



January 2020

### **History of the C.E.S. Foundation**

The mission of the C.E.S. Foundation is to enhance learning opportunities for students in C.E.S. schools and programs. We have been in existence since May 2007 with initial funding coming from my retirement program. Our board members are representative of our community consisting of college representatives, business people, former C.E.S. administrators, a parent representative, an accountant and an attorney, with Barb Pace serving as our liaison and Dr. Charles Dumais as ex officio.

We started to work toward our mission through the awarding of mini-grants from \$250-\$750 to individuals or groups of educational personnel working at C.E.S. To date we have awarded \$97,000 in mini-grants and two years ago we increased the maximum grant amount to \$1,000.

In 2011 we expanded our giving to provide program grants, typically from \$2,500 to \$10,000, to administrators in C.E.S. schools and programs for innovative program-wide initiatives. Since inception, we have distributed \$104,103 for grants ranging from initial iPad purchases to bringing in artists-in-residence to provide unique opportunities to students attending the Regional Center for the Arts.

While each of our member school districts sends students to our C.E.S. programs, we felt it was time to provide more direct opportunities for teachers in those districts. So, in 2018 the Board decided that it was time to award funds to the C.E.S. Professional Development Services division to provide free professional development programs for teachers from C.E.S. member districts. The first program was offered in 2017, one was offered this past spring on enhanced project-based learning conducted by a national expert, and the third was offered this summer as a follow-up to last summer's program. This year we are funding a program on teaching math concepts from introduction to advancement. We have a second proposal submitted to us that will be voted on at our next Foundation Board meeting this month. To date we have provided PDS with \$25,540 for these programs.

This a total of \$226,643 to provide creative, innovative and meaningful educational opportunities for both students and teachers throughout the C.E.S. member area. With our grant-giving next year, we hope to reach the quarter-million dollar mark!

### **How we fund our giving**

- Board of Directors campaign that contributed more than \$3,700 last year
- Employees participate in a payroll deduction plan which typically raises around \$3,000 per year
- President Cetorelli donates \$3,000 in matching funds each year
- Signature event: This year's event, "Mardi Gras: Laissez Le Bons Temp Rouler," will take place on Saturday, March 28, at the Mill River Country Club in Stratford. Revenue comes from:
  - Ticket sales
  - A silent auction and a bag auction

- A 50-50 auction
- Program ads
- Application for grants when applicable
- A parent information campaign
- Employer matches
- United Way contributions
- AmazonSmile campaign
- Other isolated individual donations

**As Representative Council members you can assist the work of the Foundation in various ways:**

- Appoint a person from the Representative Council to serve on the C.E.S. Foundation Board of Directors as a liaison.
- Inform your school boards of the Foundation's work by dissemination of our Foundation brochure and discussion at your board meetings.
- Purchase a table at the annual fundraising event on Saturday, March 28, at the Mill River Country Club in Stratford and invite your fellow Board of Education members, family and friends. Letters of invitation will be provided.
- Provide items for the silent auction (minimum value \$100) or items for the bag auction (up to \$100) we hold on that evening which could include gift certificates from your favorite restaurant or places where you obtain services.
- Sponsor an ad in our program booklet from the Representative Council-Ads run from \$250 (bronze) to more than \$1,000 (platinum)
- Sponsor an ad from your business or obtain an ad from businesses you have dealings with.
- Choose to send personal donations of any amount that fit with your giving plan.
- Advocate with friends and family members to designate the C.E.S. Foundation, 40 Lindeman Drive, Trumbull, CT 06611, as their charity for the United Way campaign or via matching funds from their employers.
- If you shop on Amazon, by going to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and designating Cooperative Educational Services Foundation as your designated charity, the Foundation receives 0.5% of all sales. Not much individually, but collectively if the numbers increase, this will be another source of income.

We would appreciate your cooperation in informing your board and parent community of the work of the Foundation and welcome any suggestions/advice you might offer to get our message out.

Please visit our website at [www.cesfoundation.org](http://www.cesfoundation.org) and like us on [Facebook.com/cesfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/cesfoundation) for further information.

We are looking forward to the future and the growth of the Foundation for both the short-term and long-term benefit of our students. We are grateful to those of you who have donated in the past. Any assistance you can provide us would be greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

*Nancy*

Nancy D. Cetorelli, Ed.D.  
Former C.E.S. Executive Director  
President  
C.E.S. Foundation

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