



# Foundation Newsletter

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

## Welcome our newest Board of Directors

We are proud to introduce the newest members of the Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence Board of Directors. Our board members are a diverse group of esteemed professionals in the Kansas City community. They are committed to *embracing* the initiatives of the district and *empowering* our students, teachers, and staff to achieve educational *excellence*.

*Welcome to our new board members!*

**DeJ'on Slaughter**  
*Turner Construction*

**Eric Wilkinson**  
*Kauffman Scholars*

**Edwin Birch, Ex-officio**  
*Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools*

## Board of Directors

**Dr. Valerie Chow**

President

*Anesthesiology Specialist, Retired*

**Marian Augustus**

*Unified Government of Wyandotte County,  
Kansas City, KS, Retired*

**Michael Dean**

*Mi Rancho Tequila*

**Michael Simmons, Jr.**

*Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office*

**Jonathan F. Smith**

*LEGACY Foundation*

**Stephenie Smith, MSW**

*Sophic Solutions, LLC*

**Debbie Swearingen**

*Community America Credit Union*

## Staff

**Christal Watson**

*Executive Director*

**Lindzy Monroe**

*Development Manager*



## 2019 Honorees

Each year, 12 alumni are selected for inclusion in the Alumni Honor Roll and profiled as Reasons to Believe in the value of education and in the school district. These are individuals whose accomplishments showcase their incredible skills and life stories, highlighting their perseverance, hard work and dedication. Their qualities exemplify to all of us why they are Reasons to Believe and inspirations to many.

**Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence is proud to announce the 2019 Reasons to Believe Alumni Honorees:**



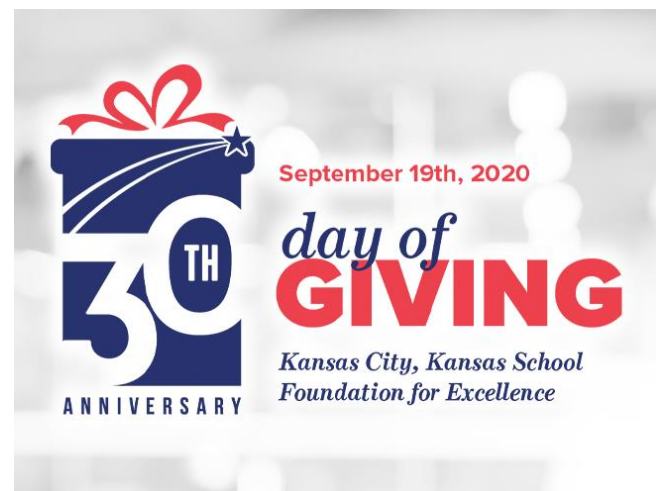


Do you know of a graduate from Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools who is a *Reason to Believe*? These are individuals whose accomplishments showcase their incredible skills and life stories, highlighting their perseverance, hard work and dedication. KCKS School Foundation for Excellence is accepting nominations through September 21 for the *Reasons to Believe* Alumni Honor Roll. For a list of criteria and to nominate your Reason to Believe, visit <https://kcksfoundation.org/events/reason-to-believe/2020-honorees.html>.

## Fundraising

# *Celebrate our Day of Giving September 19!*

As the Foundation for Excellence approaches our 30th anniversary, we are raising money to create funding streams for teachers' classroom needs and for continuing education support among other essential services. These gifts provide the margin for excellence regardless of the fluctuation in the economy or the level of state support. Reaching students and providing structure, academic preparation, instruction, and support is all part of the daily teaching routine. Teaching today also involves outfitting classrooms with materials and supplies which often means teachers are paying for their own items to use. Continuing education for teachers is also an essential resource for educators and school districts. Unfortunately funding for this training is often unavailable or extremely limited.



Our 30th Anniversary Day of Giving is vital to the fiscal health of the KCKS Public School System. Will you join our effort and contribute \$30 to our 30th Anniversary Day of Giving?



## Letter to Foundation from 2019 Foundation for Excellence Scholarship Recipient



*“Dear KCKPS Foundation of Excellence Scholarship Foundation,*

*It is with the utmost gratitude that I write this thank you letter to the KCKPS Foundation for Excellence Scholarship Foundation for selecting and investing in the advancement of my post-secondary educational journey. The graduation time was a joyous occasion. Your financial support definitely had and will continue to have a positive impact on my life as I strive to impact others through my career track as a future educator. I greatly appreciate the financial support, as college cost are steady on the rise! Coming from a single parent household, finances aren't in abundance but will never impede on my journey to excellence. I am always open to scholarship suggestions as I am securing funding for the next three years of my degree plan.*

*A brief summarization of my first quarter of college I must include I was elected Freshman Black Student Union Class President, and I am involved in Student Senate. I have secured work study employment with the KU TRIO-SES office and I have established a relationship with all of my professors and excelling academically. Ultimately carrying out the University of Kansas Jayhawk tradition of excellence! Again, I am so thankful that you thought enough of me to contribute to my journey as an educator and future District Superintendent!*

*Sincerely,  
2019 Scholarship Recipient,  
Javen L. Betts”*

From The Kansas City Kansas School Foundation for Excellence,

*You are welcome. Keep up the great work!*

## Awarded Grants

### *Greater Kansas City Community Foundation COVID 19 Relief*

Funds from the Kansas City Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund will help supplement the loss of funding from cancelling fundraising events. With these response and recovery funds, the district will continue to provide the following services for students and their families during this difficult time through the Assisted Transportation program: curbside meals to families, student medicine pick up and distribution, curriculum and instruction, and early childhood education services. The district also provides housing support in the form of rent, mortgage and utilities to the vulnerable families in the district that are financially struggling, displaced or already homeless. Funds from the Kansas City Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund will allow KCKSFE to continue to provide these services to the students and their families with critical needs in the district.

### *CARES Act Funding*

This grant is for essential support to keep students and their families well informed during the pandemic. Funds will be used to facilitate internet access for students and their families, provide guidance about protocols and share information they can use as a resource for getting support. Funds will also be used to pay for software and web support to continue to share information online.

## What is Happening with the Foundation?

With school closures due to COVID 19, Pizza Hut reached out to see if they could assist with the district's meal services efforts by supplying free pizzas for students.

The Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence (KCKSFE) shared the generous idea with district officials and decided that it would be more beneficial to serve graduating seniors at each high school when they picked up their diplomas. Pizza Hut donated 850 pizzas, and the KCKSFE covered the cost for the remaining students. The Foundation partnered with Sharita Hutton, Director of the Communications and Marketing Department, and the high school principals to make this exciting opportunity happen!



## iBelieve



Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence is proud to present our first fundraising campaign since the launch of our new website; the iBelieve Campaign. The iBelieve campaign is an online donation and payroll deduct-driven fundraising campaign with the goal of raising funds for grants within the Kansas City, Kansas Public School District, and operations for programs within the Foundation.

Your gifts, both large and small, will help us to EMPOWER teachers, students, and community partners through funding for Teaching for Learning Grants, Community Enrichment Grants, and other programs and projects supported through the operational costs of the Foundation.

Grants provide funds for programs and projects that supplement and align with the District's strategic plan. Initiatives may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Classroom Supplies/Equipment
- Professional Development
- Student Enrichment Activities
- Community Enrichment Activities

During this difficult time, our teachers, staff and community partners are going to great lengths to ensure that our students succeed, and they deserve our recognition and support. Go to

[kcksfoundation.org/campaigns/ibelieve.html](https://www.kcksfoundation.org/campaigns/ibelieve.html) to make a one-time donation with your debit/credit card or fill out the payroll deduction form here:

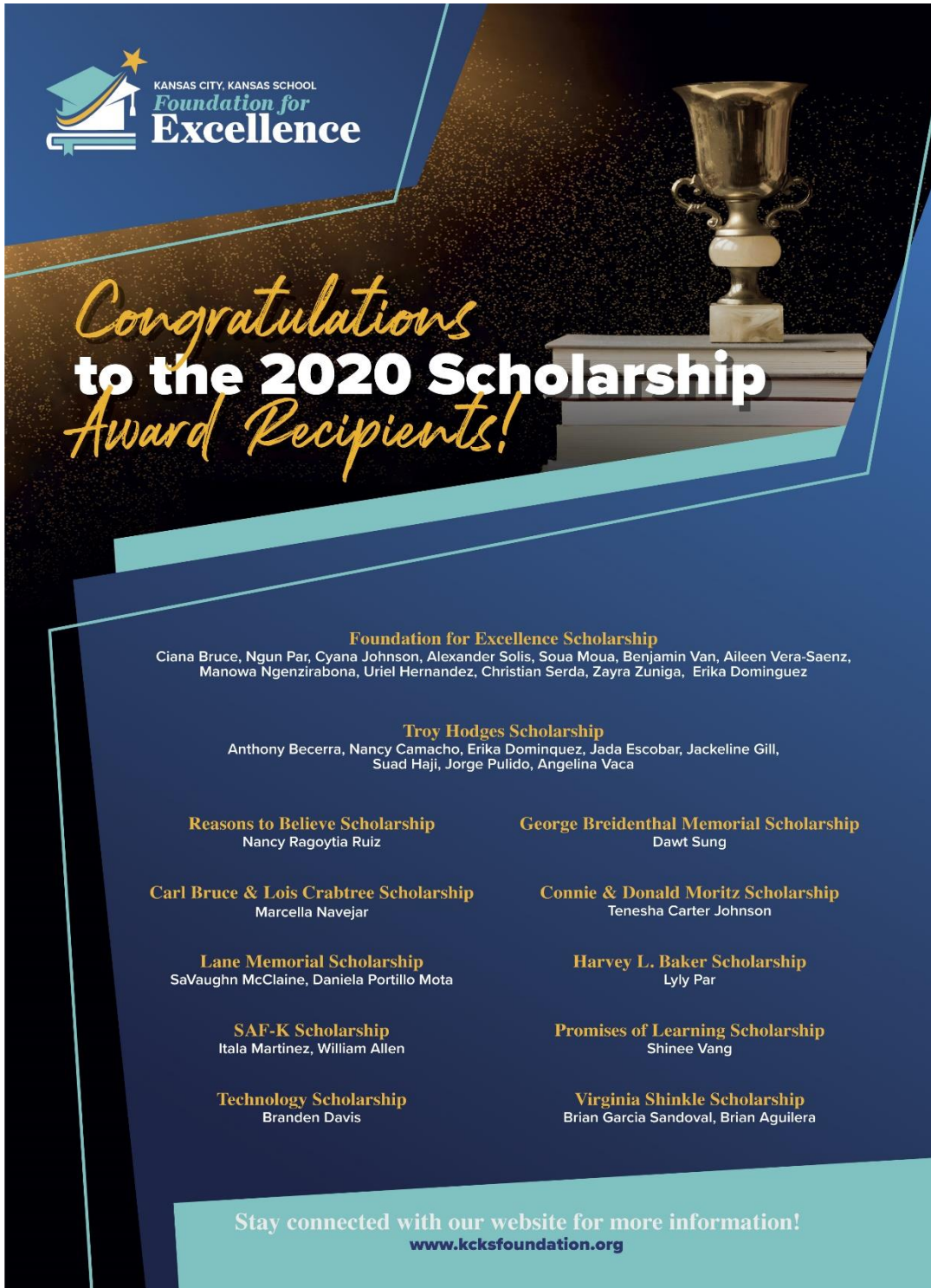
<https://www.cognitofrms.com/KansasCityKansasSchoolsFoundationForExcellence/KansasCityKansasSchoolFoundationForExcellencePayrollDeductionForm> to have your contribution automatically deducted from your paycheck.

Thank you in advance for your generous support that allows us to make a difference in the lives of thousands of people and their families within the Kansas City, Kansas School District each year.



## 2020 Scholarship Award Recipients

Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence **EMPOWERS** through Scholarships! We are proud to announce the Scholarship Award Recipients for 2020. Congratulations!



**KANSAS CITY, KANSAS SCHOOL  
Foundation for  
Excellence**

*Congratulations  
to the 2020 Scholarship  
Award Recipients!*

**Foundation for Excellence Scholarship**  
Ciana Bruce, Ngun Par, Cyana Johnson, Alexander Solis, Soua Moua, Benjamin Van, Aileen Vera-Saenz,  
Manowa Ngenzirabona, Uriel Hernandez, Christian Serda, Zayra Zuniga, Erika Dominguez

**Troy Hodges Scholarship**  
Anthony Becerra, Nancy Camacho, Erika Dominguez, Jada Escobar, Jackeline Gill,  
Suad Haji, Jorge Pulido, Angelina Vaca

**Reasons to Believe Scholarship**  
Nancy Ragoytia Ruiz

**George Breidenthal Memorial Scholarship**  
Dawt Sung

**Carl Bruce & Lois Crabtree Scholarship**  
Marcella Navejar

**Connie & Donald Moritz Scholarship**  
Tenesha Carter Johnson

**Lane Memorial Scholarship**  
SaVaughn McClaine, Daniela Portillo Mota

**Harvey L. Baker Scholarship**  
Lyly Par

**SAF-K Scholarship**  
Itala Martinez, William Allen

**Promises of Learning Scholarship**  
Shinee Vang

**Technology Scholarship**  
Branden Davis

**Virginia Shinkle Scholarship**  
Brian Garcia Sandoval, Brian Aguilera

Stay connected with our website for more information!  
[www.kcksfoundation.org](http://www.kcksfoundation.org)



## Stay Connected

To stay up to date on the Foundation's latest news and developments:

1. Visit our website at [kcksfoundation.org](http://kcksfoundation.org)
2. Sign up for our newsletter at [kcksfoundation.org/get-involved/mailling-list.html](http://kcksfoundation.org/get-involved/mailling-list.html)
3. Like/Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/KCKSchoolFoundationForExcellence](https://facebook.com/KCKSchoolFoundationForExcellence)
4. Connect with us on LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/kck-school-foundation-for-excellence/](https://linkedin.com/company/kck-school-foundation-for-excellence/)
5. Follow us on Twitter: [twitter.com/KCKS\\_Foundation](https://twitter.com/KCKS_Foundation)
6. Follow us on Instagram: [instagram.com/kcks\\_foundation/](https://instagram.com/kcks_foundation/)