



December 31, 2022

As we all close out another year and reflect on the last twelve months, allow me to review some of the “Good Deeds” that Public Education Partners (PEP) of Aiken County accomplished in support of our teachers and students:

- o Provided coffee/snacks to over 350 new and new-to-the-district teachers at their 3-day long annual **New Teacher In-Service** known as the IGNITE event.
- o Continued its leading role in the annual week-long **Summer Institute**. This program exposes teachers to key services available throughout the county that are available to help students. PEP provided lunches and snacks and “encouragement” gift cards to the participants through a daily drawing.
- o Supported the awards event for the school district’s **Summer Writing Program – InFusion** – with meals to the participants and families and gift cards to honor the winning students.
- o Awarded 19 **Teacher Innovation Classroom Grants** via a competitive process totaling over \$12,000. This program is growing each semester!
- o Hosted the day-long **Garcia Orchestra Festival** at USCA. This event, for all middle and high school orchestra students, includes intense instruction by professional clinicians and culminates with a all students performing in a free concert that evening. PEP provides stipends for the clinicians, pays for their meals, and funds two (2) 500.00 dollar college scholarships.
- o Proudly participated in the Ruth Patrick’s Science Center’s annual **Science Education Enrichment Day (SEED) program** at USCA. We held a drawing and awarded a large basket full of educational enrichment activities to a lucky student and for fun gave away several pumpkins to lucky students in attendance.
- o Provided financial support to the **News In Education** program which supplies local newspapers each day to all of our school.

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- o **Awarded 15 College Scholarships** to high school seniors totaling over \$23,500.

PEP also welcomed three new members to our Board of Directors and are pleased to announce that Nancy Marks has been named Board Chair for 2023.

It has been a great year for PEP. We thank all of the individuals and business partners that make giving and serving possible.

With your help, PEP excitedly looks forward to expanding our programs in 2023. In particular, the number of Teacher Innovation Classroom Grants continues to grow, and we are introducing a new program to supply vouchers to some elementary students so they can purchase their own reading books at their book fair.

Sincerely,
H. Gayle Gulick

PEP's 2022 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

American Assn of University Women	Josue Garcia CPA LLC	Savannah River Mission Completion
Battelle Savannah River Alliance	The Gifting Tree Foundation	Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
Bridgestone Americas, Aiken	RCS Corporation	Women of Woodside
City of North Augusta	Rhodes Graduation Services	

PEP'S KEY ELEMENTS

- PEP is a community-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization [EIN 57-1030778] founded in 1995 by business leaders and serves as a liaison between the private sector and the school system.
- PEP supports district-wide improvement efforts, empowering educators and students, and leveraging community resources.
- PEP's current strategic initiatives include:
 - o Teacher Success - encourage the career commitment of our teaching professionals
 - o Early Learning Literacy - raise the level of school readiness for all children entering kindergarten and improve reading skills in elementary school
 - o STEAM Education - Support and enhance the school district's expansion of STEAM program.