

TAHOE ★ TRUCKEE
**EXCELLENCE
IN EDUCATION**
FOUNDATION

IDENTIFY. INVEST. INSPIRE.

2024/25 Annual Report



OUR MISSION

The Tahoe Truckee Excellence in Education Foundation enhances public education within the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District (TTUSD) to strengthen the learning experience for students.

WHO WE ARE

The Tahoe Truckee Excellence in Education Foundation partners with local businesses and community members to raise funds to support the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District. Each year, the Foundation invests over \$250,000 in classroom grants, educational resources, and partnerships that benefit students and teachers. With over 35 years of committed support for local education, the Foundation remains instrumental in enhancing learning opportunities for TTUSD students.









\$6.7 MILLION
funded since inception

12 schools in
a geographic area of
720 square miles

A white silhouette map of the Tahoe Truckee area, showing the surrounding mountains and the lake. It is positioned below the text "12 schools in a geographic area of 720 square miles".






FINANCIALS

2024/25 Gross Revenue Sources

	Skiing for Schools	\$145,432	28%
	Golfing for Schools	\$144,375	28%
	Dining for Schools	\$24,700	4%
	“Friends of Education” Donation Income	\$62,925	12%
	Investment Income Endowment Fund Interest Available to Spend	\$71,700	14%
	Other Contributions	\$71,743	14%
TOTALS		\$520,875	100%



2024/25 Expenditure Sources

	Grants Funded	\$402,304	62%
	Teacher Fellows and Staff Star Awards	\$20,000	3%
	Programs	\$53,383	8%
	Administrative	\$133,055	21%
	Donor Development	\$37,635	6%
TOTALS		\$646,377	100%



Amounts presented are rounded to the next dollar.

HOW WE DO IT

Excellence in Education raises funds through community partnerships, which have driven the success of our long-standing fundraising programs: Dining for Schools, Golfing for Schools, and Skiing for Schools. Individual contributions are also welcomed through the TTUSD Payroll Deduction program, the Foundation's Friends of Education donation program, and our Annual Support Our Students fundraising campaign.

Additionally, Excellence in Education continues to grow its endowment fund, with a balance of \$2.3 million as of June 30, 2025.

Investing in Education

Grant monies support programs designed to promote student interest in learning, provide hands-on learning experiences, and encourage quality academic performance.

\$422,304 Total funded by

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION
in the 2024/25 fiscal year for **GRANTS, RESOURCES, and EDUCATOR AWARDS**

60 classroom grants awarded to individual teachers within Tahoe Truckee Unified School District totaling **\$190,748**

Approximately \$75,000 was allocated for math and science grants, including \$35,000 for graphing calculators to promote success and equity in high school math classes, and \$26,000 for the Anatomage Tablets, which provide students with access to two real human cadavers in digital 3D format. We also invested approximately \$5,500 in STEAM resources for elementary students and \$5,600 in environmental science grants.

We continued to champion the district's focus on the science of reading, awarding more than \$38,000 in literacy grants. Additional grants supported the arts, including musical instruments and a ceramics kiln, as well as Career and Technical Education (CTE), experiential history programs, social-emotional learning tools, and resources that enhance accessibility for students with special needs.

Board Designated Grants

Board-designated grants are funded through the interest earned from the Foundation's endowment fund. The Foundation's policy is to spend up to 3.25% of the three-year trailing average investment balance annually. In 2024/25, five board-designated grants were funded for a total of \$197,940.

In support of TTUSD's initiative to expand outdoor education, we provided a grant for \$102,300 to purchase 100 bunk beds and mattresses for the new Transformative Adventures in Hands-on Outdoor Education (TAHOE) Lab and Outdoor School, which will bring unique and engaging outdoor education experiences to all TTUSD students.

Additional Board Designated Grants

Aim High \$20,000

A free summer academic enrichment program for TTUSD Middle School students.

Rising Educator Scholarships \$5,000

Two \$2,500 scholarships were awarded to TTUSD students pursuing a career in education.

McGinity Scholarships \$2,000

Two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to TTUSD students continuing their education in healthcare.

Career and Technical Education \$32,000

Targeted field trips for Culinary Arts, Sports Medicine, Emergency Response, and Engineering.

Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships \$36,640

In support of Forest Health Field Days, Science Festivals and Family Science Nights, and Defensible Space Stewardship Days.

THE LINDA BROWN FELLOWS AND STAR AWARDS

The Linda Brown Fellows and Star Awards annually recognize and reward exceptional teachers and classified (non-teaching) staff in the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District. In 2024/25, four Linda Brown Fellows and four Star Award recipients were honored. Each recipient receives \$1,500 for personal use. Additionally, Fellows recipients each receive a \$2,000 grant for educational enhancement in their classroom.

\$20,000

awarded to

FOUR 
Linda Brown Fellows

and

FOUR 
Star Award recipients

FRIENDS OF EDUCATION

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals who supported Excellence in Education during the 2024/25 fiscal year.

BUSINESSES & INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$15,000

Northstar California/
Vail Resorts EpicPromise

\$5,000-\$10,000

Crescent Porter Hale
Foundation
Dion Family Fund
Cristina and Joe Hennessey
Olander Family Foundation
Palisades Tahoe Ski
Holdings, LLC
Chris and Karsten Swenson

\$3,000-\$4,500

Mountain Hardware & Sports
Carol and Michael Sabarese

\$1,500-\$2,500

Jeri Lynn Johnson
Out Front Charitable Fund
Norma Parson
Reno-Tahoe Open Foundation
Robert Zimmerman

\$1,000-\$1,499

Kathryn Aaker
Anonymous Donors
Wendy DeVore
Nancy and Max Gisko
Michael Graham
Lindsay Hill
Steven Jolly
Amber and Kim Kennedy
Laurie and Jason Kuntz
Lopez Excavating Inc.
Craig and Carol Lundin
Amy and Kase Macosko
Peter Snow
Tahoe Mountain Club
Tahoe Getaways
Tahoe Mountain Realty
West Orthodontics

\$500-\$999

Susan and Albert Adams
Mary and Warren Brown
Elizabeth and Peter Gifford
Shannon and Justin Hunt
Matthew Jennings
Roger Kahn
Do Kyung Kim
Bill Poland
T. Reilley
Ryan Group Architects
Michael Shepherd *
Soroptimist International of
Truckee-Donner
Tahoe Sierra Board of Realtors
Louise and Jan Zabriskie

UP TO \$500

Mary and Richard Abbey
Ellen Ackerman

Gina Barta
Ashley Beck
Melissa Beland-Roy
James Bennett *
Katie Benty
Nancy Blodgett
George Bonari
Dagny and John Borcich
Eva Boyd
Ryan Broliar *
Laura and Jeff Brown
Michael Brown
Holly and Bob Buchanan
Amber Burke
Heidi Bushway Verkler *
Patricia Cardoza
Jessica Carr
Kristin and Jeremy Chasen
Clever Minds Educational
Services
Christine and Paul Close
Sara Colborn *
Helen Coughlin Roberts
Reini Jensen and
Christopher Crossen
Katja Dahl
Catherine Dawson
Elena and Chris DeLuna
Veronica Derrick
Pamela and Dan Dickerman
Mandi Dowdeswell
Izaak Eberst *
Margaret Englert *
Teresa Eppolito *
Megan Evans
Stephanie Ewing
Eileen Fahrner
Shannon and Jon Falker
Cindy and Dan Flores
Colette Fonseca
Marilyn and William Forni
Stephanie Foucek *
Valerie Freeman
Jaime Gignoux
Patty Giuntoli
Marlaine and Richard Griffin
Chad Haney
Marian Hansen
Amanda and Brian Helm
Julie Helm
Angela Higgins
Edward Hilton *
Homewood Mountain Resort
Linda Hopkins
Tara House *
Dana Hurt *
Nancy and Jerome Ives
Juliet and Nathan Kendall
Caroline Kennedy
Liza Killen
Trent Kirschener *
Kirsten and Matt Pekarek
Jenn Knoop

Kerstin Kramer
Lisa Laliotis
Haakon Lang-Ree
Max Leabman
Erin Lefever *
Jonathan Levin *
Chad Lindeen *
Yvonne Logan *
Wendy and Kevin Martin
Rebekah and Rett Martin
Stephanie McAuliffe
Barry Natha Mendelson
Kyle Mintz
Joanna Mitchell *
Brenda Najarro
Jane Ann Newhard-Parks
Kelly Nourse *
Linda and Peter Oakland
Leslie Ochoa *
Susie and Breck Overall
Kerry Paden
Marguerite Paras *
Martha Park
Marianne and Jim Porter
Kenneth Rae *
Antoinette and Gerald
Rockwell
Josette Rouas and
Tom Richards
Alicia and Nate Riedel
Christine Ngai Ryan
Mike Ryan
Nicole Sayegh *
Edie and Rich Scarpa
Linda Scott
Benjamin Shefftz
Stars Snow Services
Denise and Eric Strecker
Ryan Sullivan
Barbara Sunde
Kelley Swarberg *
Karen Swigart
Sara Taillon
The Snow Family Foundation
Veronica and Tim Derrick
Truckee Overhead Door
Linda and David VanderJagt
Ashley and Louis Ward
Jasmine Watts
Thomas Watzka
Kathy Whitlow
Rick Williams
William B. Witmer
Word After Word Books
Marianne Evans and Bill Veiga

DINING FOR SCHOOLS PARTNERS

22 Bistro & Bar
Bar of America
Best Pies Pizzeria & Restaurant
Caliente Southwest South
Copper Lane Cafe & Provisions

Christy Hill
The Dining Room at Sugar
Bowl
FiftyFifty Brewing Co.
Fireside Pizza Company
Gar Woods Grill & Pier
on the Lake
Jake's on the Lake
Jason's Beachside Grille
JAX at the Tracks
Las Panchitas Mexican
Restaurant
The Lodge Restaurant & Pub
at Tahoe Donner
Mountain Valley Meats
PlumpJack Cafe
River Ranch Lodge &
Restaurant
Rocker
Rubicon Pizza Company
The Soule Domain
Sunnyside Restaurant & Lodge
Truckee Food Shop
Village Pizzeria
Wild Pine Kitchen
Wolfdale's Cuisine Unique
Za's Lakefront

GOLFING FOR SCHOOLS PARTNERS

Coyote Moon Golf Course
Links at Everline
Northstar Golf Course
Tahoe City Golf Course
Tahoe Donner Golf Course
Tahoe Mountain Club
(Gray's Crossing and
Old Greenwood)

SKIING FOR SCHOOLS PARTNERS

Boreal Mountain Resort /
Woodward Tahoe
Northstar California
Palisades Tahoe
Royal Gorge Cross-Country
Ski Resort
Sugar Bowl
Tahoe Cross-County
Tahoe Donner Downhill
Ski Resort & Cross Country
Ski Center

IN-KIND DONORS

Alpenglow Sports
Grocery Outlet
Mountain Hardware & Sports
Pacos
Safeway – Kings Beach
Save Mart – Truckee
Tahoe Dave's Ski & Boards
Word After Word Books

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Megan Evans, President
Kirsten Pekarek, Vice President
Michael Brown
Lauren Chorey
Sara Coustette-Spencer
Katja Dahl
Elena DeLuna
Cindy Flores
Jaime Gignoux
Amanda Helm
Lindsay Hill
Jooly Hopkins
Nathan Kendall
Max Leabman
Annie MacFadyen
Susie Overall
Hayden Pruitt
Jojo Rouas
Christine Ngai Ryan
Liza Smith
Saira West

STAFF

Laura Abbey Brown,
Executive Director
Amy Macosko, Co-Interim
Executive Director
Anna Yarbrough, Incoming
Executive Director
Beth Pascalli Hirsh,
Coordinator

TTUSD LIAISON

Kerstin Kramer,
Superintendent/
Chief Learning Officer

TAHOE  TRUCKEE
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STREET ADDRESS

11071 Donner Pass Road
Truckee, CA 96161

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 2951
Truckee, CA 96160

PHONE (530) 550-7984
FAX (530) 550-7985

www.exined.org



**Tahoe Truckee Excellence
in Education Foundation**

It is our intention to recognize every donor. If we have overlooked any business or individual, please advise us so we may include them in our next annual report.

* Indicates Tahoe Truckee Unified School District employees who donate to Excellence in Education through TTUSD's payroll deduction program.