Dear Friends and Supporters,

Since 1998 Dunes Learning Center has had the great privilege to operate within Indiana Dunes National Park. Thanks to this partnership, our outdoor classroom spans more than 15,000 acres and boasts biodiversity that ranks seventh out of all 400-plus National Park units. Students have the opportunity to explore and learn at Bailly Homestead (a National Historic Landmark), Chellberg Farm, Cowles Bog Trail and Indiana Dunes State Park (National Natural Landmarks), West Beach, and more.

Over the last century, many people fought extremely hard to preserve these natural, historic, and cultural treasures along the south shore of Lake Michigan. Our founders—Lee Botts, Dale Engquist, and Mark Reshkin—were certainly passionate warriors who also had the vision to educate the next generation of stewards in the dunes.

Young people need to appreciate the natural world, and you make it possible.

This year, with your support, hands-on outdoor science programs at Dunes Learning Center connected more than 14,000 students with the local environment to investigate the impact of everyday actions. These young people developed skills to make intelligent, informed decisions and took action to improve natural areas in their communities.

Thanks to you, we are making a larger and lasting impact!

Human behavior ranks as the largest threat to the environment, so it’s going to take as many of us as possible—working together in areas as varied as education, science, technology, engineering, the arts, and public policy—to make a measurable difference.

Thank you for your commitment to Dunes Learning Center, environmental education, and a world where people and nature thrive.

Geof Benson
Executive Director
Dunes Learning Center

Zully JF Alvarado
Board Chair
Dunes Learning Center

Paul Labovitz
Superintendent
Indiana Dunes National Park
Discovery in a National Park:
Public events celebrate the natural world and introduce Citizen Science through guided hikes, water quality investigations, live animal encounters, and more.

Outdoor science with stewardship connected to the classroom:
Students explore natural areas, discover how everyday actions impact the environment, and work together to make a difference in their communities.

Team building and personal growth:
Unplugged and immersed in nature, students and summer campers try new things, learn new skills, gain confidence, and build a strong team culture over 3-5 days on campus.

Training future leaders:
Interns receive professional development to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards and pursue a wide range of career paths.

Individuals make a difference:
Continuing education for those who seek sustainable solutions to protect the environment, strengthen our communities, and foster prosperity.

OPEN HOUSES
1,715 attended a Dunes Learning Center event
Free public open houses give students and their families, as well as the general public, the opportunity to enjoy a day outdoors on campus with event sponsorship support.

SCHOOL YEAR IN THE COMMUNITY
5,025 participated in a school-year outreach program
Environmental-STEM programs are delivered free of charge in partnership with school corporations thanks to grant support with major funding provided by ArcelorMittal.

SCHOOL YEAR & SUMMER CAMPS
4,429 participated in an overnight program on campus, 51% received scholarship support.
The average free and reduced lunch rate for students receiving support through the scholarship fund was 74%—well above the Indiana state average of 47%—while grants reduce the cost of residential programs for all participants.

INTERNSHIPS
27 interns were trained to lead programs and gained interpretation, leadership, classroom management, and public speaking experience. Nearly 400 former interns now live and work around the world as accountants, doctors, fire fighters, lawyers, park rangers, PhD professors, teachers, wildlife managers, and more.

CONTINUING EDUCATION
3,369 participated in Nature Nights, STEM events, and workshops with Dunes Learning Center
A wide range of educational programs are delivered on campus and in the community thanks to grants and event sponsorships.
**HIGHLIGHTS**

**2018-2019 BY THE NUMBERS**

- Total Participants: 14,565
- Internships: 27
- Students: 8,075
- Teachers: 277
- Chaperones: 658
- Summer Camp: 444
- Community Outreach/Events: 5,084
- Hours Outdoors: 112,394
- Learner Days: 22,195
- Nights in a National Park: 10,338
- Meals Served: 33,309
- Stewardship Hours: 7,976

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**NATURALIST INTERN PROGRAM**

Recent college graduates put their education into practice, develop leadership skills, and gain a competitive advantage for future opportunities. With more than 5 weeks of training and professional development to lead programs on campus, interns work alongside professional role models who provide guidance, feedback, and support.

Read about the impact of this experience on our blog at [DunesLearningCenter.org/blog](http://DunesLearningCenter.org/blog)
SUMMER CAMP
The 2019 Summer Camp season was water themed. Each week, campers enjoyed a scenic boat cruise on Lake Michigan with Harbor Country Adventures, thanks to a grant from Indiana American Water.

WALK THROUGH TIME
Time travel has been a part of the Frog in the Bog program since the beginning. Students spend the afternoon hiking to Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm, encountering previous “inhabitants” of this region along the way. This year, with help from South Shore Arts, the Indiana Arts Commission, and National Endowment for the Arts, we were able to upgrade the authenticity of some of our props and costumes.

CITIZEN SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM
The first Citizen Science Symposium was a huge success, with nearly 300 middle school students in attendance. This day-long program was for participants of the new Citizen Science program, which gets students into their communities, collecting data to contribute to ongoing scientific studies. Major funding for this pilot program came from the Legacy Foundation Women’s Philanthropy Fund.

ENDOWMENT FUND
In honor of the foresight of our founders, the board of directors is proud to establish the Founders’ Fund. This endowment fund will support all aspects of Dunes Learning Center operations.

Sadly, over the past three years, Dunes Learning Center has lost all three of its founders—Dale Engquist (2017), Mark Reshkin (2018), and Lee Botts (2019). This fund will ensure their legacy—for Dunes Learning Center to inspire lasting curiosity and stewardship with nature as the premier provider of outdoor environmental education programs in our region.

A DUNES AFFAIR
The annual gala was a wonderful celebration! Over 200 people generously supported a “paddle raise” with a matching grant from BP America as well as silent and live auctions to benefit the scholarship program.

Green Apple Award winner Ken Schoon spoke about the history and importance of Dunes Learning Center as the premier environmental education center in the area. “Environmental education is really important. It puts together what you learn in other science classes […] with your own life. Students begin to understand they are part of nature.”

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to the many generous supporters who contributed to Dunes Learning Center between October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. Your donations help fund our outdoor science education programs, and we are tremendously grateful for your support.

**PROGRAM SUPPORT**

$100,000+
- ArcelorMittal
- National Park Service

$25,000-$49,999
- Alphawood Foundation Chicago
- Flora Richardson Foundation
- Foundations of East Chicago
- Legacy Foundation

$10,000-$24,999
- BP America
- Covanta Environmental Solutions
- Friends of Indiana Dunes, Inc.
- John W. Anderson Foundation
- NIPSCO
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/Indiana Department of Natural Resources/Lake Michigan Coastal Program
- Porter County Community Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

$5,000-$9,999
- Dr. Scholl Foundation
- Herman and Katherine Peters Foundation
- South Shore Arts/Indiana Arts Commission/National Endowment for the Arts

$2,500-$4,999
- Cargill
- Dunes National Park Association
- Friends of the Chicago River
- Indiana American Water
- National Park Foundation

**Under $2,500**
- Chesterton Tri Kappa Chapter
- Crown Point High School
- Google Inc.
- Indiana Environmental Health, NW Chapter
- Izaak Walton League of America-Porter County Chapter
- Kauffman Chiropractic
- NiSource Charitable Foundation
- North Central Association for Science Teacher Education
- Ogden Dunes Women’s Club
- Portage Zeta Mu - Tri Kappa
- Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc.
- Sunnybrook Foundation
- The IN Coast LLC
- Unity Foundation of LaPorte County
- Urschel Laboratories
- Valparaiso Sunrise Kiwanis
- Vertex Foundation
- Westminster Presbyterian Church, Mission Giving

**EVENT SPONSORS**

**Platinum**
- ArcelorMittal

**Silver**
- BP America
- Lakeshore Public Media
- NIPSCO

**Bronze**
- Enbridge
- Franklin Pest Solutions
- Friends of Indiana Dunes
- Mark J. Mihalo Family Dentistry
- Pratt Industries
- Wickcraft Boardwalks

**A Dunes Affair**
- 1st Source Bank
- Monica Conrad, Lewis Kappes
- Indiana American Water Co.
- Indiana University Northwest
- Journeyman Distillery
- NIPSCO
- Purdue University Northwest
- Sophia Stratton & Rick Novak
- Thorgren Tool & Molding

^ indicates Matching Gift Company
ANNUAL GIVING SOCIETY

At the end of 2018, we introduced a new way to recognize our leadership donors: the Annual Giving Society. Through the giving circles, donors who are passionate about Dunes Learning Center and outdoor science education enjoy special recognition, updates on programs, and social opportunities. For more information or to join, please contact us or visit DunesLearningCenter.org/giving-society.
INDIVIDUAL DONORS

$100-$249

Nancy and Russ Adams
Deb and Drew Armstrong
Julian and James Babb
Sarah and Steven Barnes
Danielle Barnett
Patti and Tom Barnett
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Lisa and Vernon Beck
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Troy Teween
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Elizabeth and Richard Whitney
Marta and Doug Wolfe
Amy Workman
Carmel and David Wright
Lissa and Thomas Yogan

IN-KIND GIFTS

18th Street Brewery
54 Main Bistro Restaurant
Acton Creative
Albano’s Pasta
Emily Allen
Anderson’s Winery
Arcteryx Chicago
Deb Armstrong
Art Barn School of Art, Inc.
Art From Elements
Deb Backhus
Bass Pro Shops
Geof Benson
Matt Benus
Marjilee Blackwell
Tiffany Bley
Blue Man Group
Blue Point Oyster & Sushi Bar
Janis Boldenow
Tyler Boby
Brightside Music
Caryn Brown
Diane Brown
Bun’s Soapbox
Patricia Carlisle
Chesteron Art Center
Chesteron Feed and Garden
Don Quijote
Duneland Family YMCA
Duneland Styles
Dunes Learning Center
Kitchen Staff
East Wind Studios
Robert Edger
Erdelac Land Management LLC
Anthony Escobedo
Fish Camp
Fresh Trees LLC
Furin Japanese Restaurant & Bar
Jaime Golba
Canaan Goodie
Annette Hansen
Harbor Country Adventures
Historic Pullman Foundation
Chris Hohman
Indiana Beverage
Journeyman Distillery
Keramida Inc.
John Kramer
Michelle Krueger
L Salon
Paul Labovitz
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Lyric Opera of Chicago
Memorial Opera House
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New Oberpfalz Brewing
Nomad Breach
Opportunity Enterprises
Orbis Environmental Consulting
Bill Payonk

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Alliance for the Great Lakes
ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor
ArcelorMittal Global Research & Development
Boy Scout Troop 929
Boys & Girls Club of NWI
Cedar Lake Historical Association
Challenger Learning Center
Chicago Public Schools
City of Gary
City of Hammond
City of Hobart
City of Lake Station
City of Porterage
Discovery Trackers 4-H Club
The Field Museum
Friends of Indiana Dunes
Friends of the Chicago River
Gabris Arboretum
at Purdue University Northwest
Great Lakes Research & Education Center
Annette Hansen
Harbor Country Adventures
Humane Indiana Wildlife
Indiana Audubon Society
Indiana Dunes National Park
Indiana Dunes State Park
Indiana Dunes Tourism
Indiana University/Indiana University Northwest
University Northwest
Sue Labovitz
Lakeshore Public Media
National Park Service
The Nature Conservancy
NIPSCO Environmental Action Team
Northwest Indiana Paddling Association
Northwest Indiana Urban
Waters Partnership
Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
Purdue University/Purdue University Northwest
Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service
Save the Dunes
Shirley Heinze Land Trust
Student Conservation Association
Town of Chesterton
Town of Porter
US Forest Service
US Geological Survey
Virginia Tech & Clemson University
Westville FFA
Wild Family
Wilderness Inquiry
Wildlife Habitat Council
Kyle Wilson and Family

Thanks to funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and Lake Michigan Coastal Program, we had the opportunity to work with our education partners to publish a guide for teachers and group leaders. “Educational Adventures in the Dunes” is available online at DunesLearningCenter.org/resources.

Dunes Learning Center is deeply grateful to all of its donors. If your name was inadvertently omitted or incorrectly listed, please accept our apologies, and contact us at 219-395-9555 or friends@duneslearningcenter.org so that we may correct it in the future.
Instant celebrities on campus, Thelma and Louise made the move from Chellberg Farm to Dunes Learning Center last summer. The goats, who are half-sisters on loan from hobby farmer, National Park Service volunteer, and ArcelorMittal employee Kyle Wilson, worked to remove bittersweet, multiflora rose, bush honeysuckle, and garlic mustard from a quarter-acre enclosure as part of the National Park Service’s ongoing restoration project.

The experiment was a success beyond the use of goats to naturally control invasive species. “They were good company, and they taught kids to be good stewards of the land,” executive director Geof Benson said.

Along with outdoor classrooms that demonstrate the long-term benefits of locally-grown produce, rain gardens, native landscaping, and pollinators, Dunes Learning Center strives to lead by example using all renewable energy to power campus, solar energy to light storage areas, and clean energy to fuel buses while also minimizing food waste during meals and supplying hot water on-demand for campers.