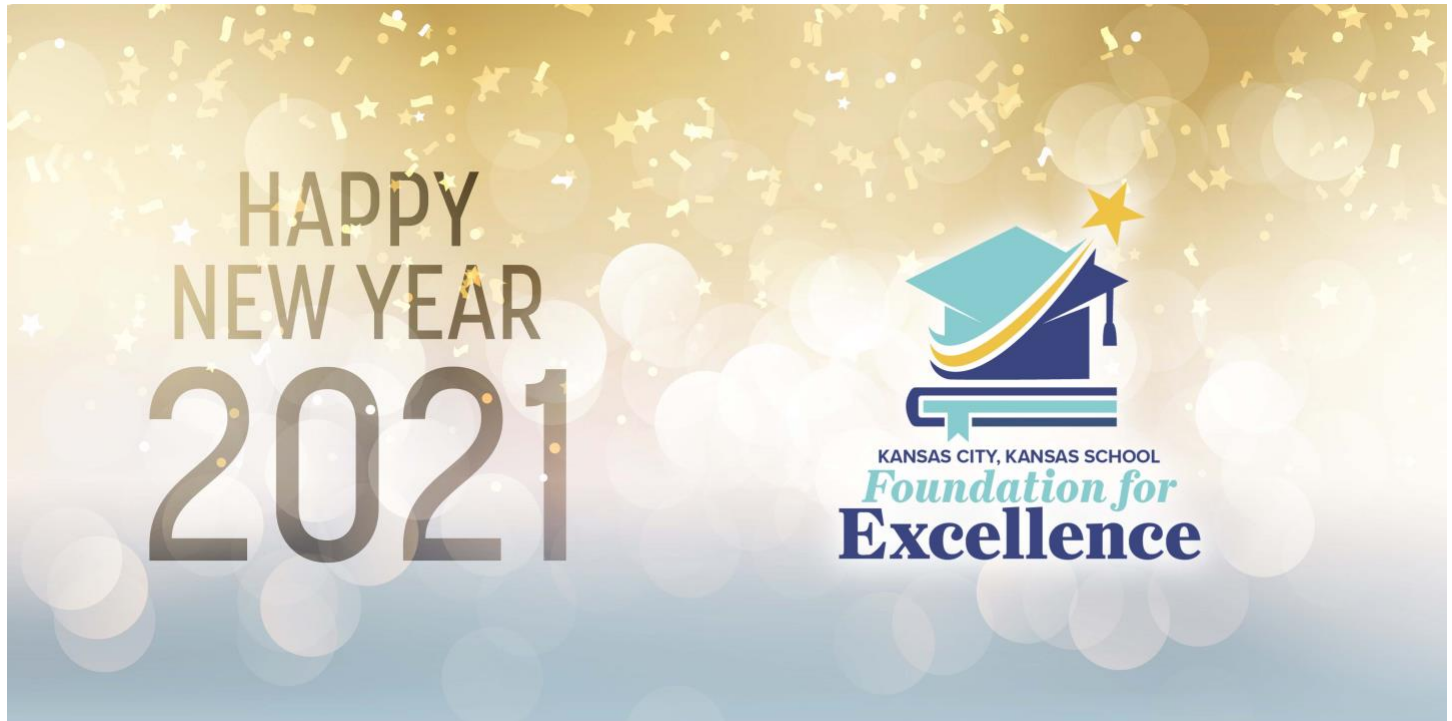




# Foundation Newsletter

JANUARY 2021

**Happy New Year!**



Due to COVID-19, 2020 was filled with adversity, adjustments and challenges, but we made it. Thanks to the awarded grants, sponsors, individual donors and other supporters of the Foundation we have been able to continue in our efforts to support the needs of the Kansas City, Kansas Public School District. The Foundation was able accept the challenge of 2020 by achieving goals and making an impact on our students and families. We are looking forward to yet another amazing year in 2021!

## 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*

## In the News

Congratulations to our very own Executive Director, Christal Watson, for being included on the Advisory Board for the Kansas City Star!

### **Star Forms Advisory Group to Ensure Fair, Inclusive Coverage of Communities of Color**

BY TREY WILLIAMS

DECEMBER 20, 2020 05:00 AM, UPDATED DECEMBER 24, 2020 08:23 AM

“The Star has brought together an advisory board of diverse and accomplished business leaders, activists and public servants. This group will work with editors and reporters to ensure that our coverage of Kansas City’s communities of color is fair, expansive and all that this city deserves.

[...]

#### **CHRISTAL WATSON**

Christal Watson serves as executive director for the Kansas City, Kansas, School Foundation of Excellence, a nonprofit that seeks to help public school students succeed by directing funds and services from community members, businesses and other organizations to areas where educational funding is not available. A native of Kansas City, Kansas, Watson has a long career in business and government. She’s previously worked as deputy chief of staff for Mayor David Alvey of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, president and CEO of the Kansas Black Chamber of Commerce and has served as a member of the Kansas City, Kansas Board of Education. Watson has spent much of her career focused on economic development, government reform and education and workforce initiatives.”

-Article in the Kansas City Star | [Click Here to read full article](#)



## 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!*

It's that time of year again! The foundation will be accepting Scholarship Applications starting February 1, 2021. Application deadline is March 11, 2021 at 11:59 pm. For details on the various scholarships available, please visit [kcksfoundation.org/scholarships.html](http://kcksfoundation.org/scholarships.html).

## “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 **\$15,696.41** 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](http://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.

## 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/)
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6. Follow us on Instagram: [instagram.com/kcks\\_foundation/](https://instagram.com/kcks_foundation/)
7. Check us out on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfGmEU945ZsYsS93h2\\_F-dA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfGmEU945ZsYsS93h2_F-dA)