


# What UCPS Staff have to say!



## UNION COUNTY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

### Amanda Stinchcomb

Principal, Benton Heights School of the Arts

This organization truly cares about the students, teachers, and schools in Union County. I first encountered the education foundation as the recipient of a gift when I was teacher of the year and quickly learned about all of the other ways that they support educators and students in our community. I have seen dozens of high school scholarships awarded and innovative ideas to enhance learning that started in the mind of a school staff member come to life with support from the foundation. I am currently serving as a principal in UCPS and in my school, there is ample evidence of the efforts of the education foundation in materials and spaces used in our school that exist because of grants from the UCEF. Amy and the foundation board are super heroes in our community.



### Adam Hass

STEM Teacher, Rocky River Elementary

As a STEM teacher who has won multiple LIFT grants as well as a GROW grant from the Union County Education Foundation, I have seen my classroom and school greatly benefit from the work that they do. Their support has given hundreds of teachers pathways to let their creativity soar which in turn has led to thousands of students receiving opportunities they may not have otherwise had. The Union Country Education Foundation is an amazing resource that schools, teachers, and students are lucky to have.



### Jennifer Deaton

Principal, Union Elementary

The UCEF has been so supportive to our school! We received a grant to create raised garden beds for our Ag-Tech program. Students are enjoying collaborating to plant seeds, weed and water the garden, and they have started their own Farmer's Market to provide vegetables to the community during the summer. This grant is a great example of allowing us to provide quality hands-on STEM activities, develop leadership skills in our students, and increasing student engagement. Thank you!





## Kevin Plue

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

The Union County Education Foundation puts its money where its mouth is. I can attest, first hand, that the money you give will go directly to UCPS administrators, teachers, and students. As a past principal of the year, principal of a school that was awarded multiple LIFT grants, and the parent of a scholarship winner I can confidently ask you to support this organization and know your money will be well spent!



## Kelly Frycz

Principal, Sardis Elementary, 2024 Principal of the Year

The UCEF is an amazing organization that makes a giant impact in the lives of educators and students. UCEF goes above and beyond to support education through awards, grants, and more! They make dreams become a reality for many educators. Union County Public Schools is extremely fortunate to have the love and support of UCEF. I know I appreciate all they do!!!



## Yaronda Kilgo

Teacher, Wingate Elementary, 2024 UCPS Teacher of the Year

One of the most commendable aspects of their work is the recognition and support they provide to the Teacher of the Year, Beginning Teacher of the Year, Principal of the Year, and Assistant Principal of the Year. These efforts not only celebrate outstanding leadership and dedication but also highlight the Foundation's genuine investment in fostering a strong and motivated educational workforce...



## Ann Jacob

AIG Teacher, New Town Elementary

I am incredibly grateful to the Union County Education Foundation for their continued support through the LIFT grants. These grants have allowed me to expand my instruction, enhance my materials, and create more engaging, enriching experiences for my students. With the additional resources provided by the UCEF, I've been able to better prepare my students...



## April Crabill

Special Education Teacher, Western Union Elementary

The LIFT Grant saved the day! As of April 2025, The LIFT Grant provided the molded seat swing with harness, hardware for hanging, and 3 new classroom sensory tools for students to enjoy. This project helped to create an accessible inclusive playground. Inclusive playgrounds create an atmosphere of trust and celebrate diversity. When everyone can participate in playground activities, regardless of abilities, everyone can enjoy the space. Creating connections between students is such a wonderful thing especially beginning at the elementary school age.



## Nicole DePietro

Apparel, Interior Design and Foods I Teacher, CATA

Union County Education Foundation is a INCREDIBLE resource for UCPS teachers. During my time as a teacher I have been the recipient of LIFT grants that purchased film equipment, supplies for a green-screen room, lighting elements and iPads for editing student work. I also was part of a committee at PWMS that applied for and won a \$5,000 grant to fund the Parkwood Green Initiative. This allowed us to create a composting system in the school, purchase recycling bins...

## Elizabeth Miles

Sustainable Energy Lab Teacher, Waxhaw Elementary

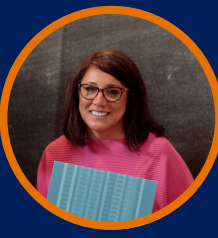
The LIFT Grant allowed my school the opportunity to purchase robots and we are so excited to start our coding journey. With each lesson, students are able to connect with coding elements (vocab, sequencing, coding careers) in a much more personalized manner. I can not thank you enough for providing us with this amazing experience and for all of your support.



## Cathy Haney

Principal, Rocky River Elementary

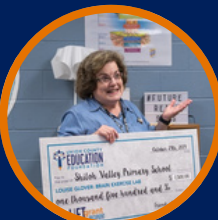
UCEF is incredibly helpful to schools and students. My school has benefitted greatly from grants, allowing us to create outdoor classroom opportunities and STEM equipment to enhance learning. My family also benefitted personally when my daughter applied for, and earned, a scholarship through the foundation to pursue a teaching degree. We are incredibly grateful for all that UCEF does for Union County students.



## Louise Glover

Teacher, Shiloh Valley Primary

The Union County Education Foundation enabled my school to open a Brain Exercise Lab. In it students can enjoy many different ways to exercise and process all of the great things they have learned in their classrooms. Without this grant, our students would not be able to have this room. Thank you Union County Education Foundation for helping meet the needs of the whole child!



## Erika Eichhorn

Special Education Teacher, Rea View Elementary

The LIFT grant provided my class with a truly amazing experience: a small classroom business. They are so proud of themselves, and the staff loves the product!



## Shelley Gordon

Special Education Teacher, Parkwood High

Union County Education Foundation awarded me funding to build a school-based enterprise for my students. UCEF proudly supports the staff and students of Union County!

