



# LOWER CAPE MAY REGIONAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION [lcmredfound.org](http://lcmredfound.org)

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*Board of Directors:* Craig Fitz, President

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## ANNUAL REPORT

July 2016

The 2015-16 school year resulted in a number of positive developments. In September, our Foundation provided financial and planning support for a student led initiative to address youth substance abuse. The Lower Cape May Regional, “Starting Fresh and Sober” all night student lock in gave more than two hundred incoming freshman and their upperclassmen leaders an opportunity to have fun in a healthy party atmosphere and establish new friendships with positive role models.

In October, we provided a tour for 18 members of the class of ‘64. These graduates learned how their school has changed and visited classroom and instructional areas while hearing about specific programs. Another fall highlight was the launching of Lower Cape May Regional’s first St. Ayle’s Skiff. Students led by teacher Matt Suter were assisted in construction by a number of local artisan boat builders throughout the past 18 months. The Foundation purchased the boat kit and provided technical support in making connections between school staff and the community.

The *Life Over Lunch* program started and sponsored by our foundation last year, continued to meet with success at Lower Cape May Regional High School. While we had just 2 high school sessions, more than 67 students and 19 community mentors participated. This program tapped into a retired and semi-retired population that has settled into our community as well as long time locals. With the help of Teitelman School staff we were able to expand this program to middle school students this year. A planning team comprised of guidance counselors, administrators and teachers established 3 themed *Life Over Lunch* events with 20 mentors and 47 students. The Teitelman School themes for each program respectively, were, Kiwanis Business Leaders, Science, and Trades.

This year we established an electronic portal connected to our website to serve as a clearinghouse for alumni willing to share their life experiences and expertise with others. Thirty four alumni representing a wide array of professions and age groups are presently registered. These include alumni from a wide range of fields including forensics, law enforcement, engineering, education, law, medicine, IT, business and real estate. We piloted initial student alumni connections through the high school guidance department. Hearing about a career and/or college from alum can add a valuable dimension to the high school-to-life transition process.

A final action by our foundation this year resulted in expanding our board. The addition of Lower Township, Cape May and Cape May County Chamber of Commerce representatives should help us center our efforts on enhancing the school district’s efforts to help all students become productive and successful employees as they begin fruitful careers.

Moving ahead, we intend to establish the following program goals:

*Life Over Lunch:* Program dates will be planned by September 1 for both schools. The foundation will support a working committee with in-service for planning age-specific mentoring/lunch events. We will also be publishing a directory to the school staff as a resource for guest speakers and business partnerships.

*Alumni Network:* The Foundation will plan and implement a minimum of 3 alumni events. Ideas include, Alumni Meet and Greet Mixers, Homecoming Alumni Tailgate and Tour, and Alumni Holiday Hoops Night. We also plan on expanding career based communication among alumni and high school upper classmen. By publishing the directory resource we will encourage staff to use our alumni during advisor advisee (in-person or electronically) and in other enrichment opportunities.

*Expanding Partnerships:* The foundation will participate in a business mapping project with the school district. Essentially this will gather information about employer needs and job responsibilities through a series of meetings and document reviews. By cross referencing the knowledge, skills and abilities of local existing employment opportunities with curriculum we hope to learn additional ways we can help students.

There is so much to do and other ideas include establishing a Big Brother - Big Sister program, supporting existing programs such as Teen Tigers, sponsoring healthy after school activities and trips, and developing a network to mentor first year graduate alumni.

It would be shortsighted to not mention the generosity of those who made direct donations to support our efforts this year:

Craig Fitz  
Ed & Teresa Henry – Harpoon Henry’s  
Kindle Ford Honest Neighbors Program  
Christopher Kobik  
Jeff Kronemeyer – PGS Accountants and Advisors  
William and Susan Mc Mackin

Every member of our foundation board spent considerable time, effort and energy on realizing our vision and mission. Without these efforts the good work of our organization simply would not exist. Each board member makes a unique contribution to make a difference in the lives of students and help build the capacity of our school district to meet its demands as an agent for social change and betterment. I look forward to our continued work together.

Christopher H. Kobik ‘78  
Superintendent  
Lower Cape May Regional School District