



GRANTS in action!

The Foundation funded projects totaling \$427,000 in 2017 which benefited the students and teachers in the district.

Major projects funded include:

**1:1 Computing,
Robotics,
STEAM projects and
GrapeSEED**

Funding for these educational opportunities would not be possible without your support.

To see some of the wonderful ways education has been enriched for the St. Joseph Public Schools students through the Foundation, visit our website.

 **ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION**
Enriching the education of students
www.sjpsfoundation.org

2018 *Distinguished Alumni* ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of its prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award, which honors St. Joseph High School alumni who have excelled in their professions and/or made significant contributions to their community.

PAST DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI RECIPIENTS

2012:

- William Gillespie (Class of 1942)
- Dr. Verne R. Schneider (Class of 1959)
- R.L. "Van" VanAntwerp LTG (Ret) (Class of 1968)

2013:

- Robert L. Gerbel (Class of 1953)
- James Menchinger (Class of 1958)
- Jay Schadler (Class of 1970)

2014:

- Edward I. Schalon (Class of 1938)
- Vice Admiral David M. Bennett (Class of 1952)
- Mary Liskey Goff (Class of 1959)
- Donna J. Tinberg (Class of 1974)

2015:

- Melvyn D. Remus (Class of 1950)
- Richard E. Dyer (Class of 1976)
- Michael D. Swanson (Class of 1987)

2016:

- Carol Bartz Stockman (Class of 1945)
- John Anzalone (Class of 1982)

2017:

- Dr William Emery (Class of 1942)
- Rob Fredrickson (Class of 1989)
- Nina Davuluri (Class of 2007)



2018
Distinguished
Alumni

ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The award was established by the St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation to honor alumni who have excelled in their profession and/or made significant contributions to their community. A Foundation committee, headed by Bob Ehrenberg, selected the recipients from the publicly nominated candidates based on the following criteria:

- 1) Graduate of St. Joseph Public Schools for ten or more years
- 2) Demonstrates a high level of achievement in his/her category and has made significant contributions
- 3) Exhibits inspirational leadership, character and service.

The St. Joseph Public School Foundations has selected

- Theresa Orlaske-Rich, Class of 1978
- Mary Jo Burkhard, Class of 1982

as recipients of the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award. The honorees will be recognized at a special ceremony on June 3 and at the annual high school commencement.

This is the seventh year of the annual award that recognizes SJHS graduates. Those wishing to nominate a worthy individual for the 2019 award may obtain information from the Foundation's website www.sjpsfoundation.org or call Sue Riemland at 926-3252.



Theresa Orlaske-Rich, Class of 1978

Following her graduation from SJHS in 1978, Theresa Orlaske-Rich earned Bachelors, Masters and PhD degrees in business, a PhD in philosophy, and a Juris Doctor degree. In 2016, she retired from General Motors Corporation after a 32-year career in tax law and human resources, and is currently a principal of RIchLaw, PLLC, in Farmington Hills, Michigan, practicing estate planning, elder law, real estate and business law. While at GM, Theresa worked in 12 countries on 5 continents, including developing human resource strategies, leading diversity initiatives and serving as an executive coach. She is a published author, motivational speaker, and has been an adjunct faculty member at Michigan State University and the Wayne State University Mike Ilitch School of Business. She also has provided consulting services for people making professional and personal transitions and, in that practice, authored the self-published book "Staying Sane in Crazy Times"

Her community work includes elective offices as President of the Oakland Schools Board of Education, an intermediate school district serving over 200,000 students in 28 school districts, and as a City Council member of Farmington Hills, Michigan, a city of 85,000 residents. She has also worked with the Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth & Families; Girls Scouts of South Eastern Michigan Advisory Council; the Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind and Visually Impaired; the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments; The Oakland Schools Education Foundation; and a Committee to Increase Voter Participation. Teresa and her husband, Brian, have two adult children, Zachary and Allison, and remain close to family in Berrien County. Her parents are Jerry and Carol Orlaske and she has two siblings, Rob Orlaske, Class of 1983 and Cindy Orlaske, Class of 1981.



Mary Jo Burkhard, Class of 1982

Dr. Mary Jo Burkhard is the Associate Dean for Faculty & Staff Affairs, Inclusive Diversity and Planning at The Ohio State University. She received a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, and has a PhD in philosophy. She is an accomplished scientist, researcher, author of 48 publications and 101 abstracts, posters, platform and case presentations. She has received over 6 million dollars of grant support for her research, focused on issues including feline immunodeficiency virus and HIV transmission and the diagnosis of lymphoid cancers. She is also a board-certified specialist in veterinary clinical pathology, with over 500 hours in classroom and laboratory instruction in clinical pathology and immunology. She has served as a program coordinator and has three excellence in teaching awards. Her contributions to The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine include initiatives to nurture a supportive culture and community of inclusion. She leads a Diversity Council, involving the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and local and national diversity experts, as well as a committee of OSU faculty, staff and students to plan and facilitate events to promote diversity and inclusion. As a direct result, the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine received the 2017 Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award. She has been active in the Career Transition Institute and Columbus American Marking Association and the Columbus Chapter of the International Coaching Federation. Rustin M. Moore, the Dean of the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine, nominated Dr. Burkhard, stating:

"Currently, the veterinary profession is going through a transition where many older veterinarians are mostly white males, whereas current students and faculty are an increasingly diverse population of mostly young

women. Thus, it is even more important to have established female role models within the profession to help future veterinary professionals feel capable and valued. Dr. Burkhard is an exemplary role model for everyone, regardless of their gender, race/ethnicity, background or other attributes."

Dr. Burkhard is married to Ron Tiefenbach, SJHS Class of 1979. Her parents are Bob and Nancy Burkhard and she has two siblings, Rob Burkhard, Class of 1984 and Sue Burkhard, Class of 1985.