

THE EDUCATION
FOUNDATION
FOR THE BEND-LA PINE SCHOOLS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 13, 2009

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FORMER BEND EDUCATOR GIVES BACK WITH \$25,000 GIFT
Education Foundation establishes Wallace Wilson Spotlight Award

The Education Foundation for Bend-La Pine Schools has received a \$25,000 gift from Faith Wilson, the widow of former Pilot Butte Middle School science teacher Wallace Wilson. The gift is the largest single individual contribution in the Education Foundation's history. The foundation will use the gift to create The Wallace Wilson Spotlight Award, an annual science grant for a Pilot Butte Middle School teacher.

Mr. Wilson taught science at Pilot Butte from the time it was constructed in 1968 to his retirement in 1978. His long career as an educator also included teaching positions at Cascade Middle School and Terrebonne School. He passed away this spring at the age of 94. It was his wish that students continue to be engaged through the study of science, particularly earth science.

To that end, Mrs. Wilson contacted the Education Foundation for the Bend-La Pine Schools to establish the Wallace Wilson Spotlight Award with her gift.

"We are extremely honored to receive this generous gift," said Julie Hill, board president of the Education Foundation. "Faith's stories about Wallace so clearly illustrate how much he loved teaching - it's very fitting that his legacy will be carried on through the Wallace Wilson Spotlight Award."

Through the fund, a grant of approximately \$1,000 will be awarded each summer to the Pilot Butte Middle School teacher whose application best supports the funding priorities of the award program. Those priorities include teaching and promotion of learning related to earth sciences; use of innovative curriculum, teaching methods and/or technology; projects focused on learning about green technology; and activities or clubs that promote students' knowledge of and interest in science.

The Wallace Wilson Spotlight Award will initially focus on Pilot Butte Middle School, said Amanda Franklet, executive director of the foundation. She hopes that with

additional contributions to the fund from the community and those who loved Mr. Wilson, it will grow over time to perhaps include other schools in the district.

“The foundation was fortunate to have Christine Telenko and Kevin Freihofer of Wells Fargo help Faith locate an opportunity to honor Wallace through a gift to a local Foundation and fund a Spotlight Award in his name,” Franklet said. We consulted with Mr. Freihofer several times; his background in estate and charitable planning was instrumental in developing the concept of a gift to support an annual Spotlight Award. We are so grateful to both Christine and Kevin for introducing us to Faith and she to the Foundation. It is a true sign of local community collaboration that will live on in Central Oregon forever.”

Grant applications for the Wallace Wilson Spotlight Award will be available in late January of each year via the Education Foundation’s web site. For more information about applying for the grant or contributing to the fund, please visit www.bendlapineschoolsfoundation.org or call 541-322-5493.

The Foundation will announce the gift and award at a Classroom Grants reception Oct. 14 at The Loft of Bend. Faith Wilson will be recognized at the reception as an honored guest. A plaque dedication ceremony is also being planned for later this year at Pilot Butte Middle School.

About the Education Foundation

The Education Foundation for the Bend-La Pine School District is an independent, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization founded by parents, concerned citizens, civic and business leaders, and educators. The Foundation strives to enrich the education of students in our local public schools by providing support for innovative programs and outstanding teaching, and by eliminating barriers to educational opportunities. The Foundation believes that a vibrant public school system is essential to the social and economic well being of our community. For more information please visit www.bendlapineschoolsfoundation.org or call 541-322-5493.

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