, \$68,590.10 will be awarded, to the following grants as listed below, during the 2024-25 school year to benefit ACES students.

ACES at Aspire/Bridge

- Basketball Court-\$650.45
- Culinary Creations-\$983.11

ACES at Chase

- Plant Propagation for Community Sustainability-\$3,000

Mill

- 3D Food Lab-\$2,319.16
- Empower ME (Mindful Enrichment)-\$3,000
- Outdoor Adventure Program-\$901.00
- The Listening Program-\$8,391.50

Office of Equity & Inclusion

- Student Equity Ambassadors Team-\$10,000

Village

- Positioning for success-\$4,200

West Haven

- Charlie Cart-\$15,000
- From Seeds to Success-\$2,945.90
- Karate for Character Development-\$9,750

Whitney North

- 3D Printing in Graphics & Computer Tech-\$1,608.98
- ESports-\$4,340
- Food Pantry-\$1,500

Fund-a-Need

The 2024 ACES Education Foundation's Fund-A-Need appeal raised \$18,150.00 to support literacy in the home. Thank you to all who contributed to the appeal at the gala. Fund-a-need grant applications will be distributed in early fall so that staff can apply for the funds to assist in this endeavor.

Scholarship Fund

Alfred E. Hopkins Memorial Scholarship Fund for Advanced Study in the Arts



Congratulations to our 2024 Hopkins scholarship recipients! Isaiah Cross, McKenna Doebrick & Michelle Trieu

Pictured from left to right: Isaiah Cross, Michelle Trieu, McKenna Doebrick, Kevin Buno & Thomas Danehy.

The ACES Education Foundation's Alfred E. Hopkins Memorial Scholarship Fund for Advanced Study in the Arts was established in memory of Alfred E. Hopkins, a beloved ACES central office administrator who appreciated and collected art. The scholarship began in June 2012.

The 2024 scholarship awarded three students \$1,000 each at the ECA graduation in June. Since its inception, the Hopkins Scholarship has awarded \$55,500 in grant funding to students pursuing the arts. Principal Kevin Buno is grateful for the recognition his students received.

ACES ECA Student, **Isaiah Cross**, New Haven, will be attending Vanderbilt University (TN). ACES ECA Student, **McKenna Doebrick**, East Haven, will be attending The Institute for American Musical Theatre (NY). ACES ECA Student, **Michelle Trieu**, Wallingford, will be attending Westfield State University (MA).

2023-24 Foundation Grant Awards

ACES students that benefited from some of the grants awarded during the 2023-24 school year.



Spirit Team, Whitney Academy
Thelma Ward

"The spirit team's progress thus far is amazing! Students are always eager and ready to come to practice. They work hard to learn the routines, perform, and socialize with their peers. They are respectful, kind, and caring

towards each other. I believe that we have come a long way! The uniforms purchased through the funding grant have given the students confidence at every game. They love cheering on their classmates. We have performed at all our home basketball games and Laces for ACES. Seeing the SMILES and the joy they all have participating in spirit is amazing. I believe it has increased our school spirit immensely!"

"I am grateful to the foundation for choosing the spirit team as a foundation recipient. We set out to bring school spirit to Whitney Academy and create a team that promotes inclusivity and teamwork. I believe we have achieved these goals."



Auto Shop Technology Upgrade Grant, Whitney High School North
Shane McGee, teacher

"We are thrilled to have this new technology for our students to utilize! It's honestly going to revolutionize what we can teach and the types of repairs that we can perform. We are going to be able to have our students utilize TODAY'S technology to be able to access not just vehicle "check engine lights", but also access the hundreds of data points that today's vehicles have. In order to perform a proper diagnosis on vehicles today, you need a platform such as this one made by Snap On in order to access these data points that only the car dealer would be able to otherwise. Without something such as this, we are a generation or more behind, not to mention the inability to teach emerging technologies."

Outdoor Motor Sensory Pathway
Village School

Kathy Hassen-Stack, therapist



Reading Room, Whitney Academy
Leah Janis, teacher

"On behalf of all the students and staff at Whitney Academy, I wanted to extend our gratitude to the Education Foundation for allowing us to create a new Reading Room. We loved designing and using the room, which was set up by students and with the help of staff from Room 215. The furniture was assembled, artwork was created and books were arranged all using the funds to purchase an initial book catalog, shelving, chairs and portable seating."



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the gala a success!

AUCTION COMMITTEE

Carol Bunk, Chair
Madelyne Colon
Ingrid Ellinger-Doviak
Jessica Fernandez
Joan Hillo
Michelle Metzger
Priscilla Remington
Janice Saunders

GALA COMMITTEE

Gina Drury, Tri-Chair
Sonia Kaminsky, Tri-Chair
Judith Terrill, Tri-Chair
Carol Bunk
Kevin Buno
Thomas Danehy

Timothy Gunn
Joan Hillo
David Litvinoff
Priscilla Remington
Janice Saunders
Virginia Tagliatela

GALA VOLUNTEERS

Janice Saunders, Chair
Carol Bunk
Debbie Carson
Eric Carson
Madelyne Colon
Dee Colson
Cynthia Daye
Gina Drury
Jessica Fernandez

Joan Hillo
Laura Malerba
Michelle Metzger
Cassandra Nonossi
Priscilla Remington
Wendy Staschke
Stephanie Swan
Judith Terrill
Kevin Walton
Allyson Winzer
Kristopher Zabrensky

GUEST SINGER

Rosemary Franco

MUSIC PROVIDED BY ACES ECA STUDENTS

Isaiah Cross
Alex Gryaznov
Daniel Gutierrez
Dontae James
Angel Mendoza
Israel Ortiz
Harrison Seaberg
Amelia Shaw
Will Cleary, Instructor

PHOTOGRAPHER

Paul Duda

The Mission of the ACES Education Foundation

The ACES Education Foundation exists to support the educational purposes of ACES, educate the public about the programs & services that ACES provides.

About ACES

ACES dedication to better serve its community is exemplified by the wide array of services and programs offered. These include adult and vocational programs, interdistrict programs, open and magnet school parent choice programs, minority teacher recruitment initiatives, behavior services for individuals on the autism spectrum, occupational/physical therapy, professional development and technology services.

Established in 1969, ACES strives each day to fulfill its vision of creating an equitable and socially just world, one life at a time. ACES serves its member districts and others through an ever-growing array of programs, services and schools that meet the needs of a changing educational landscape. For more information, go to: www.aces.org.

About the Foundation

The ACES Education Foundation exists to support high-quality programming that strengthens the academic achievement and social skills of ACES students, consumers and staff by providing grant opportunities to ACES schools and programs. Since its inception, the ACES Education Foundation has raised more than \$1,454,000 benefitting thousands of ACES students and families.

ACES Education Foundation Board of Directors

Carol Bunk
Former ACES Administrator

Thomas M. Danehy
ACES Executive Director
& AEF President

Gina Drury
Former ACES Administrator

Karen DuBois-Walton, Ph.D.
Elm City Communities

David Litvinoff
Town Fair Tire Foundation

Michael O'Malley, Ph.D
Yale School of Medicine

Nicholas Onnembo
USC Information Sciences Institute

Cheryl S. Saloom, Ed.D.
Former ACES Executive Director
& Founding President, AEF

Judith Terrill
Former ACES Administrator

Stewart Tosh
USI Insurance Services

Peter C. Young
Former ACES Executive Director



To make a donation, contact Janice Saunders,
Foundation Development Coordinator at jsaunders@aces.org

Tax ID# 41-2108698

P.O. Box 577, Wallingford CT 06492 | (203) 915-2797 | www.aces.org/foundation