



WE ARE THE SCHOOLS CUSF NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

PICKLEBALL CROCHET & TAP DANCING - OH MY!

Our Fall Grant Cycle is complete and teachers throughout the Unit 116 and Unit 4 schools are providing their students with even more fun and innovative projects thanks to our donors! Read more about it in the [News Gazette](#). HEADS UP: For the first time we will be hosting a SECOND ROUND grant cycle in the Spring!



SAVE THE DATE!

CUSF will be holding the inaugural "WE ARE THE SCHOOLS" Music Fest on Sunday, February 16th! Several bands are lined up - each featuring students, staff or faculty of Unit 116 or Unit 4 schools! Keep your eyes on social media and your inbox for more details - you won't want to miss it!

GRANT IN ACTION!

Terrell Stafford - Director of Jazz Studies and Chair of Instrumental Studies at Temple University, founder and band leader of the Terrell Stafford Quintet, and Managing and Artistic Director of the Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia (JOP) is renowned in the jazz world as an educator, performer and leader and has received countless award nominations and accolades. He spent three days with students from Central HS, Urbana HS/MS, Franklin and Jefferson MS, the third week in November - thanks to a CUSF grant!



WHAT IS ... “WE ARE THE SCHOOLS?”

In January of 2024 the CUSF Board approved a Strategic Plan with the primary goals of

- Increasing community engagement with our public schools
- Celebrating the successes of our public schools, teachers, alumni & students
- Enhancing our current grant program
- Supporting teachers

They then developed four specific initiatives around these goals that will be rolling out through 2025 and 2026 - all under the umbrella of the “WE ARE THE SCHOOLS” Strategic Plan!

So much more exciting news coming in regards to these plans - thank you for partnering with us.

CUSF AWARDS

We are seeking nominations for the following:

- Distinguished Alumni (recognize graduates whose achievements, strength of character, and citizenship serve as role models to inspire and challenge today's youth. The Distinguished Alumni Awards will be open each year to any alumnus or alumna who graduated from the Unit 4 or District 116 high schools no less than ten (10) years prior to that nomination year.
- Local Hero Award which recognizes individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to benefiting the Champaign-Urbana school community and/or public schools through their volunteer time and efforts.
- The Local Business Community Impact Award recipients will have demonstrated an impact on the school community and/or our public schools through their commitment to philanthropy, service, and volunteerism, or employing local high school graduates.

[CLICK HERE TO
START YOUR NOMINATION NOW!](#)

