



# Foundation Newsletter

MARCH 2021

## “We Care We Act” Program Impact Update



The funds the foundation receives allows us to partner with the district's student services department to help support families that have been impacted by COVID-19. As of today, the Foundation has paid **\$19,967.23** in utilities, rent, electric, gas, and internet connectivity for district families impacted by COVID-19.

To learn more about the Foundation's IMPACT, visit [kcksfoundation.org/what-we-do/impact.html](https://www.kcksfoundation.org/what-we-do/impact.html).

## Virtual Reality Program Coming Soon!



Thanks to grants and other special donors, the Foundation and Kansas City, Kansas Public School district will soon be able to offer a new and innovative Virtual Reality program for our students. Stay connected with the Foundation through our various digital platforms to get the latest updates on details and availability.

## Teacher for Learning and Community Enrichment Grants



Teacher for Learning and Community Enrichment Grants will be available August 2021. Stay connected with the Foundation through our various digital platforms to get the latest updates and details.

## Congratulations, Christal Watson!

*Congratulations,*  
**Christal Watson!**

On January 22, 2021, Christal Watson was appointed as Chair of the Kansas Human Rights Commission by Governor Laura Kelly. We are grateful to Christal for her dedication to equitable opportunities within our community, as well as her commitment to the students, teachers, and staff of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools.



*Christal Watson*

Chair Watson was appointed to the Kansas Human Rights Commission in September 2020 by Governor Kelly. Governor Kelly designated Ms. Watson as Chair of the Commission on January 22, 2021. Chair Watson is a native of Kansas City, Kansas. She is the Executive Director of the Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence. She previously served as the deputy chief of staff for Mayor Alvey of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas and chief executive officer of the Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce. Currently, Chair Watson serves on the Kansas City Star Racial and Equity Advisory Board and was selected to participate in the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, Leaders of Tomorrow. Her background has emphasized small business development and human relations. Chair Watson represents Industry, and her term expires January 15, 2024. Learn more about the Kansas Human Rights Commission at [khrc.net](http://khrc.net).

## 2021 Scholarship Applications

EMBRACE // EMPOWER // EXCEL ★

# It's that time of year again!

Applications Open Feb. 1 - Mar. 11, 2021

Various scholarships will be available

Scholarship details & application:

[kcksfoundation.org/scholarships.html](http://kcksfoundation.org/scholarships.html)



## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

## 2021



 [www.kcksfoundation.org](http://www.kcksfoundation.org)

### *Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence **EMPOWERS** through Scholarships!*

The foundation is currently accepting 2021 Scholarship Applications until March 11, 2021. Here is a timeline of this year's Scholarship Application Process:

- **January 11, 2021** - Scholarship Ads were posted on Social Media.
- **February 1, 2021** - Scholarship applications became available for all students.
- **March 11, 2021** - Deadline to apply for scholarships. Applications will close at 11:59 p.m.
- **March 23, 2021** - Application grading will begin. Judging information will be scheduled for this day.
- **April 6, 2021** - All application grading must be completed.
- **April 20, 2021** - Selected scholarship recipients will be presented to KCKSFFE Board for approval.
- **May Board of Ed. Meeting** - 2021 scholarship award recipients will be presented to Board of Ed.

For details on the various scholarships available, go to [kcksfoundation.org/scholarships.html](http://kcksfoundation.org/scholarships.html).

## iBelieve Campaign : March 1 – 31, 2021



Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence is proud to present the 2021 iBelieve Campaign. The iBelieve campaign is an online donation and payroll deduct-driven fundraising campaign with the goal of raising funds for the upcoming Teacher for Learning and Community Enrichment grants within the Kansas City, Kansas Public School District, along with operations for programs within 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

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.

As we continue on and adjust 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**

To have your contribution automatically deducted from your paycheck, fill out the payroll deduction form here: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/KansasCityKansasSchoolsFoundationForExcellence/KansasCityKansasSchoolFoundationForExcellencePayrollDeductionForm>.

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.

## 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*.



**Dr. Valerie E. Chow**  
President  
*Truman Medical Center  
Lakewood*



**Michael Simmons, Jr.**  
*Wyandotte County  
Sheriff's Office*



**Debbie Swearingen**  
*Community America  
Credit Union*



**Jonathan F. Smith**  
*LEGACY Foundation*



**Stephenie K. Smith,  
MSW**  
*Sophic Solutions, LLC*



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



**Edgar J. Palacios, MBA**  
*Latinx Education  
Collaborative*



**Eric Wilkinson**  
*Kauffman Scholars, Inc.*



**Marian Augustus**  
*Unified Government of  
Wyandotte County*



**Matt Krull**  
*CBIZ*



**Edwin Birch, Ex-Officio**  
*Kansas City, Kansas  
Public School District*



**Marcus McLaughlin**  
*The McLaughlin Law Firm*

## Staff



**Christal Watson**  
*Executive Director*



**Lindzy Monroe**  
*Development Manager*

## Stay Connected

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

1. Visit our website at [kcksfoundation.org](https://www.kcksfoundation.org)
2. Sign up for our newsletter at [kcksfoundation.org/get-involved/mailling-list.html](https://www.kcksfoundation.org/get-involved/mailling-list.html)
3. Like/Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/KCKSchoolFoundationForExcellence](https://www.facebook.com/KCKSchoolFoundationForExcellence)
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7. Check us out on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfGmEU945ZsYsS93h2\\_F-dA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfGmEU945ZsYsS93h2_F-dA)