The students that this foundation impacts every single year is why I give my time and energy to this board. Seeing the students smile motivates you to give your time and lead this foundation?

LAUREN: I owe a lot of my development and success as a young professional to the support, mentorship, and experience I had growing up in the Dubuque Community School District. I am committed to seeing every student in our district be successful. Our board is focused on eliminating barriers that keep our students from thriving and providing opportunities for them to thrive in and outside of the classroom. The work the foundation does to cultivate growth and raise funds, allows our educators, coaches, and administrators to focus on ensuring every student has the necessary resources to become successful during the most influential years of their lives.

LAUREN: As you look forward to next year, what is something you think our foundation should continue to grow and focus on?

LAUREN: During my tenure with the board, we have explored and introduced many different projects and initiatives throughout the district in partnership with various local organizations, companies, and individual donors. I look forward to continuing to allocate funds in meaningful ways, support students and staff with brain health needs, and increase awareness of our mission in the community to have an even larger impact on our staff and students.

We are grateful for our donors, volunteers, board of directors, teachers, and community for helping us support dynamic learning throughout all our schools. They are an essential part of the foundation and its investment in the education and future of our students and community and we can’t wait to see all of the things we can accomplish in 2023!
This year, the FDPS was able to open two grant cycles for teacher grants, received a record number of applications and awarded many grants throughout the district. These grants were created in memory of Judi Chandlee by her family and friends as a way to give back to our hard-working teachers. Chad Chandlee, Judi’s son, spoke at the Dubuque Community School District kickoff event thanking the staff for everything they do and the positive impact they have daily. Here are a few of the comments that staff shared after being awarded a Judi Chandlee Tribute to Teacher grant:

“Our new Brain Health space is up and running! So many students have shared that the new space is so warm and welcoming. They are so thankful to have the option to take care of themselves and regulate their emotions in a healthy way so that they can be more successful learners. Thank you to the Judi Chandlee Tribute to Teachers grant and the Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools for helping us provide this asset to our students!”
- Sara Dowell, Washington Middle School

“I have had so many students looking at my bookshelves and checking out books now. I love it!”
- Amanda Marks, Jefferson Middle School

“Pictured above are students at Dubuque Senior High School working on various podcast projects with equipment purchased through a Judi Chandlee grant. Students were able to write, plan, and record their ideas and thoughts. Then they listened to each other’s projects and gave feedback. This experience builds their confidence and gave them new skills for future endeavors. The collaboration was fun to watch!”
- Sarah Crom, Dubuque Senior High School

Students at Dubuque Senior and Hempstead High Schools have access to new Brain Health Retreat Rooms. These new rooms provide space to process emotions and stress during the school day and return to class ready to learn.

The Brain Health Retreat Rooms are made possible thanks to the vision and funding from Debi and Andy Butler, as well as collaboration with local businesses and nonprofits, including the Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools.

In 2023, a third Brain Health Retreat Room will open at the Alta Vista Campus.

In 2022, the FDPS has granted more than $250,000 to the Dubuque Community School District in the following areas:

1. Scholarships - $15,000 – 6%
2. Field Trips - $21,500 – 9%
3. Teacher/Staff Training - $42,000 – 17%
4. Building and Teacher Grants - $40,000 – 16%
5. Projects and Programs - $131,500 – 52%

Our reach was great and impacted many students. Some of the areas we supported were basic essential needs for students, STEM activities across the district, Brain Health Retreat Rooms, family engagement activities, and many more.

Total 2022 FDPS investment in Dubuque Schools = $250,000+

The Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools (FDPS) supports student achievement by promoting investment in the Dubuque public schools. FDPS board members and staff fulfill this mission by securing financial gifts and grants for school programs and projects that are not currently supported by public tax dollars. Learn more at www.dbqfoundation.org/FDPS.