

April 28, 2006 -

Strategies for Successful Fundraising Among America's School (K-12) Foundations

Chicago, IL --- Public schools in the United States can obtain private gifts to overcome the drop in educational quality caused by inadequate government support, according to officials of the National School Foundation Association (NSFA).

"Many of our public schools are waiting for state and federal governments to halt the decline in public education. This drop in government funding over the past several years can be aided with efficient fundraising by public school foundations," said Jim Collogan of the NSFA. A solution to the funding dilemma is to establish nonprofit foundations focused on acquiring support and gifts from individuals and businesses to assist our schools.

In light of this growing need the NSFA, in conjunction with the National School Boards Association (NSBA), conducted a "Special Session" panel discussion titled: "Strategies for Successful Fundraising Among America's K-12 Foundations", on Monday, April 10th at 3:45 P.M., Lakeside Center – McCormick Place. Special session workshop participants included:

- Dr. Linda Henrie, Superintendent of the Mesquite ISD, TX, discussed how her district established a school foundation and raised close to \$600,000 for the Mesquite district during its first 16 months of operation.
- Terry Boehm, President of the Pinellas Education Foundation, FL described the responsibilities of leading a large education foundation. Boehm also discussed the strategic planning and philanthropic systems needed to manage a staff of 17 and an annual fundraising budget of over \$5 million.
- Nina Menis, Director of Community Relations, Naperville Community School District 203, Naperville, IL, discussed the importance of passion as an integral part of any comprehensive advancement program, and gave personal insights into the value school foundation work in her school district.
- Jeannie Zallis of the Lincoln Way District 210 High School Foundation for Excellence, New Lenox, IL. Jeannie currently chairs her school foundation's largest fundraising event, and offered insight into her role in this important capacity as well as share her experience as a school foundation board member.
- Jane Gallucci*, School Board of Pinellas County, Pinellas County, FL, discussed her important role as a school board member with the Pinellas Education Foundation and the value the Pinellas Education Foundation offers her local school district. (*Ms. Gallucci is President-Elect of the Board of Directors of the National School Board Association)

The National School Foundation Association is a not-for-profit 501(c) 3 organization established to assist K-12 schools and districts in developing and sustaining school foundations. The association is housed and sponsored by the Iowa Association of School Boards, 700 2nd Ave. Suite 100, Des Moines, IA 50309, Len Cockman executive director.

