

Southwest FOUNDATION news

Upcoming Class Reunions!

1980 & 1981: Jul 23
 1976, 1977 & 1978: Aug 5
 1972: Sep 17
 1967: Aug 20

Visit SouthwestFoundation.org for details and to submit future reunions!

Grant Requests Highlight Diversity

DIVERSE BOOKS FOR 9TH GRADERS

In 9th grade English we emphasize sustained independent reading which is an evidence based literacy strategy that improves reading and writing abilities. It also helps to foster a community of lifelong readers.

The SW Foundation grant went to buying diverse and high-interest books for my classroom library which allows me to quickly hand students a book they might be excited about, and it saturates our learning environment in literature. I stocked up on books that specifically center marginalized stories. Among others, I bought books by Native authors, books that centered queer stories and



graphic novels. I like to prop the books up around the classroom (many young people are enticed by the cover art) as well as read a few pages from a couple of books every once in a while. These strategies help engage and excite students to grab books! Books like Song of Achilles and Red White and Royal Blue flew out of my hands the day I brought them into the classroom. Thank you SW

“I stocked up on books that specifically center on marginalized stories.”

Foundation for this grant! I hope to continue adding to my library in years to come.

~Drayton Cousins, 9th Grade English Teacher

ASL NIGHT

We are excited to be able to host ASL (American Sign Language) Night again at SW on May 4th. After two years of COVID ASL students in level 3-4 are planning games and set up stations around the cafeteria and commons area. The main goal is to expose students to ASL and Deaf Culture by immersing themselves in a “Silent” night- voices are off- and communication is only done with their hands. The past ASL Night had over 100 SW students (present and former) in attendance. With this grant money, ASL Night is able to offer food to those attending, prizes for students, and thank you gift cards to Deaf

and Hard of Hearing Adults/Interpreters presenting and volunteering. On behalf of my students, I thank the SW Foundation for supporting SW ASL students with this popular and important event.

~ Jodi Marker Perelman, ASL Teacher

BLACK STUDENT UNION

BSU would like to thank the SW Foundation for the grant received this school year. The grant is being used to buy new T-shirts for community building with a student created logo as well as art supplies and snacks for meetings. This year BSU helped plan The Black History month program in February and Race to Justice Day. Our focus is to create a safe space for Black students and build community within our school.

~Black Student Union Student Leaders

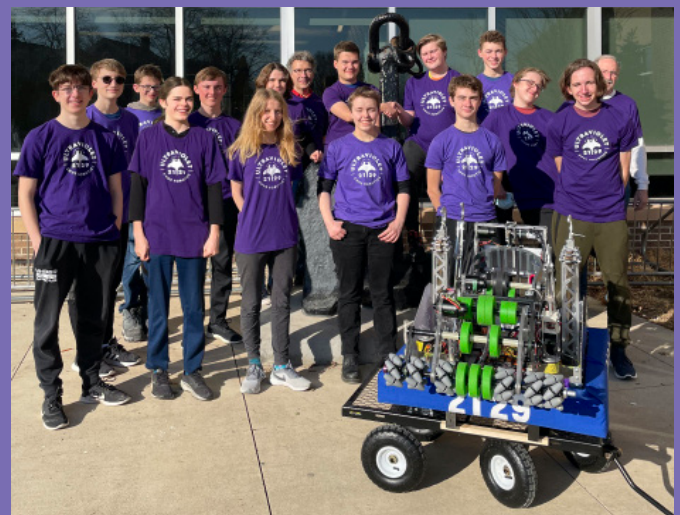


Robotics Grind at Regionals, Roll to World Championships!

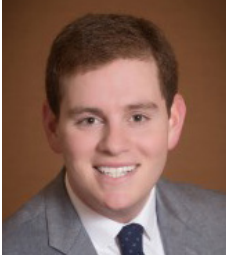
Southwest’s Robotics, FRC Team 2129, attended the World Championships held April 20-23 in Houston, Texas after placing at the North Star Regional competition. While the team didn’t place at World’s, it was an amazing opportunity! Team Captain Nate King took home a coveted Dean’s List award, the second ever given to a Minnesotan, and the team feels honored for their success after two years of no in-person robotics.

This year’s challenge was received in January and a total of 5,256 combined hours was spent preparing for the challenge, Rapid React, which focused on shooting balls and climbing parallel bars. The rounds are divided in an autonomous period (robots move entirely off of code) and a tele-operated period (when drivers have control of their robots). In both parts the goal is to score points and stop the other teams from scoring.

The Southwest team is comprised of talented programmers, creative designers and builders, charismatic and influencing Scouters, a strong business plan, and an award-winning brand design and social media presence in the FIRST Robotics Community. The challenges mounted as they are one of the smallest teams in Minnesota and one with the fewest resources. The SW Foundation is proud to support the Robotics team and donations to offset the costs of this trip can be made at SouthwestFoundation.org.



Meet Our New Chair



Brad Idelkope, '03

I know many of you don't know me (yet). Here's a snapshot: I am a proud Fulton Elementary, Anthony Middle and Southwest High graduate. Whenever I meet new people, particularly those from the Twin Cities, I feel a swell of pride when I say I graduated from Minneapolis Southwest. Although perhaps a bit equivocal, my personal guiding principle for the Foundation is for matriculating Lakers to have that positive experience and realize that it means something special to pass through these halls. The Southwest Foundation's mission is to aid and encourage Southwest High School in creating and cultivating an exceptional educational experience for all Southwest students, current and future. The Foundation has benefited from

passionate leadership and responsible fiscal steering, characteristics we will continue. As you can see from the approvals in our latest round of grants requests, we have sought to balance that responsibility with equitable giving, ensuring what this community entrusts the Foundation is distributed so as to truly support Southwest. If this Foundation can move the needle an inch in that direction, I believe we have achieved our mission. In my short time on the Board, it became clear almost immediately that my fellow board members, and the teachers and administrators we work with are dedicated individuals who give their time, energy, and resources to Southwest, asking nothing in return. Their commitment inspires me - so much so that the overwhelming sense I felt when appointed chair was humility and responsibility.

As our community moves through this incredibly challenging period, the school needs your support now more than ever. I would invite any motivated individual who would like to get involved in the Foundation, financially or otherwise, to reach out. Most donations come in without an earmark and

land in our "Academics" category which goes to support the annual grant requests made by teachers, staff and students. Those that are earmarked inevitably find their way to that program, category, or other defining characteristic. Whether you are making a donation in honor of a family member to a specific scholarship fund, or are a former Southwest athlete and wish to support a specific team, you can, and we can help. In addition to traditional fundraising you can donate in-kind donations which will be used at various events. Lastly, you can give experiences to students. For example, Rose Street Patisserie (on Selby and Snelling) created an apprenticeship for two SW students. Opportunities like this are incredibly valuable and often hard to come by.

Wherever you find yourself, we accept assistance of all sizes and kinds. We are not exclusive and we welcome every constructive helping hand. If you have questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to reach out to our Board directly.

Yours truly, Brad Idelkope

Seeking New SWF Volunteers & Board Members

The Southwest Foundation is recruiting new volunteers and board members. To learn about what the Foundation does each year and ways to become involved, we sat down with current board member Allison Krueger in this Q&A.

SWF: Why did you decide to join the SWF?

AK: I am a former High School social studies teacher who stepped away from teaching after my first son turned 2. After staying at home and having two more boys, volunteering at all of their schools and starting a golf events company, I joined the SWF in 2018. As a former public school teacher I know first hand that supporting students, teachers and administrators is a massive effort that requires money, time, vision and compassion. Most parents and guardians want what is best for their kiddos and if my time and effort can help all the students at Southwest have a better chance at succeeding, then that is where I'd like to spend my efforts.

SWF: What does the SWF do each year?

AK: Each year the SWF has many different events and programs that cut across grade levels, academics, athletics, arts, alumni engagement, parent outreach, scholarships and annual grants. Since COVID hit as a board we are trying to simplify what events we do so that we can get the most bang for our buck and assure that what money we do fundraise gets to the students, groups and areas of the school that are most in need.

We have an annual Golf Tournament that coincides with the Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony. This event generally targets alumni, but adding parents each year has been a great addition to the tournament. Another alumni focused event is the Laker Legacy fundraiser which usually occurs

each spring. (this event will return in 2023). The Freshman Parent Party will also be returning this fall. It's an event where we can all gather for an evening, enjoy some Q & A from the administration and just be stewards to the incoming parents and guardians. There are many other events we participate in that highlight our amazing students and school, like Senior Awards or Curriculum Night.

SWF: You've been a SW parent for a number of years. What if anything has changed in your perspective with SWHS and the SWF?

AK: I have been a parent through several superintendents, four high school principals in four years, three Athletic Directors, the CDD plan, COVID and a strike. One thing that has remained constant is the love of the students toward their teachers. Most students never interact with the administration or the Minneapolis Public School board, and that's probably a good thing. Keeping the focus of the Foundation on a cellular level is what keeps me here and coming back to focus on the kids and their needs. We need more funds each year to stretch our dollars further and further as cuts come to the high school from the district year after year.

SWF: What opportunities exist for parents, alumni and supporters to become involved?

AK: We are always looking for volunteers to help us plan events. I have co-chaired some of our events and genuinely love the people that I work with; we have such a good time together. The social component is something that doesn't get mentioned much, but it is a wonderful byproduct of becoming involved. We also need volunteers to staff events like our Homecoming tent, or bringing beverages and desserts to the 9th grade party. For those looking to become more involved, being a board member is an option. We have officers and at-large members. The commitment can be as big as you wish. Most board members have one thing they focus on, and also attend our quarterly meetings. The important thing is that you believe in our mission of raising money to support our students and school.

We invite you to email info@southwestfoundation.org to become involved. We would love to have you!

Alumni Gives Back through Facebook Birthday Campaign



Benjamin Robinson

In 1998 when Benjamin Robinson graduated Southwest, if he wanted to fundraise he had to go door-knocking or cold-calling. With the advent of social media, this is no longer the case as he didn't have to go "old-school" to raise money for his old school.

As Robinson approached a recent birthday he turned to Facebook and started a campaign for a cause that was near and dear to him. He chose the SW Foundation because he boasts that Southwest gave him and his family members a well-rounded education. "I want to give back to a place that helped me to see there is more out there than I thought," he says. It is when Robinson arrived at Southwest that he first discovered he had autism. He credits a lot of caring teachers, case managers and friends that mentored him, which ultimately allowed him to graduate, go to college and find his passion working with children as a child care worker and special education assistant with Minneapolis Public

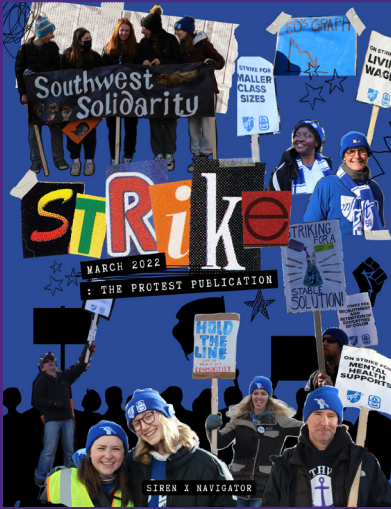
"I wanted to help others."

Schools. In 2011, Robinson also started the blog, postivelivewithautism.wordpress.com.

"I remember what it was like, feeling different and wanting to fit in," he recalls. By giving to the SW Foundation, Robinson hopes his donation can help current and future students. "I wanted to help others and thank those who helped me. And show others that you can do anything you put your mind to."

He raised an impressive \$575 and hopes others follow because he says, "It's a super way to support what the SW Foundation does and people can help so many great programs."

Students Get Civics Lesson During Strike



On March 29th students from schools across the district returned to classes as the Minneapolis Public Schools and the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers Local 59 reached a tentative contract agreement. For three weeks students were out of school. But the learning did not stop. While not sitting through an algebra lesson or biology lab, many students marched alongside their algebra and biology teachers. The firsthand experience students got in this real-life civics lesson will stick with them for the rest of their lives. Southwest students felt empowered and made their voices heard throughout the strike, culminating in a 24-hour sit-in at district headquarters. The tenacity and passion these students displayed, standing up for what they believe, can be largely attributed to the teachers and support professionals they were there to support. Southwest continues to create a learning environment that propels the future leaders of tomorrow, and whether one supported the strike or not that is something we can all agree is needed. To learn more about the student's strike experience, visit *The Siren*, Southwest's Art Magazine at https://issuu.com/swsiren/docs/strike_the_protest_publication

See 'Into To Woods'

Stephen Sondheim's iconic musical *Into the Woods* has long been a favorite of the Performing Arts teachers and students at Southwest and we are excited to perform it live May 12, 14, 18, 19, 20 and 21 at 7:00 pm, and May 15 and 22 at 2:00 pm in the Southwest Auditorium!

Into the Woods follows the story of a Baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's Festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the Baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a Witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse. Everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results. *Into the Woods* feels like just the right story to bring to a post-pandemic (hopefully) world.

Southwest's Theatre program was able to produce three filmed productions during

the pandemic, but after being closed down after one performance of *A Chorus Line* in March of 2020 (when our seniors were sophomores!) and many other unforeseen obstacles in 2022, we all feel incredibly fortunate to be able to bring this live production to the Southwest community.

The directors thank you, as always, for your incredible support of the Southwest Theatre program! To secure your tickets to the show, go to [Showtix4u.com](https://www.showtix4u.com) and search "Into the Woods" in the search bar.



Pit Director Reid Wixson conducts the orchestra as the cast rehearses on April 18. *Into the Woods* runs in the Southwest Auditorium, May 12-22.

Alumni Corner

Mark Ulrich ('10) was named to Forbes 30 under 30 list for co-founding Every.org.

Betsee Parker ('69) and classmates Buzz Leer, Grant Wheaton and David Leighton who rocked the Red Carpet at the Elton John Oscar Party as his guests.

Brenda Lein ('82) with three friends set a new National (and likely world) swim record in the 800-yd freestyle relay for the 55+ age group.

Grammy winning artist Matthew Santos ('00) who has been donating sales from his recent music to benefit Ukraine.

To share an alumni update, please email us at info@SouthwestFoundation.org.

Southwest Foundation '21-'22 Grant Awards

The Southwest Foundation is proud of the broad student support we are able to provide thanks to your donations. Below are this year's grants, approved with an equitable lens in conjunction with administration priorities. Approximately 71% of grant funding supports groups with the majority of students represented by underserved populations. Requests are accepted each fall.

Sponsor all English Language Learner students on a grade-appropriate college visit based on student interest surveys.

Sponsor Annual "AVID Day" to build community, facilitate a positive peer group for first generation, under-represented students to successfully complete high school & college.

Buy supplies for Mindful Nutrition class.

Support Southwest Band Camp and expenses of parade participation.

Purchase camera kits for Media Arts classes and clubs to increase access to curriculum.

Provide Team registration fees to participate in the American Math Competition exams.

Purchase a reading program for students with disabilities to promote engagement, independence, comprehension and fluency.

Provide buses for band and orchestra members to tour and recruit at feeder schools.

Purchase book sets that are low-level and high-interest age-appropriate for students with disabilities.

Purchase books for 9th grade English students independent reading to create and maintain sustained reading stamina and habits, and inspire a joy of reading; as well as to boost literacy, vocabulary and test scores.

Purchase Screencastify to support video lectures to help students that struggle or have English language difficulties.

Purchase SW Field trip transportation that is not covered by other programming.

Purchase various language support films.

Sponsor two guest artists to inspire Literature & Performance students, especially Special Ed and level-3 English language learners.

Purchase supplies to recognize when students are "caught doing the right thing".

Provide registration for Japanese classes to participate in the annual J-Quiz competition

Purchase equipment for the DJ Club which promotes innovation and creativity.

Purchase Spanish language aids (vocabulary posters and additional online materials).

Sponsor SW's annual ASL Night featuring deaf presenters, prizes and community.

Support for Black Student Union (transportation fees, supplies to build community and create positive school wide engagement).

Support outreach and encouragement to girls to join the Mountain Bike team, a club sport.

Purchase Special Ed science kits to educate with engaging STEM components/activities.

Host a field trip for an art intensive experience for a mixed Special Ed and general ed classroom to focus on mindfulness and connection to nature as it pertains to art, research and interact with each other, build team dynamic, and work with local artists.

Purchase cheerleading mats for the bi-lingual Cheerleading team. Mats will allow the team to lead in providing cheerleading clinics for younger children in our community and host competitions.

Purchase language skill based official certificates and chords for graduates who are inducted into the French National Honor Society (La Société Honoraire de Français), a life-long membership recognized at chapters throughout the country.



Golf Event & Athletic HOF Sept 16-17

Mark your calendars for the SW Foundation's annual golf event! A 1:00 pm shotgun is scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2022, at Meadowbrook Golf Course. Sign up information is at SouthwestFoundation.org. We are looking for businesses, groups or individuals to sponsor a hole (\$200), or donate prizes for both the golf event and a raffle. Please contact Allison Krueger at fullswingconsultants@gmail.com if you are interested.

The annual SW Athletic Hall of Fame induction celebration will be held September 17, 2022. Nominations of candidates can be made at swshof.com.

Southwest KUDOS

Black Student Union & Student Council for running an amazing Race-2-Justice Day.

Senior Debate Captains **Ned Scharlau & Finn Waterman** finished as Quarter Finalists at the State Tournament.

Guitar seniors **Peter Lindholm, Ian Lee, Gracia Zachman & Sophia Stordahl** performed at the Mid-winter guitar clinic with guest lecturer and SW Faculty, **Ruth LeMay**.

Juniors **Charlotte Johnson, Logan Weier**, sophomores **Frederick Valentine** and freshman **Luca Cavelletti** came in 3rd in the J-Quiz Japanese competition. Freshman **Henry Nafziger-White** and **Cavelletti** also participated in the national Japan Bowl. **Valentine** won the Minneapolis 2022 Haiku competition, sophomore **Elijah Gudmestad** placed 2nd and senior **Grace Lindquist** placed 3rd.

The **SW Math Team** won the Mpls Division and placed 13th at the State Tournament.

ASL & ART classes donated 696 lbs of food to the Joyce Food Shelf in a recent service project.

SW Faculty **Jodi Marker Perelman** won the staff Valentine's Day Cookie Contest and **Reid Wixson** won the staff Banana Bread Bake Off.

Senior Nordic Skier **Cooper Camp** was featured in the Pioneer Press as the first Minneapolis skier to win it all at State since 1950.

23 students participated in the Virtual Inspire Conference through the U of MN.

Music Students performed at Orchestra Hall.

Senior **Antonio Brooks** with three other MN students take their original play with Legacy Arts Group to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Athletic Update

Dear Laker Fans,

The Winter of 2022 was filled with many records broken and unprecedented Team success. It was the "Winter of Championships."

Beginning with the Nordic Team, who has built a dynasty of a program, winning back-to-back State Championships in 2021 & 2022, a truly remarkable feat as they were State Runner Up in 2020 by mere seconds! With the leadership of Coaches Furlow, Kerker and Hale, the Lakers have left a legacy of speed on the snow, character development and Championship Culture!

At the MSHSL State Nordic Championships in Biwabik the Lakers swept all three races: the sprint relay, individual pursuit and team races, led by **Cooper Camp** who skied the fastest freestyle race and classic race time. The Lakers also had extremely strong outings from **Lars Brinkema** and cross country/track standout **Sam Scott**, who won the relay by 10 second over Duluth East! It's important to note the depth, strength, and speed of this Nordic Powerhouse, highlighted by **Owen Lindseth** who finished 9th, and mountain biking champion **Miguel Fresco-Hanlon** who moved up from 22nd to finish 14th. We also saw gutty performances by **Bergren Thorson** and **Wes Sumner** who helped anchor the Lakers to a 26 point victory over Duluth East. Southwest Athletics wants to also congratulate City Conference rival Washburn on their 4th place finish!

The Boys Alpine Ski Team had a fantastic season. At the Section 4 Championships, senior Captain **Charlie Smith II** skied two remarkably fast runs to finish on the podium 9th and, for the second year in a row, qualified as an individual participant at State Alpine Championships. In the team competition, the boys finished 4th with 367 points but narrowly missed going to state by only 4 points. Leading the scoring were senior Captains **Smith** (9th place) scoring 107 points and **Erik Arnold** (18th) with 98 points. Also scoring were sophomore **Parker Hunt** (23rd) 93 points and junior **Simon Showalter-Loch** (47th) 69 points. Senior **Jonas Geere** and junior **Evan Byron** rounded out the rest of the team. Coach Mark Conway acknowledge the seniors by saying, "You have led this team with joy, enthusiasm, maturity, kindness, and continuous hard work."

From the Ski's to the Hockey Skates the SW Winter success continued with the Minneapolis Boys High School Hockey Team winning the Section 2A Championship and qualifying for the MSHSL Class A State Hockey Tournament for the first time in 28 years!

The energy at Southwest High School and in the arena during the Section Playoffs was



palpable. Section games were sold out with 2,000 attending including Mayor Frey! Our student section was loud and exhibited amazing sportsmanship. The cheerleaders got the crowd going and all the positive energy helped deliver a 3-1 win against 3x defending section champions Delano. SW's **John Bebler** scored 2 goals, senior Captain **Zander Zoia** added a third.

The team headed to the Xcel Energy Center for the Class A State Hockey Tournament and opened with a tough quarterfinal loss to a very talented Alexandria team. But, the magic wasn't over. In the consolation bracket, senior **Caden Lacher** lit the lamp 3 times netting his 2nd hat trick of the season leading the team to a victory over New Prague. Senior **Hayden Soderberg** and junior **Drew Pitts** both had goals against Monticello in the final game of the tournament to clinch the consolidation victory. Senior goalie **Alex Lamont** was a literal brick wall in the net leading the team to a 23 wins, 7 losses and 1 tie. **Pitts** was named to the State All-Tournament Team. Head Coach Joe Dziedzic was named Class A Coach of the Year.

It's clear to the City of Minneapolis, this team found magic to create this incredible chemistry that felt bigger than they were individually. The team ethos was that they represent all 7 public high schools in Minneapolis and they play for the city. There are no words for the level of support that the Minneapolis and Laker community gave. We know that the Future is Bright for Minneapolis Hockey! #OurCityOneTeam.

As winter rolled along, our Girls Basketball Team brought home a coveted City Championship, going an undefeated 12-0 in the City Conference. Congratulations also to our B Squad and JV teams who were also City Champions! This year included many milestones, including junior **Virginia Johnson** joining the 1,000 point club and head Coach Dan Froehlich surpassing 150 wins! The Lakers saw elite All City play from **Johnson** (who was also named



conference Co-Player of the Year), Athena Award Winner **Anya London** and upcoming rising star **Sinae Hill**. The Lakers finished the season 21-5.

As the titles continued to mount the SW Gymnastics Team vaulted to another City Championship, making it three in a row! At the Section 6AA Gymnastics Meet, the Lakers saved their best performance for last and posted an impressive score of 128.775! Finishing 4th behind Wayzata, Hopkins and Edina, SW had two student athletes place in the top 10! Congratulations to **Ella Kowalczyk** on her 10th place finish and **Keira Murphy** on taking 7th! Congratulations also to All Section Athletes **Kowalczyk, Murphy** and **Vanessa Harris**!

At National Signing Day in February these Laker student athletes signed national letters of intent committing to play collegiate athletics: **Nolan Addisson** - Dakota Wesleyan University (Baseball), **Charlie Boucher** - Univ. of St. Thomas (Football), **Audrey Cole** - Bates College (Track / Cross Country), **Cooper Camp** - Dartmouth College (Nordic Ski), **Ben Kattreh-Kuritz** - Washington Univ. (Football), **Owen Lindseth** - Univ. of MN Twin Cities (Cross Country / Track), **Ruben Margolis** - Colorado College (Track / Cross Country), **Aidan Moran** - Univ. of MN Morris (Baseball).

Please join me in congratulating our athletes on one of the most accomplished Winters in Minneapolis Public School History - the Winter of Championships! Please also follow us on Twitter @MplsSouthwest for SW Athletics updates!

Go Lakers! ~Athletic Director, Rob Hollway



The Southwest Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to work with Southwest High School and its alumni to create an exceptional educational experience for all students. The Foundation raises money to support academic, athletic and artistic opportunities for students and to provide scholarships to graduating seniors.

There are many opportunities to become involved with and support the Southwest Foundation. We are currently seeking volunteers, committee members and board members. To learn more or to donate, visit SouthwestFoundation.org.

Current Board Members

Dan Froehlich '75, Dir. of Alumni Engagement, staff and graduate parent
Brad Idelkope, '03, Chair
Maria Kimmes, faculty
Allison Krueger, current parent
Jodi Marker-Perelman, '87, alumni & faculty
Dave Premack '04, Communications
Paul Roach '88, Treasurer
Gwen Spurgat, current parent

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