

**ERIE 2-CHAUTAUQUA-CATTARAUGUS BOCES
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.**



**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL PERIOD OF
JANUARY 1, 2023, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Introduction

The Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES Educational Foundation, Inc. (the “Foundation”), was incorporated in August 2016 as a not-for-profit, community-based organization established to support and enhance educational opportunities for Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES (“E2CCB”) students. To further its mission, the Foundation pursues donations and grants to create opportunities for BOCES students and component districts.

The Foundation’s Board of Directors for the 2023 fiscal year were:

Name	Office
Michael Munley	President
Jane Dickerson	Vice President
Carolyn Robertson	Treasurer
Jen Osborne-Coy	Secretary
Bob Hartz	Member
Jane Burzynski	Member
Cindy Marx	Member
Pat O’Connor	Member
Scott Cooper	Member
Lori Poniatowski	Member
Jody Falkner	Member
Judy Trask	Member
Karen Drummond	Ex-officio
David O’Rourke	Ex-officio
Brian Liebenow	Ex-officio

Under Article 6 of the By-Laws adopted by the Foundation’s Board of Directors, the

Foundation shall prepare an annual report showing in appropriate detail the following:

- (i) the assets and liabilities, including the trust funds, of the Foundation as of the end of a twelve-month fiscal period terminating not more than six months prior to the meeting (the “Fiscal Period”);
- (ii) the principal changes in assets and liabilities, including trust funds, during the Fiscal Period;
- (iii) the revenue or receipts of the Foundation, both unrestricted and restricted to particular purposes, for the Fiscal Period; and
- (iv) the expenses or disbursements of the Foundation, for both general and restricted purposes, during the Fiscal Period.

In accordance with Article 6, this document will serve as the Foundation’s Annual Report for the fiscal period of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023 (“2023 Fiscal Period”).

Activities

The 2023 fiscal year was a year filled with challenges and opportunities. Nevertheless, the Foundation continued providing support and creating student opportunities consistent with its mission.

Fundraising Activities

During the 2023 Fiscal Period, the Foundation continued to seek opportunities to support students and programs within E2CCB. The Foundation maintained its website (www.E2CCBFoundation.org) and continued accepting donations online via PayPal.

The Foundation worked with partners to plan and host the 10th Annual Robert Guiffreda Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament on July 7, 2023. This tournament is dedicated to Robert Guiffreda, former District Superintendent of E2CCB and beloved educator and advocate for children. Mr. Guiffreda devoted his life to education and the well-being of children. In his honor, the proceeds of this tournament were used by the E2CCB Wellness Committee and Educational Foundation to provide five scholarships in the amount of \$500 for one (1) student in each of the following areas:

- Special Education
- Alternative Education
- Career and Technical Education
- Adult Education
- P-TECH

A portion of the proceeds were also used to provide one \$500 scholarship in honor of the late Kip Feinen, former principal of E2CCB's Hewes Educational Center. Once the scholarships were awarded, the remaining proceeds were used to provide E2CCB Educational Foundation Student Support Grants. These grants support the needs of our students in economic crisis by purchasing required supplies or materials for personal use (steel-toed boots, uniforms, tools, equipment, etc.) or meeting students' immediate needs.

The Foundation assisted a number of students by providing financial support to purchase uniforms for students in the Licensed Practical Nursing Program at the Hewes Center. Supplies and books were distributed to students enrolled in the Cosmetology programs at the Carrier, Hewes, and LoGuidice Centers, and the Academy at Maple Avenue received the necessary supplies for students in the Auto Body and Culinary Programs. The Foundation provided clothing and personal hygiene supplies to students throughout 9 of E2CCB's locations, including its educational centers and satellite locations.

In addition, the Foundation hosted the Opening Day fundraising campaign, allowing E2CCB employees to sign up for payroll deductions to help fund our student support program. Sixty-six staff members signed donation pledges.

The campaign raised \$2,439 to support students.

Grants

Comprehensive Needs Assessment

Thanks to the generous support from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr, Foundation, Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, and Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, E2CCB conducted a comprehensive needs assessment to better understand and meet the needs of students, families, and staff. Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES (E2CCB) contracted with Via Evaluation (VIA) to conduct a community needs assessment focused on providing E2CCB with a deeper

understanding of the needs of the region and a better understanding of where to build on current services and fill in gaps that may exist. VIA and E2CCB collaborated to develop surveys for students, families, and district/school staff administered throughout the E2CCB service area. VIA conducted interviews with 20 representatives from local employers and higher education partners. The five (5) areas of focus identified through the surveys included:

1. Social-Emotional Well-Being & Mental Health
2. Program Alignment between School Districts & E2CCB
3. Career & Educational Pathways for Life Beyond High School
4. Equity & Inclusion
5. Technology, Tools & Resources for Students

The project purpose included:

- Utilizing a holistic approach that looks beyond the scope and size of any one school district or organization.
- Improving and increasing student academic success, graduation rates, career placements, and utilization of educational & training resources.
- Securing data to be used as leverage in private, state, and federal grant proposals moving forward.

Between the Lines: Books Empowering WNY Students through Broadening Diversity Project

Thanks to a grant from the Garman Family Foundation, six (6) school districts participated in the Between the Lines: Books Empowering WNY Students through Broadening Diversity Programs. This project aimed to utilize print books, eBooks, and audiobooks to develop contemporary reading projects to support diversity and inclusion initiatives to empower children, especially young girls, and minorities, in districts with high enrollment of economic disadvantage.

Surveys were administered at the beginning and end of the project to measure students' interest in learning about others, reading, and topics of interest, and we achieved the following outcomes:

- 434 students increased their engagement with readings focused on characters or people whose lives are different from their own.

- 434 students improved their literacy skills through a project focused on developing reading,
- comprehension, and critical thinking about complex topics.
- Districts increased their diversity initiatives through a targeted, contemporary reading program to address district issues stemming from the need for more work around diversity and inclusion.
- Districts displayed student learning about diversity and inclusion through presenting (either physically or virtually) culminating student projects to the public.
- 434 students increased the number of readings that address examples to empower young girls and minorities to overcome challenges, hardships, and setbacks.

Opportunities

As in prior years, during the 2023 Fiscal Period, much of the Foundation's efforts have been behind the scenes, working with teachers, counselors, and principals to ensure students can participate in learning. The Foundation assisted students in taking full advantage of the many E2CCB's career-focused programs. These requests offset the expense of resources and materials a student needs to complete a program and move towards a career successfully. At other times, the Foundation worked with nurses and counselors to help students secure the necessary resources to attend school. The Foundation received and fulfilled requests for students needing clothing, including socks, sweatshirts, and pants. The Foundation also collected and distributed personal hygiene supplies such as undergarments, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and shampoo. While these items appear insignificant, they are often why students can continue attending school.

The Foundation administered the Christopher T. Kerr and Chef Jim Kuras Memorial Scholarships, two (2) annual scholarships awarded to graduating seniors currently enrolled in the culinary arts program at E2CCB who share the late Christopher Kerr and Jim Kuras's passion for the culinary arts.

In addition, we also held funds to be used for the Ryan Howard Memorial Scholarship.

By the end of the 2023 Fiscal Period, these Memorial Scholarship Funds had grown to nearly \$8,200. The Foundation administers these funds with pride and gratitude to the benefactors for their many contributions to E2CCB students.

