



Information Memo: WPSF Annual Carlson Event

TO: School Board
Superintendent Kocanda

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Overview & Background

Each year the Winnetka Public Schools Foundation (WPSF) hosts the Carlson Event to promote the work of the WPSF and introduce new families to the Foundation. This complimentary event is held annually in recognition of Charlotte Carlson, a beloved educator who worked in the Winnetka public schools from 1935-1972 and whose generous donation in 2002 helped launch the Foundation.

The Carlson event typically features a keynote speaker or district staff to showcase the work of the partnership between the WPSF and Winnetka Public Schools. The 2019 Carlson Event featured renowned school architect and educational leader Trung Le. The event coincided with the WPSF yearlong partnership featuring a Learning Spaces Pilot program. Parents and community members came away with a clearer understanding of how students benefit from WPSF grants, and educators received valuable feedback from parents.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the WPSF has supported the District's work in the area of Social Emotional Learning (SEL). The WPSF funded the Summer Institute and helped to bring Dr. Matthew Dewar, educator, consultant, and author as a keynote speaker. Back by popular demand, Dr. Dewar was selected to keynote the annual Carlson event. Dr. Dewar spoke about his experiences using research-based mindfulness and self-care protocols to increase self-awareness and improve self-care in both students and educators. Dr. Dewar also emphasized the important roles that adults have in impacting students' overall success and well being. As social-emotional learning (SEL) continues to become an increasingly significant topic in the field of education, Dr. Dewar's discussion was a timely and thought-provoking call to action.

The Carlson event also highlighted recent grants that drive innovation and new learning experiences for students. The District's students are very fortunate to benefit from the

efforts and support of the Foundation. The grants offer a meaningful contribution to the educational program of the District.

Grants Demonstrations

[3D Doodler](#)

3D printing pen that allows students to prototype and design to create unique projects.

[Pod-Pi](#)

A program that combines comic books and coding to teach students javascript.

Shake Table

Students study design to build earthquake-resistant buildings. The shake table simulates an earthquake to determine which structures can withstand the stress.