

REACH FOR THE STARS

Gala

The word "Gala" is written in a large, elegant, cursive script. It is surrounded by five small, five-pointed stars. One star is positioned above the 'G', one to the left of the 'G', one between the 'G' and 'a', one above the 'l', and one to the right of the 'a'.

“A well educated mind will
always have more questions
than answers.”

— **Helen Keller**



The Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education

Reach FOR THE *Stars Gala*

Thursday, March 2, 2017



Honoring

Mr. James Graber

District Honoree

*Huntington High School Social Studies Teacher
President, Associated Teachers of Huntington*



Mr. Michael Brown

Community Honoree

*Partner/Owner, Atlantic Auto Group
Huntington High School Alumni*



“Education is not the filling of
a pail but the lighting of a fire.”

— **William Butler Yates**

Program

Alice Marie Rorke

President

Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education

Mr. James Polansky

Superintendent of Huntington Union Free School District

Amy Girimonti

Mr. Michael Brown

Community Honoree

Partner/Owner, Atlantic Auto Group

Huntington High School Alumni

Mr. Tom Tantillo

Mr. James Graber

District Honoree

Huntington High School Social Studies Teacher

President, Associated Teachers of Huntington



Kimberley Steinberg

Gala Chairperson

“Education is simply the soul
of society as it passes from one
generation to another.”

≈ **G.K. Chesterton**

Our District Honoree



MR. JAMES GRABER

James Graber was born in upstate New York and graduated from Binghamton University in 1995 with a BA in Political Science. He continued his education at the University of Buffalo and received his MA in 2004. In addition, Mr. Graber received his Post Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership from Stony Brook University in 2009. He came to this district 16 years ago with a firm belief that being a teacher has an explicit requirement to foster intellect and an implicit requirement to extend yourself beyond the walls of the classroom. As a result, he had the good fortune to work with "the brightest minds Huntington has in a multitude of Regents, inclusion and Advanced Placement classes". In addition, he has been able to share some of his passions by working with students on The Dispatch, the Brainstormers Team, and the Chess Club. Some of the most valuable connections James has had with students were developed as a result of these activities. "It's important to remember when teaching students to have a warm heart and a cool mind." ...a quote that often refers to James Graber. It is exactly those characteristics that won him the award of Distinguished Teacher from the Harvard Club of Long Island in 2008 as well as this recognition from the "Distinguished Seniors" of the Class of 2010 at Huntington High School.

As the years developed, he wanted to seek a larger role in the district and the Associated Teachers of Huntington allowed him that opportunity. For the past 12 years he has worked with, and for the teachers of Huntington in several capacities, and is humbled to now be the president of the ATH. The ability to represent hundreds of people that have dedicated their careers and lives to the students and community he cares most about is "overwhelming."

James is honored to have been picked by HFEE for this recognition. In his words "Past recipients make up some of the educators I respect most, people I aspire to emulate. It is an honor I value dearly and deeply." James Graber lives here in Huntington with his wife Sue and two children Samantha and Steven.

The Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education is proud to honor the very passionate and dedicated James Graber as our District Honoree. Congratulations!

"The future of the world is in
my classroom today."

≈ **Ivan Welten Fitzwater**

Our Community Honoree



MR. MICHAEL BROWN

Atlantic Auto Group Partner/Owner Michael Brown grew up in the car business washing cars and running errands for his father's Jaguar-Porsche dealership in Huntington. For four years Michael Brown played football for Huntington High (Class of 1987), playing wide receiver and strong safety. Brown then played defensive back, receiver, and placekicker for Boston University, being selected first-team All-East in 1990. After graduating from BU, Brown played for the Dallas Texans and Earl Bruce's Cleveland Thunderbolts in the Arena Football League.

In 2001, Michael Brown went to work for Roger Penske and the Penske Automotive Group in Fairfield, CT. He was named the Regional Vice President after he transferred to oversee the Inskip Auto Mall in Rhode Island. During his tenure at Inskip, Michael and his stores were the recipient of multiple awards, including the "BMW Circle of Excellence," "Porsche Premier Dealer," and "Audi Magna Society."

Michael Brown returned to Long Island and joined the Atlantic Auto Group/New York Auto Giant in April 2007 as Vice President of Operations. Michael is known and loved among Atlantic's 2000+ employees for his open-door policy--always helpful and easily approachable--and for his down-to-earth personality. He served on the Huntington Hospital Board of Trustees and its Audit and Compliance Committee for seven years and has been honored by such organizations as Big Brothers and Sisters, the Make A Wish Foundation, the Diocese of Rockville Centre's Telecare operation, and many similar worthy causes. Michael lives with his wife and three daughters in their home in Huntington. He has generously donated the Huntington Alumni Scholarships and cups to 4 deserving graduating seniors for the past few years, has donated giveaways for the "Don't Text and Drive Campaign at the High School, and has also donated numerous car leases and cash prizes for the success of the Huntington Foundation's Annual Gala. He most recently donated a handicap accessible mini Van to the Mollineaux Family who desperately needed a new van for their son Eli. Michael Brown is extremely proud of his Alma Mater and this year he has donated a **Grand Prize raffle of a 2017 Lexus IS 300 (24 month lease or \$5000 cash) to HFEE.**

Michael Brown exemplifies the true meaning of "giving back" to his community and for that The Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education is proud and humbled to honor Mr. Brown as this year's recipient as Community Honoree.

Scroll of Honor Sponsorships



HONORS

The Rorke Family
Bons Bons Chocolatier
Daniel Gale Sotheby's
SteinbergAnna Wealth Management
Chris & Barbara Cagnazzi

Gellerman Orthodontics
Volkswagon of America
Roadvantage
ADESA New Jersey
Toyota/Lexus
Atlantic Hyundai

LEADERSHIP

Prime Properties Long Island
Stony Brook Orthopaedic Associates
Huntington Hospital Northwell Health
The Pillion-Hegler-Lau Family
Jean Hegler, Tim Pillion, Chris Lau,
Alex Lau & Cole Pillion
Audi Lynbrook
Nissan
The Lyons Family

Jeff & Suzanne Sheran
Southdown Market
M & T Bank
TD Bank
DP Sales Distributors
Atlantic Nissan
Movin On Sounds & Security
Mid Island Hyundai

FRIENDS

Papillon World Class Salon
Sunrise Window Cleaning
Arthur and Frederica Steinberg
Coach Realtors
Long Island Center of Maxillofacial Surgery
Millenium Honda
Advantage Hyundai
Millennium Hyundai

Minuteman Press
Toyota of Huntington
August Benefits
Timber and Rye
Lane Office Furniture
Compli
The Maggio Family
Millennium Toyota

The Knowles Family
The Montgomery Group
Cintas
LMS Technical Services
Reliance Mechanical Services
United States Workers Union IUJAT
Kimberly Myers-Bender
Atlantic Volkswagen

Scroll of Honor Sponsorships



STAR SPONSOR

Diligent Credit Solutions
The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation (grant support)

EVENT SPONSOR

Libutti Diamond Jewelers
Main Street Nursery
Atlantic Lexus 110/Atlantic Auto Group

SPIRIT SPONSOR

The Townwide Fund of Huntington Inc. (grant support)



Grants Funded



By the Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education

Alpha Better Desks for Washington

Digital Fabrication for Huntington High School

Talk Technologies for Woodhull and HHS

Newsela Pro, English at HHS

Remote Telepresence Robot at HHS

Funding of the Finley Robotics Program

Laser cutters, 3D printer, Hydroponics lab for Finley

Freshwater Pond for STEM School

(for the study of abiotic and biotic factors of an ecosystem)

Marching Band Percussion instruments and Instrument Trailer

Creation of the Heritage Museum

Hydration Filtered Water Filling Stations for the High School

Dozens of Smart Boards and related devices including movable Technology Stations
for Woodhull and Finley

Renovation of the High School Weight Room

The Huntington Crew Team (boats, trailer, radios)

Cell Culture Lab for the Biology and Science Research Program

iMac for the Photo Lab

A Kitchen for the Life Skills Class (Special Education)

Leadership Club for Primary Schools

and much more thanks to your generosity!

Our Gratitude



...to the following Donors

Kathy Tafti	Jen Maichin	Alyson Richman	HFEE Youth Board
Amy Koenigsberger	Lori Sobel	Lumpe Family	Knowles Family
Stacey Effman	Hutch Effman	Stevanie Devoe	Cliff Weissman
Nicole Traversi	Palacios Family	Nancy Arner	Laura Colavecchio
Algieri Family	Mangan Family	Beth Thomas	Brian Schnurman
Amy Schnitzer	Girimonti Family	Ryan Family	Billy Garfinkel
Maggio Family	Melius Family	Cynthia Vitulli	Camryn Libes
Steinberg Family	Laura Mills	Joan O'Brien	Diya Rai-Gersappe
Suzanne Sheran	Lyons Family	Erin Scalfani	Dana Livoti
Trish Rongo	Jeannine Libutti	Jackie Joseph	Kathy Basso
Richard Rongo	Carrello Family	Denise Murtagh	Ed Parry
Kendall Rosselli	Rorke Family	Laurene Napurano	Joseph and Jill Carrello
		Einemann Family	Karen Dara

Congratulations James and Michael! ~ From your friends at US Fuel Corp.

The BPAH wishes to congratulate Mr. Graber and Mr. Brown.

Best wishes and Congratulations to this years honorees! ~The Huntington Booster Club

All the best to Michael Brown ~ from Checkmate Security

...to the following Businesses/Services

Fit Body Boot Camp	Huntington Village Dental	Mr. Sausauge	Jag Salon
E. Beth Thomas	Signature Monogram	James Joepsh Fishing	The Skin Clinic
Photography	HVLAX	Culinary Studio	Carillon Cleaners
RJ West	PE Music	Dancin Feet Studio	Huntington Indoor Tennis
12/12 getgive	Elizabeth Arden	Carusos Italian Pork Store	Joanina Wine Shop
Vineyard Vines	Mitchells	ATH	Prime Restuarnat
Saks 5th Avenue	Bradford Portraits	West Hills Day Camp	Red Restaurant
John W. Engeman	The Paramount	LuHi Summer Programs	Work of Arf
Theater	Rexer Parkes	SAN Co.	Jonathan's Ristorante
Rockfish Restaurant	Ben's Garden	Joan O'Brien Interiors	Tony's DiNapoli
Oon Arvelo Salon	Oheka Castle	Garage Boys	Chris Dare
Main Street Optometry	Main Street Nursery	Intuition CSH	WB Mason
Sal D's Restaurant	Henri Bendel	Hanky Panky	Larry Davis
Crabtree's Restaurant	Bon Bons Chocolatier	Dr.'s Remedy Enriched	Vasiliki Lagis
MaBella Restaurant	LiButti Jewelers	Nail Polish	Mazo Plumbing & Heating
Besito Restaurant	Le Bon Frommage	Creative Windows, Ltd.	Restar

Our Work



OVERVIEW

The Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education is a non-profit 501 (C)(3) corporation which was founded in June 1993. Our organization is a group of volunteers dedicated to improving the quality of education for the children of Huntington by funding innovative learning opportunities, which would otherwise not be offered due to district budget constraints. Since its inception, the Foundation has funded over One Million Dollars in educator-requested grants ranging from creation of the Robotics club at Finley Middle School, building the AP Biology cell culture lab and supplying technical measuring tools at the High School, to founding and supporting leadership clubs at the Primary Schools. We support bringing the latest technological advancements into our schools to keep our students as prepared as possible for the challenges they will face in college and beyond. With your help, we will continue to support the passion of our teachers to provide our children with the high level of education they deserve!

WHO WE ARE

A volunteer group of education supporters who work with a board of directors to fund innovative and exciting educational opportunities for all children in the district. This funding affords our teachers access to educational programs that are not funded by the school budget. Often these new programs are then incorporated into the curriculum on an ongoing basis.

OUR MISSION

The Huntington Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of the Huntington Public Schools in education, the arts and athletics. From state-of-the-art technology and equipment to cutting-edge teaching techniques, the educator-generated grants we fund expand our students' curriculum as well as their enthusiasm for learning.

HOW WE DO IT

We primarily raise funds through our annual Gala event. We also seek grants from other foundations and organizations which support education. We are always looking for new ways to fund the grant applications submitted by our educators. Our goal is to fulfill every Star and Miini Grant that is approved by our board. We know we can do it...and graciously thank all our supporters.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ALICE MARIE RORKE
President

DEBBIE KNOWLES
Treasurer

SUSAN LYONS
VP Grants

AMY GIRIMONTI
V.P. Development

MARIA CASSAR
Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

KIMBERLEY STEINBERG
Events Coordinator/Gala Chair

LAURA COLAVECCHIO
Youth Board Director

MARILYN MAGGIO

LAURENE NAPURANO
Tech Coordinator

TONIANN MANGAN
Grant Liason

LAURA MILLS

MICHAEL GRASSI
Grant Funding Director

MELISSA RYAN
LAURA PALACIOUS

VOLUNTEERS

SUE GRABER

KIM MEYERS BENDER

CYNTHIA VITULLI

INTERN

*JOSEPH MANGAN

YOUTH BOARD

*KAYLA RYAN
*NICK LANZISERO
CASEY MOSKOWITZ
BETHANY DANZIGER
KATARINA OBERMAIER
CYNTHIA ORTEGA
**graduating senior*

*CHARLIE EHRMAN
Video
RACHEL MOSS
NAOMI PONCE
PETER CICCONE
LEVI LEACH
JULIA ROGAN

LINDSAY SAGINAW
MATT GIAMO
JOCELYN GRAY
EVE COMBS
*KATY DARA
*ALEXA CASSAR

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

JAMES POLANSKY
Superintendent
DR. KENNETH CARD
Assistant Superintendent
KATHLEEN ACKER
Assistant Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

TOM DIGIACOMO
President
JENNIFER HEBERT
Vice President

TRUSTEES

EMILY ROGAN
WILLIAM DWYER
BARI FEHRS
XAVIER PALACIOS
CHRISTINE BIERNACKI

REACH FOR THE STARS

We wish to congratulate our friend

Michael Brown

Alumni & Owner/Partner of the Atlantic Auto Group

and also

James Graber

Huntington H.S. Social Studies Teacher & ATH President

Diligent 
Credit Solutions

Resolution - Education - Restoration

Proud vendor of the:

