

# KETTERING Education Foundation

*The Kettering Education Foundation is a component fund of The Dayton Foundation.*



## ANNUAL REPORT 2025

### Who We Are

The Kettering Education Foundation Advisory Board is an all-volunteer group, comprised of community leaders, former educators, and business associates. Additional input and advice are provided by a liaison with The Dayton Foundation and ex-officio members. The Kettering Education Foundation (KEF) is a component fund of The Dayton Foundation.

We sponsor a competitive grant program through which Kettering classroom teachers are able to initiate creative projects to enhance learning for their students. On behalf of donors, KEF also manages scholarship funds that award several thousand dollars annually to graduating Kettering Fairmont High School seniors.

### Celebrating Our Donors: Spotlight on Dick DeLon

The Kettering Education Foundation (KEF) extends heartfelt gratitude to all of our donors whose generosity fuels our mission to support excellence in education. Their contributions make it possible for us to provide meaningful grants to teachers and enhance learning experiences. Among our many dedicated supporters, we are proud to spotlight longtime donor and advocate, Dick DeLon. Mr. DeLon has been a steadfast champion of education in Kettering, driven by a deep personal connection to the school system. His commitment is rooted in family tradition. His mother, his late wife Joan (a Roush Hall of Fame member), and both of his children dedicated their careers to teaching. In addition to his family's legacy in education, Mr. DeLon himself served for many years on the Kettering Board of Education, where he worked tirelessly to advance the district's goals. His passion for education and his belief in the power of community support have made him a vital part of KEF's mission. Mr. DeLon shared with us that his support for KEF stems from a strong desire to give back to the schools that shaped his family's lives. He believes deeply in the importance of empowering educators through grants and resources that help them innovate and inspire. We are honored to recognize Dick DeLon for his unwavering dedication and thank him, and all of our donors, for helping KEF continue to make a lasting impact in Kettering classrooms.

### What We've Been Up To

KEF continues to fulfill our mission by awarding classroom grants to teachers and other Kettering City School (KCS) employees and presenting graduating seniors with scholarships. These grant and scholarship winners are listed on the following pages. Since its inception, KEF has raised more than \$483,000 and has awarded more than 594 grants. Funds raised have helped KEF achieve its vision: to provide support for the Kettering School District's efforts to be an innovative leader in K-12 education throughout the Miami Valley.

In 2025, the Kettering Education Foundation (KEF) was proudly named one of three recipients of the prestigious Award for Excellence in Community Leadership by The Dayton Foundation. This distinguished

recognition celebrates organizations that are driving meaningful change through exemplary practices in community organizing, fundraising, collaboration, and strategic planning. This marks the third time KEF has received this honor, a testament to its sustained commitment to empowering educators and enriching the learning experience for students across the district. The award highlights KEF's dedication to fostering innovation, building strong partnerships, and maintaining a strategic focus on long-term impact.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, the Kettering Education Foundation (KEF) continued its tradition of supporting innovative teaching through its fall grant cycle. Capitalizing on the energy and enthusiasm of a new school year, KEF opened its grant application period at the start of the semester, accepting submissions through October. In November 2024, selected grants were awarded to teachers whose creative ideas promised to enhance student learning and classroom experiences. To honor these educators, KEF partnered with the Board of Education to host a special board meeting, celebrating the recipients and recognizing their commitment to excellence. This event not only highlighted the impact of the grants but also reinforced KEF's mission to empower teachers and enrich education across the district.

Looking ahead to the 2025-2026 school year, KEF is expanding its grant opportunities by opening the application process four times throughout the year. This new approach is designed to better align with teachers' schedules and the natural flow of classroom planning, allowing educators to apply for funding when inspiration strikes and implementation is most feasible. By increasing accessibility and flexibility, KEF aims to remain a vital resource for teachers seeking to bring fresh, impactful ideas to life. The Foundation's ongoing commitment ensures that educators continue to view KEF as a reliable partner in funding meaningful projects that benefit students and strengthen the learning environment.

For the 2025-2026 school year, KEF attended the opening day kickoff meeting on August 11th. This gave the board an opportunity to mingle with the teachers and engage in the excitement for the new school year.

### How to Donate

KEF supports programs that have a positive impact on our schools and community. A donation is not simply a charitable gift, but an investment in the future. Your gifts enable us to provide the educators in the Kettering School District with funding for innovative programs that will truly make a difference for students in their classrooms. We are deeply indebted to you for your support and your encouragement. Thank you for supporting our efforts to achieve "Excellence in Education through Philanthropy."

If you wish to contribute to KEF, complete the enclosed donation card, include your gift, and mail it using the envelope provided. You may also go to our website at [www.ketteringeducationfoundation.org](http://www.ketteringeducationfoundation.org).

# 2024-2025 Grants

## 2024-2025 Grants Selected and Implemented

In the fall of 2024, the Kettering Education Foundation awarded teacher grants to 18 educators for the 2024-2025 school year. The grant recipients were recognized and presented with certificates at a Board of Education meeting held in November 2024. Below you will find brief summaries of those selected grants.

Looking at the 2025-2026 school year, KEF will begin accepting grant applications year-round and awarding grants quarterly rather than annually. The Advisory Board hopes this will provide teachers with more flexibility to receive and utilize grant funds when they are truly needed.

### **IXL Intervention** (RENEWAL) *Ascension School – Amanda Lymburner*

The primary goal of this grant was to purchase a classroom license for the math and language arts sections on IXL Personalized Learning. IXL was used in different ways as designated by the teacher's caseload. For many students, the program was used to help close the gaps identified through formal testing. For students on a modified curriculum, IXL provided reinforcement of skills covered in class. In the general education setting, IXL was used for extra practice.

### **Mister C – Learning Science Is Fun** *Kettering Middle School – Melanie Byers*

Mister C is a celebrity science teacher who makes learning fun. A joint venture between the PTA at KMS and the Kettering Education Foundation brought Mister C to entertain the entire student body. Mister C used science standards to explain each STEM experiment that he performed. With students being included in the show and larger-than-life demonstrations being presented, the event was quite a success.



### **LCD Writing Tablets** *Oakview Elementary School – Rachel Marion*

This grant was used to purchase LCD Tablets for a kindergarten classroom. The main goal was to have students draw shapes on a blank slate as they learned letter and number formation. These tablets came with an attached stylus and were erased with the push of a button, user friendly for 5- and 6-year-olds. The tablets were also integrated into every subject area, providing a response tool for the students.

### **Exploring Forces Through Inquiry Based Learning: A Hands-On Approach to Ohio's 8th Grade Physical Science Standards**

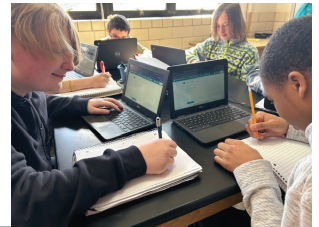
*Van Buren Middle School – Joseph Duncan*

This project was designed to enhance an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student's understanding of the physical science concepts related to forces and fields. The funding was used to purchase science lab equipment for inquiry-based experiments performed by the students. As a result, students observed how objects can experience a force due to an external field including magnetic, electrostatic, or gravitational fields. In addition, through hands-on experiments, students directly observed how forces can act to change the motion of objects. An understanding of these foundational concepts is critical for more advanced STEM courses.

### **Pear Assessment Premium—Pear Deck Learning**

*Van Buren Middle School – Angie Relick*

Pear Assessment is part of a versatile online platform that yields reporting data and allows for customization by teachers. The grant provided for the purchase of this software to be used throughout the math department. Teachers found it provided clear feedback on what the students mastered and what they needed more help with. With this quick analysis, teachers were able to supplement the daily curriculum to meet a student's individual needs. Pear Assessment also provided useful information on the overall math program by illustrating patterns and areas where students struggled.



### **Exploring the Hero's Journey through *The Hobbit***

*Kettering Middle School – Jeanine Schaming*

A class set of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* was purchased for the enrichment Success Seminar at Kettering Middle School. The goal was to enhance the students' understanding of the Hero's Journey, a central theme in literature, mythology, and storytelling. This novel study provided students with engaging literary experiences that fostered critical thinking, creativity, and personal growth.

### **Advanced Literary Reflections** (RENEWAL) *Fairmont High School – Patricia Taylor*

This grant provided challenging reading materials beyond the curriculum to meet the rigor demanded by 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, state standards, and AP standards, helping students increase their overall reading levels and benefiting them in all subject areas.

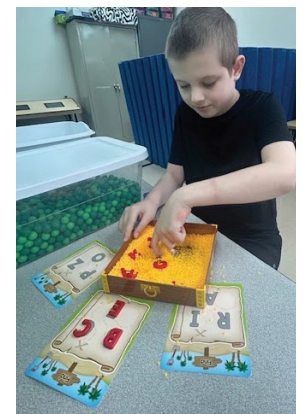
### **Community Portrait Project** *Fairmont High School – Meghan Fay*

The opportunity to explore the concept of community paired with the opportunity to produce a high-quality finished studio piece was the goal of this grant written for students in the IB Art program at FHS. Initially, the students discussed the importance and various definitions of community. An examination of both historical and contemporary portraiture in art followed. The final step in the investigation period was the interviewing of a valuable person from the community. The students synthesized this research to produce an original work of visual art with materials provided by the grant.

### **STEM and Language Development: Hands-On Exploration**

*Indian Riffle Elementary – Pandora Pugh*

This grant allowed the teacher to purchase hands-on exploratory items for special needs students in multiple grades. With a focus on both the language arts curriculum and the STEM curriculum, the students were given the opportunity to improve problem solving skills as well as increase and improve daily oral communication skills.



*Using a sensory bin activity to identify letters and sounds.*

# 2024-2025 Grants

## Fostering Social Skills and Positive Interactions through Lunchtime Games

*Kettering Middle School – Susie Moses*

Students seem to struggle more in today's world with face-to-face communication due to their lives being bombarded by social media, phones, chrome books, and other electronics. The goal of this grant was to improve socialization skills by having board games available in the lunchroom for 6th graders. A supervised environment was created to promote one-on-one socialization, appropriate communication in the heat of competition, and the resolution of conflict when needed. Students had the opportunity to make new friends and learn how to be a good sport while having fun.



*"Lunchtime Games"*

## Bridging Languages: Bilingual Library for Preschool through Grade 5 Success

*Kettering Elementary Schools – Laurie Koncan*

The Kettering City Schools has seen a significant increase in Spanish-speaking students, particularly in the early grades. This grant aimed to establish a comprehensive bilingual (English-Spanish) book collection for two elementary school libraries, serving students from preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The project provided age appropriate, high quality bilingual books that can be used both in the classroom and in the home setting. The bilingual library supported language development, cultural awareness, and academic success for the growing Hispanic population in Kettering.



*Building bridges through books: A Colombian student shares Spanish and English words with his South Korean classmate, demonstrating the power of our new bilingual library to foster cross-cultural connections. This beautiful moment captures the essence of multilingual learning, where students become teachers and language differences transform into*

*opportunities for friendship and growth. Thanks to the Kettering Education Foundation's support, our diverse learners are developing appreciation for each other's languages and cultures - one page at a time.*

## Greek and Roman Mythology for Adolescent Readers

*Fairmont High School – Rebecca Templeton*

This grant provided funds for reading materials which updated and augmented the textual choices for Greek and Roman Mythology, an elective course. Class sets of two works, a graphic novel of the *Iliad* and a book with modern retelling of classic myths, were purchased.

## Nonfiction Rocks

*Greenmont Elementary School – Heather Cone*

The primary goal of this grant was to update and enhance the non-fiction collection at the elementary school library. The faculty at the school believes that access to a wide range of high-quality resources is essential for the academic success of their students. Based on this objective, the grant provided funding to fill the gaps in the non-fiction collection and provide current and engaging books to support the curriculum at each grade level.

## Empowering Readers: Building a Diverse and Engaging

**Classroom Library (RENEWAL)**

*Fairmont High School – Erica Rogers*

This grant provided funding for the classroom library to continue to grow with diverse, high interest books. When students get enthusiastic about reading and spend more time enjoying a book, they build fluency and test scores improve.

## Needle Felted Landscapes

*Kettering Middle School – Lindsay Gustafson*

Needle felting is a sculptural craft using wool. This very old art form uses barbed needles and dyed sheep wool to shape objects. With art supplies and art tools provided by this grant, middle school students used this technique and created small wool fiber pieces that were woven into a nature or landscape scene of their creation.

## 3D Prass Printer for Cross-Curricular Connections

*J. E. Prass Elementary – Casey McBride*

The 3D printer provided by this grant enabled engaging cross-curricular lessons to be taught. In the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, the Battle Ecosystems unit was introduced in science. The students studied ecosystems and using Tinker Cad, designed and printed different parts of the ecosystem that were used in a game scenario. Monthly in TEAM time, students had the opportunity to use the 3D printer as a dynamic learning tool. The gifted teacher met with each 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. Utilizing the printer, students visualized abstract concepts and created physical models.

## Harvesting Education: Ensuring the Future of the Beavertown Garden

*Beavertown Elementary School – Jessica Hanchak*

In the spring of 2023, a school garden was started at Beavertown Elementary School. In 2024, the garden was expanded with the help of a Kettering City Grant. The KEF Grant this year kept the garden growing with the purchase of plants, seeds, mulch, and soil. Science and STEAM lessons continued to be incorporated through the garden and a family component was added, with books being purchased for a little free library. The garden has flourished and is an enriching educational tool, family resource, and space for hands-on learning.

## Wordless Rhetoric: Analyzing Rhetorical Choices in a Graphic Novel

*Fairmont High School – Ryan Lamb*

This grant was used to purchase 40-50 copies of the graphic novel *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan. In beautiful, fanciful images, this wordless graphic novel depicts the journey of a man from a troubled country of origin to a new land filled with wonders and strangeness. The study of *The Arrival* enhanced both the AP and IB curriculum. It allowed students to hone their visual literacy skills while immersing themselves in a genre that has increased relevance in the 21st century.

# Kettering Education Foundation Scholarship Awards

## Diane Patterson Memorial Scholarship

The Diane Patterson Memorial Scholarship honors former Fairmont teacher Diane Patterson. Diane's passion for helping others was reflected throughout her career as a nurse, rehabilitation counselor, and educator. Diane was forever a champion of those seeking sobriety. After a lengthy nursing career punctuated by a 25-year management tenure in addiction services at Miami Valley Hospital, Diane changed from healthcare management to inspiring and teaching the next generation of healthcare workers, beginning a new adventure teaching Allied Health at Fairmont.

2025 RECIPIENT: **Ryder Quinlan—University of Cincinnati**



## Fairmont Men's Soccer Brotherhood Scholarship

This scholarship was created by Caleb Berlon, who recognized the need to encourage the values of integrity and hard work beyond soccer. Caleb is a Fairmont alum and Kettering teacher.

2025 RECIPIENTS:

**Ryder Quinlan—University of Cincinnati**  
**Jaxson Routley—Bowling Green State University**



## Joan B. DeLon National Honor Society Scholarship

This scholarship was established by the DeLon family to honor the memory of Joan DeLon, Fairmont teacher and National Honor Society advisor, by recognizing an outstanding member of the National Honor Society.

2025 RECIPIENT:

**James Keeton—University of Tennessee Knoxville**



## Candy Clark Scholarship

The Candy Clark Scholarship was established by Candy Clark, a former art teacher in Kettering, to recognize an art student who has taken at least two years of art classes.

2025 RECIPIENT:

**Violet Fotia—University of Western Ontario**



## Pat's Scholarship for Prass Elementary School

This scholarship goes to a senior who attended Prass Elementary School, who demonstrates a high level of academic achievement and community service, and who has participated in extracurricular activities.

2025 RECIPIENT:

**Camryn Liming—Bowling Green State University**



## Pat's Scholarship for Wright State University

This scholarship goes to a senior who plans to attend Wright State, who has demonstrated a high level of academic achievement and community service, and who has participated in extracurricular activities.

2025 RECIPIENT:

**Rosemary Murphy—Wright State University**



## Pat's Scholarship for Ohio University

This scholarship goes to a senior who plans to attend Ohio University and who has demonstrated a high level of academic achievement. In addition, the recipient has participated in community service and extracurricular activities.

2025 RECIPIENT: **Madelynn Spirk—Ohio University**



## Pat's Scholarship for Women

This scholarship goes to a female graduating senior who has participated in extracurricular activities and who demonstrates a high level of academic achievement and community service.

2025 RECIPIENT:

**Natalie Schreck—University of South Carolina**



## Susan Fanelli Scholarship

Susan Reinicke Fanelli attended elementary and high school in Kettering, graduating from Fairmont West in 1966. After graduating from Bowling Green University, Susan returned to Kettering City Schools and taught elementary education for over 30 years. She then became a substitute teacher for another 10+ years. This scholarship is in honor of Susan's dedication to teaching and to helping others succeed. This scholarship may be awarded to a graduating Fairmont Senior or previous graduate pursuing a secondary degree in education.

2025 RECIPIENT: **Maggie Spragg—attends Sinclair/UD Academy**



## Jeff Guernsey Memorial Scholarship

Jeff Guernsey was the guy who would give you the shirt off his back and would always be there to help when someone was in need. Known as the class clown of the department, Jeff was a firefighter for the Washington Township Fire Department for 30 years, a lieutenant in charge of the department's honor guard. Jeff passed away in December 2020 after battling complications from COVID-19. This scholarship was established to help students further their education in a fire-related field.

2025 RECIPIENT: **Katie Drake—Sinclair Community College**

## Barbara Stager Memorial Scholarship

Barb Stager began her career in 1965 at Fairmont West High School, a place that quickly became the heart of her professional and personal life. Over the years, Barb made a lasting impact as a dedicated teacher, mentor, volleyball coach, and cheerleading advisor, forging deep connections with students, colleagues, and the community. This scholarship goes to a student pursuing a degree in education or music.

2025 RECIPIENT: **Ella Grace Schultz—University of Dayton**

## Chief's Scholarship

The Chief's Scholarship was founded to continue the bonds between fathers and their daughters/sons while participating in the Indian (Adventure) Guide and Princess Programs, sponsored by the Kettering South Community YMCA.

2025 RECIPIENTS:

Scholarships went to **Brynn Lofton** (Springboro) and **Nora Skudlarek** (Miamisburg). No Kettering students applied.

# Kettering Education Foundation Scholarship Awards

The Kettering Education Foundation (KEF) offers numerous scholarships on a yearly basis. On May 15, 2025, KEF, on behalf of its donors, presented scholarships to these outstanding Kettering Fairmont graduates:

## Kettering Jaycees Scholarship

The Kettering Jaycees Scholarship was established by the Kettering Jaycees Foundation to assist Kettering Fairmont seniors who are graduating from the Automotive Trades Program. This one-year award is given to student(s) who are active in the community and school and who are recommended by their teachers for this award.

2025 RECIPIENTS:

**Sandler Miranda—Brigham Young University**  
**Gavin Fulton—Matrix**

Scholarships also went to Oakwood graduates **Benjamin Moulton** and **Henry Bolmida**.

## John Pitstick Memorial Scholarship

The John Pitstick Memorial Scholarship was created to honor the spirit and memory of Fairmont West graduate John Pitstick, a varsity football player and student who enjoyed high school and made lifelong friends at Fairmont. The scholarship goes to a Kettering Fairmont student-athlete who plans to major in education.



2025 RECIPIENT: **Nellie Ayres—Miami University**

## Sally Roush Brown Scholarship

The Sally Roush Brown Scholarship was established to pay tribute to former teacher and Kettering Board of Education member, Sally Roush Brown. The Brown family developed this scholarship for a graduating senior at Fairmont who has exhibited outstanding leadership qualities.



2025 RECIPIENT: **Stella Toth—Bowling Green State University**

## Chase Hale Scholarship

The Chase Hale Scholarship is dedicated to the memory of T. Chase Hale. Chase was a 2002 graduate of Kettering Fairmont High School, captain of both his swimming and tennis teams. Chase died in an automobile accident in 2007. The scholarship is awarded to a female and male member of the swimming team nominated by their coaches.

2025 RECIPIENTS:

**Doug Hullinger—Sinclair/UD Academy**  
**Piper Stone—University of Oregon**

## Kesling Family Scholarship

Kettering Fairmont graduate and former Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano Diane Kesling established the Kesling Family Scholarship to honor her parents, Betty Kesling Smith and Devon Kesling. Both Betty and Devon were Kettering graduates and active participants in the music program. Betty was also a music teacher in Kettering for many years. Devon was drum major at Fairmont and went on to become drum major at The Ohio State University. Diane was a member of Fairmont orchestra and choir before going on to sing in the Metropolitan Opera for many years.

2025 RECIPIENT: **Eleanor Rowley—Ohio University**

## Catherine D. Riordon Scholarship

The Catherine D. Riordon Memorial Scholarship honors Catherine D. Riordon ("Kay"), who graduated from Baldwin-Wallace College and was a teacher in the Kettering City Schools from 1954 until her retirement in 1983. Kay taught music at Oakview Elementary in Kettering. Following retirement, she was a faithful volunteer for the City of Kettering for many years. This scholarship is awarded to a graduating Kettering Fairmont senior involved in community service and volunteer activities.



2025 RECIPIENTS: **Aleyna Armbruster—University of Cincinnati**

## Ray Albrecht Scholarship

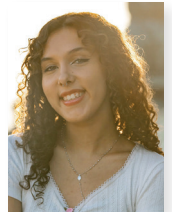
The Ray Albrecht Scholarship was established by the family of Ray Albrecht as a memorial tribute to the hard work and dedication that he showed in all aspects of his life and for his commitment to sending 11 children and 6 grandchildren through the Kettering City School District.



2025 RECIPIENT: **Brock Baker—University of Cincinnati**

## Gail Latham Scholarship

The Gail Latham Scholarship was established by Melanie Kolden to honor Gail's exemplary love of the written word and her extraordinary kindness. She was always looking out for the well-being of those around her. Many in the Fairmont community will remember Gail as a proud Firebird parent and band volunteer. Professionally, Gail was a newspaper journalist of the highest caliber. She fought for excellence in print journalism as a copy editor and manager at the Dayton Daily News and Cox Media Group. Gail cared very much about accuracy and clearly written, grammatically correct copy.



2025 RECIPIENT: **Sofia Espedal—Savannah College of Art and Design**

## Class of 1950 Scholarship

The Class of 1950 was comprised of 72 boys and 72 girls who formed close-knit friendships. The surviving members of the Class are proud to be the first graduation class of Fairmont to offer a scholarship.

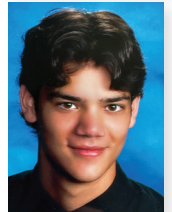
2025 RECIPIENT: **Connor Morrison—Miami University**



## Robert J. Kritzer and Frances C. Eden Scholarship

The Robert J. Kritzer and Frances C. Eden Scholarship recognizes and honors Bob Kritzer and Fran Eden for their lifelong commitment to student-athletes and their standards of excellence regarding athletics, academics, and leadership.

2025 RECIPIENT: **Adam Hartt—Ohio State University**



## Doug Weikert Memorial Scholarship

Doug Weikert taught math and coached track for over 30 years and continued coaching after his retirement. He had a passion for coaching track, and this scholarship was established to reward a hard-working student with high moral character.

2025 RECIPIENT: **Ian Blakley—Ohio State University**

# DONORS

The generosity of all those who have donated to the Kettering Education Foundation over the past fiscal year is greatly appreciated. Your support has made the foundation a valued partner of Kettering City Schools for over a quarter of a century. These gifts shared through grants with our Kettering teachers allow for enriched activities, materials, and creative learning experiences for our students. The Kettering Education Foundation Advisory Board, Kettering teachers, students, staff, and parents join in extending a sincere *Thank You!*

## Benefactors \$1,000 & Up

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Richard Dailey Sara Myers  
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## In Memory & In Honor

Kettering Education Foundation receives many gifts given in memory of a loved one, friend or colleague who has died, or in honor of someone with a special connection to the Kettering City Schools. Here is a list of those remembered or honored the past fiscal year.:

Arlene Akerman Hayley Hayes  
 Eleanor Axiotes Michael Kline  
 Karl Bremer Connie McKale  
 Mary Corpstein Marlene McVey  
 Marjorie Craver Greg Nelson  
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Jamie Hoskins		Dolores Wyrick

*Donations appearing above are for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 thru June 30, 2025.*

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**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS** Mindy McCarty-Stewart, Superintendent, Kettering City Schools, and a designated member of the Kettering Board of Education

### THE DAYTON FOUNDATION LIAISON

Kate Spencer, The Dayton Foundation, Donor Relations Officer

**Kettering Education Foundation 1401 S. Main St. #100, Dayton, OH 45409**