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NEW 200 Foundation Sets Fundraising Goal for 2015-2016 Academic Year *Local Mayors Join Foundation as Honorary Board Members*

Following a successful year of implementing new programs and surpassing its fundraising goals, the NEW 200 Foundation plans to raise \$50,000 during the 2015-2016 school year. This year's funding initiatives include classroom technology, individual teacher grants, S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) projects, and differentiated reading materials.

Additionally, the foundation recently welcomed two honorary board members. Wheaton Mayor Michael Gresk and Warrenville Mayor David Brummel were installed as honorary board members. In this role, both mayors have pledged to promote awareness of the foundation and support enhanced technology and educational opportunities for students in District 200.

During the 2014-2015 school year, the NEW 200 Foundation raised \$31,000, expanded its volunteer base, and added four new board members and two platinum sponsors. The main accomplishments of the foundation last year included:

- Purchasing 40 Chromebooks and distributing two to each District 200 school;
- Donating 8 iPads that were provided to Special Needs students at Wheaton North in the Syracuse program, through a partnership with SEA200.org;
- Awarding grants for 7 iPads for 1st grade classrooms at Whittier Elementary;
- Contributing \$3,000 towards the purchase of TenMarks, web-based math practice programs for all middle schools in the district;
- Awarding \$1,500 to Franklin Middle School, the winner of the Entrepreneurship Expo. The money was used to purchase Chromebooks;
- Developing Renaissance Sponsors, a business sponsorship program; and
- Lunching several Fundraising programs, such as the Distinguished Teacher Awards Pizza Palooza, Support Our Schools Saturday, Minecraft Meetups, and an Amazon Smile account. Combined, these fundraisers generated \$13,000.

Illinois currently ranks LAST in the nation for educational funding from the state. With budget cuts in funding at both the state and district level, the NEW 200 Foundation is a not-for-profit organization which raises funds to help bridge the gap between District 200 revenue limitations and the desire to expand educational opportunities for all district students. The foundation works in collaboration with the district to award grants to teachers for innovative classroom teaching

According to STEMSchool.com, "When students have access to the latest technology and S.T.E.M. initiatives in the classroom, they learn how to answer complex questions, investigate global issues, solve real world problems, and meet real world challenges while engaging in meaningful, purposeful, and relevant hands-on inquiry-based, problem-based, and/or project-

based learning experiences.” Integrating technology and S.T.E.M. initiatives into classrooms is part of the foundation’s quest to enhance learning opportunities for all District 200 students.

The NEW 200 Foundation relies on individual and corporate donations and currently is seeking volunteers to assist with graphic design, fundraising, and community and alumni outreach. Information about these opportunities can be obtained by emailing info@NEW200.org or visiting the website www.NEW200.org.

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