ALPHA DELTA STATE OHIO EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Foundation Matters

A publication of the Alpha Delta State Ohio Educational Foundation

Ohio State Organization
Delta Kappa Gamma Society

ADSOEF - funding the future of excellence in education

Volume 6 | Issue 1 July 15, 2026 Cathy Tenney, Editor



A Word or Two from the Board…

Greetings with Gratitude!

Welcome to the TENTH year of ADSOEF's existence! While America is celebrating a huge 250th milestone birthday, the Foundation is anticipating a special ten-year anniversary in 2027.

The successes of raising over $40,000, earning substantial income from sound investments, and awarding over $78,000 in scholarships, fellowships, and grants in the last fiscal year is due to your amazing generosity, the giving of your time and talents, and you spreading the word about all the opportunities available through ADSOEF. None of this work would be possible without your invaluable involvement. Thank you!

Please consider using these scholarship and grant opportunities as ways to recruit new members to your DKG/OHSO chapters. Current teachers can apply for funds to take graduate classes when they join your chapter, or you can sponsor someone to apply for an Individual/Classroom/Community Project grant, then invite her to join your chapter!

Read the thank-you letter below from Emily Hetrick who was sponsored by her mother, Barbara Fuerbacher, Chi, and received funds to purchase preschool materials in her Learning Through Play Project.

Kendra Perez, an A. Margaret Boyd International Study Fellowship recipient, has graduated from Kent State University with her master's degree and returned to Honduras. Read her farewell letter and see her graduation photo. Also, Kaylee Maynard sent pictures and a heartfelt letter of gratitude for her student teaching grant.

We hope you will be inspired by this joy-filled newsletter, which highlights ADSOEF's mission **to fund excellence in education!**

With thankfulness,
Chris Snoddy
The ADSOEF Board of Directors

Reflections on My Two Years and Looking Ahead
Kendra Daleni Mejia Perez



The past two years have been a transformative chapter in my life, both personally and professionally. Thanks to the generous support of the A. Margaret Boyd International Study Fellowship, I was able to pursue my studies and focus on growing as an educator while preparing for future opportunities in language education.

During my time in the program, I strengthened my knowledge of English language teaching and gained valuable experiences that will continue to shape my career. Beyond academics, these years also allowed me to connect with people from different backgrounds, broaden my perspectives, and develop skills that will help me serve others more effectively.

The support provided through the A. Margaret Boyd Fellowship made a tremendous difference. It relieved financial burdens and gave me the opportunity to fully dedicate myself to my studies and professional development. I am deeply grateful for the investment that was made in my education and future.

Since completing my program, I have returned to Honduras, where I hope to continue contributing to English language education. Through my educational platform, Kendra Aprende y Enseña, I aim to help Spanish-speaking learners develop practical English skills that can improve their personal, academic, and professional lives.

As I begin this next chapter, I carry with me not only the knowledge I gained over the past two years but also a deep appreciation for the people and organizations that supported me along the way. I am excited about the future and committed to using what I have learned to empower others through education.

Sincerely,
Kendra Daleni Mejia Perez

Thank You for Your Support!
Kaylee Maynard



Dear Ms. Slusser, the Scholarship Committee, and ADSOEF Members,

Receiving the Esther H. Strickland Student Teaching Grant from ADSOEF was one of the greatest blessings during my final year at Shawnee State University. I am incredibly thankful to the Foundation members and donors who generosity invested not only in my education, but also in the future students I will serve throughout my career.

The support given allowed me to focus on becoming the best educator possible during one of the most challenging and rewarding seasons of my life. The grant helped cover essential expenses such as gas and textbooks, allowing me to travel to my student teaching placement and fully engage in my coursework without the constant stress of financial uncertainty.

Student teaching is a full-time commitment that requires countless hours of lesson planning, grading, and classroom preparation, leaving little time for outside employment. Because of the financial assistance I received, I was able to devote my energy to my students and my studies. As a result, I graduated from Shawnee State University as the Outstanding English Language Arts Graduate, an achievement I am extremely proud of and one that would have been much more difficult to attain without this support.



One of the most meaningful ways I used the grant funds was to purchase classroom sets of novels for my students. For my 8th graders, I purchased *Free Lunch* by Rex Ogle. This book became more than an assignment. Through reading and discussion, students found common ground with one another and felt comfortable sharing their own experiences. I watched friendships grow stronger as students became more open, vulnerable, and supportive of each other. Even more rewarding was seeing students who had little interest in reading become excited about books. By the end, many were asking for recommendations and wondering what we could read next.

I also purchased a set of *Long Way Down* for my junior and senior students. The novel inspired thoughtful discussion about choices, consequences, and cycles that impact communities. Students used the text as a foundation to write about current social issues, demonstrating critical thinking, empathy, and a deeper understanding of their world.

The grant also gave me opportunities to celebrate student success. One of my favorite memories was buying cupcakes for a student who became our county spelling bee champion. It was a small gesture, but one that recognized hard work and made a student feel valued for their dedication outside of class. I also purchased each senior a card, a stuffed animal with a diploma and graduation cap, and their favorite drink to say, “Congratulations and goodbye” as we all went through senior year together, just on different levels.

Finally, I was able to support student workers by purchasing energy teas from West LA Brew, where junior and senior students work during school hours to make money and learn real world responsibilities. Supporting them and feeling refreshed was the highlight of a lot of days. During this time, I was making a lot of commutes aside from SSU and my placement. I had a baby nephew fighting for his life in the NICU at Children’s Hospital, my grandpa fighting for his life at Adena, and both my brother and dad in the hospital.

It was during this time that I wanted to give up; I was stressed and overwhelmed. I went to my placement every day with a smile on my face, then spent the evening in a hospital or home crying till late hours, preparing for the following days, and doing it all over again. Quickly, I was burned out. But I remembered I had strangers believing and investing in me, so thank you. I finished school strong, and thanks to your support, I was able to spend time in waiting rooms with my family instead of using that time to work and pay for schooling.

Your generosity allowed me to be a good teacher, student, and family member, which is nothing short of one of the best blessings I've received. I doubt I would've made it through all this stress and

heartbreak during student teaching if I were working late hours to afford an education. So, thank you, there simply isn't enough I can say to express my deep gratitude!

Now, I am excited to say I have accepted a position and will begin my career teaching at Pike Co CTC, where education is growing, evolving, and creating new opportunities for students. The generosity of the Esther H. Strickland Student Teaching Grant helped me reach this milestone, and its impact will continue far beyond my own success. Every lesson I teach, every student I encounter, and every life I am blessed to influence will reflect the investment that was made in me.

Thank you for believing in future educators and for helping make this dream a reality. You took a huge burden off me, I was truly able to focus on my position, the students, my mental health, and my family. Doing all of this without financial stress made me fall in love with teaching and being a person others can count on.

Thank you for your support, Kaylee Maynard



Learning Through Play Project

Dear ADSOEF Members,

Thank you for your two generous Individual/Classroom/Community Project Fund grants totaling $1,000 that provided funding for the purchase of play-based materials and equipment for my preschool classroom. Your support will have a meaningful impact on my students and the learning experiences we will be able to provide.

These new materials will be used throughout the upcoming school year to support the individual developmental needs of my students. Through purposeful, play-based learning, they will have opportunities to build language, social-emotional, cognitive, and fine motor skills in an engaging and developmentally appropriate environment.

I am truly grateful for your investment in early childhood education and for helping create meaningful learning opportunities for young children. Thank you for making a positive difference in the lives of my students!

With sincere appreciation,
Emily Hetrick, Teacher at Ridgeway Elementary
Barbara Fuerbacher, Chi



Opening for a New Webmaster

Due to the retirement announcement by Eileen McNally, the current webmaster, the ADSOEF Board of Directors (BOD) is searching for someone to provide the services of a webmaster beginning July 1, 2026. Eileen's contract ends on June 30, 2026, and she has indicated that she will not be renewing it. However, she will be available to mentor and train the new webmaster for the remainder of 2026.

The main responsibility of the webmaster is to maintain and update the ADSOEF website. Currently, this includes, but is not limited to, Weebly for the website and Jotform for the applications. Experience with Weebly and Jotform is preferred, but anyone willing to learn and work with these platforms is welcome to apply. The service agreement is for one fiscal year from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, with a honorarium of $500.00 for the year.

Please consider helping ADSOEF keep the website updated, accurate, and user friendly! It greatly impacts the Foundation's ability to raise funds, attract donors, advertise opportunities, and allow people to apply for scholarships, fellowships, awards, and grants.

Contact Chris Snoddy at **ckvs@sprynet.com** with any questions.

Colors of Hope Campaign



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

YOU understood the need, **YOU** answered the call and **YOU** helped support our goal of raising $14,000.88 ($0.88 was in honor of OHSO's 88th Anniversary). We celebrate all our contributing educators, active and retired, for recognizing the need for resilience and resourcefulness in education.

The amount raised through June 30, 2026, is $41,855.08, including the generous contribution of $20,000 from the Beta Lambda Chapter. Funds raised will be used to support various grants, fellowships, scholarships, and individual, classroom, and community projects. For a list of opportunities for members and non-members, please visit **www.adsoef.org**.

The ADSOEF Fundraising Committee appreciates all the donors for the overwhelming financial support of our campaign this year, **Colors of Hope - Paint a Brighter Future.** The funds raised during this campaign will truly help make an impact on the lives of educators and students throughout Ohio.

As we look forward to a successful upcoming year, please consider joining the Fundraising Committee as we focus on a new and exciting theme and as we plan for activities during the 2026-27 year. We wish each of you a blessed, joy-filled, and safe summer.

Charlene Greene, Delta Mu
Annie Zahradnik, Gamma Theta
Holly Buente, Gamma Pi, Co-Chairman
Barb Zirke, Alpha Psi, Co-Chairman



Alpha Delta State Ohio Educational Foundation

June 2026 Donors

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Alpha Lambda Chapter

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In memory of Caribeth Legats

Chi Chapter

Dr. Norma Kirby
In honor of ADSOEF Governance Committee

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In memory of Audrey J. Hoyt

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OHSO President 2025-2027
Ex-officio Ohio State Organization Liaison

Dr. Norma K. Kirby, Alpha Delta
ADSOEF Registered Statutory Agent

Into the Future. . .Important Dates to Remember!

July 20, 2026
ADSOEF Board of Directors Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

July 27, 2026
ADSOEF Personnel Committee Meeting @ 1:00 p.m.

August 3, 2026
ADSOEF Governance Committee Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

August 12, 2026
ADSOEF Fundraising Committee Meeting @ 4:30 p.m.





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funding the future of excellence in education

Contribution Form

- Please use a separate contribution form if you are making more than one donation.
- A contribution acknowledgement will be sent in honor or in memory of the person designated below.
- Contributions or bequests are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
- Checks should be made payable to Alpha Delta State Ohio Educational Foundation (ADSOEF) and should be mailed with this form to:

Dr. Lois Harkins
12 N. Shafer Street
Athens, OH 45701-2303

Date: _____ Amount: _____

Cash (In-person only) Check #_____ (Please Circle)

This contribution is designated for:

____The programs of Alpha Delta State Educational Foundation (without restriction)

____Educational Projects Fund (Classroom/School/Community)

____ International Studies Fund (A. Margaret Boyd)

____ Student Teacher Grant Fund (Esther H. Strickland)

____Jane Brundige Stein Scholarship Fund

____ Scholarship Fund (Annie Webb Blanton)

____ Leadership Fund

____ Lifelong Learning Fund

_____Florence L. Woodward Scholarship Fund

Donor Information (name of individual, chapter, or group)

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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_____ I wish to remain anonymous.

In MEMORY OF or IN HONOR OF (circle one)

Name _____

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Donations can also be made by visiting adsoef.org and donating online using PayPal or a credit card.

Alpha Delta State Ohio Educational Foundation 10/23