



New Program Benefits Area Schools

As the Watertown Area Community Foundation invests in the vitality of our community, it recognizes area students as a large part of our community's future. With that in mind, the Foundation announces a new program which will invest in the education of area youth.

Through the Area School Partnership Program, the Foundation will award grants on an annual basis for public education projects which are beyond the scope of the regular school budget.

“We are excited about offering this program to area schools,” said Jan DeBerg, WACF executive director. “While schools within Watertown’s city limits are always eligible to apply for grants, this new program enables us to support other area schools as well. Our students are important to our community’s wellbeing,” she added. “We are merely doing our part in helping to provide them with optimum school resources.”

The idea for the program came about when the Waverly/South Shore School District applied for a grant in 2016. “We really hadn’t ever received any grant applications before from area schools,” DeBerg explained. “The grant request was important to the school and Foundation Board members agreed that we should be looking at expanding our grant recipient area since many of nearby community residents consider Watertown ‘home,’ too.”

School districts within approximately 30 miles of Watertown are eligible to apply. They may call 882-3731 or email: assistant@watertowncommunityfoundation.org to request a grant application. Foundation staff is available to counsel with interested parties regarding the appropriateness of a project for consideration by the Foundation Board. Grant applications are due in March with final determination on all proposals being made by the Foundation board in July.

Guidelines include:

- **Grant awards must benefit public education to students.**
- **Grants are awarded for educational enhancement programs and projects.**
- **Grant fund requests up to \$2,500 are accepted for consideration. The funds must be matched by the school.**
- **Grant applications need to describe the project clearly and specifically.**
- **The Completed application must include the Grant Application and brief narrative describing the program or project and showing the budget for the proposal. Evidence of approval of the governing Board of the requesting organization is recommended. Letter of support or other relevant materials may also be included.**
- **Grant applications are due in March with grants being awarded in July.**



For more information, please contact the Watertown Area Community Foundation at 882-3731 or email: **NEW SCHOOL PROGRAM** – Jan DeBerg takes a tour of the new Waverly – South Shore School with Mitch Reed, principal. The Watertown Area Community Foundation recently awarded a \$2,500 matching grant to the school for an interactive technological board for the school’s new library. Thankful for the grant, Reed said that the new technology will benefit students and staff and be used during class and meetings alike. The Waverly and South Shore schools merged completely in 2009. This school year is the first in a new building at Waverly for the school district. This grant initiated the establishment of a new WACF effort, the Area School Partnership Program, which will support area schools. foundation@iw.net.