

# LEF *report*

EDUCATE | ENRICH | EMPOWER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

★ **4th Annual Retro Dodgeball Tournament** with Two Old Dads: March 14, 2020, 1pm

## UPCOMING SPRING LEF PROGRAMS

### ✓ Coding Club

Students will have the opportunity to develop foundational coding skills that will allow them to be creators, not just consumers, of technology.

*Litchfield Community Center*

### ✓ STEAM: The Art of Science

Students will learn about structures, electricity, propulsion, buoyancy and more, while maintaining creative freedom as they experiment.

*Art Room Atelier*

### ✓ After-School Adventures

Students will reconnect with nature and enjoy the wonder for the natural world, engage in environmental themed games, crafts, & learning activities, explore the outdoors and learn how wildlife thrives during chilly winters.

*Livingston Ripley WF Conservancy*



## 20 Things for LEF in 2020

The Litchfield Education Foundation has been serving the educational needs of our community for the better part of two decades. LEF has undergone several phases in that time.

**Phase 1:** LEF was originally designed to fill gaps that existed within the Litchfield public school budget. However, rather than attempt to influence what was happening inside the classroom, LEF realized there was opportunity to evolve and extend learning beyond the school day and to broaden those it serves to include students who attend public school, private school, and homeschool...in Litchfield AND surrounding towns.

**Phase 2:** With a broader scope, LEF began to explore where relevant learning gaps existed and what opportunities for skill development were available. After researching competencies for future academic & employment success, LEF focused on “portable skills,” or those all students would need to be *life ready*, regardless of their future path.

The results also enabled LEF to identify Priority Pathways for programming, namely STEM, Literacy, Multiculturalism, Civics, and Business & Entrepreneurship. Though these pathways are not inclusive of everything LEF thinks is important, they were chosen because they are reflective of gaps in robust programming in our area. LEF responded by proactively seeking and funding out-of-school learning in the Priority Pathways which are (cont. pg. 5)



**Educate + Enrich = Empower**

# HELP US HELP KIDS!

## CIVICS EDUCATION FUND

There is a growing body of evidence that civics education is a successful engine for building better citizens. Americans are much more ideologically polarized than in past generations and that political antagonism has bred a growing disillusionment with democracy, especially among young people. This LEF initiative aims to fund programming of civics education including field trips, speakers and government-related coursework.

**Goal: \$20,000**

## EVERY STUDENT FUND

LEF's core, and crucial to the success of children in our area, is a sustained dedication to supporting our community partners and schools in offering robust enrichment programs accessible to all students regardless of ability to pay. The EVERY STUDENT fund will allow for students, with demonstrated financial need, the opportunity to participate in after-school enrichment, tutoring, clubs, field trips, and other programs at no cost.

**Goal: \$20,000**

**Please donate at:**  
[www.LEFforStudents.org](http://www.LEFforStudents.org)

## Are Area Students College-Ready?

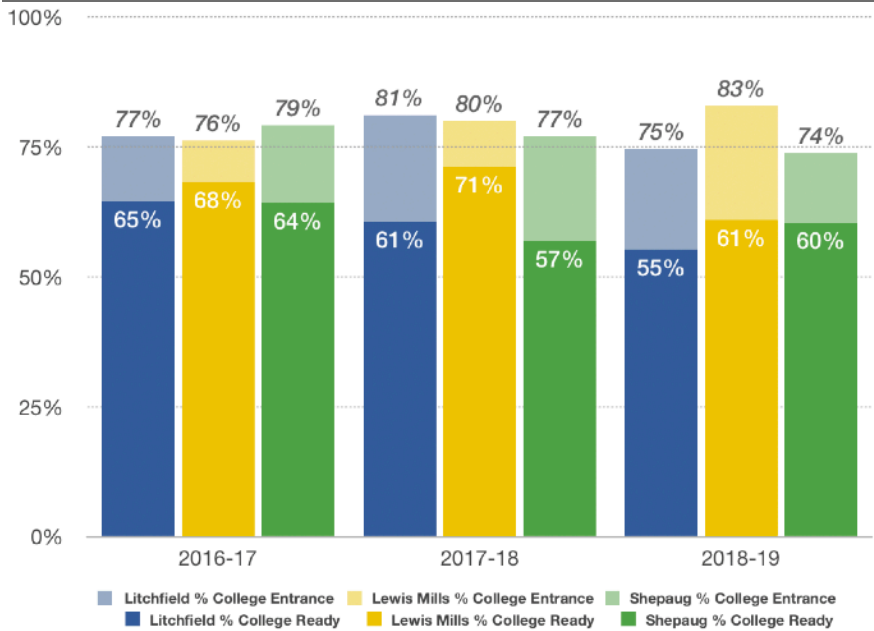
Our kids are going off to college but will they succeed?

“College readiness” might just sound like a buzz-word but it actually refers to the set of knowledge, skills and behaviors a high school student should have upon graduation before entering their freshmen year of college.

Knowledge includes the Common Core subjects: math, language arts, science, and oftentimes foreign language. Skills include things like writing essays, using math formulas, researching a topic, etc. Behaviors can include: self-motivation, putting in 100% effort and being mature.

Below, the percentages of students meeting the benchmark for college readiness is compared to the percentage entering college for three area public high schools. The gap is defined by the difference in those attending with those ready.

## College Readiness Gap by Area School



Source: Next Generation Accountability Results, 2016-19 . For more information go to: <http://edsight.ct.gov/>

*College Readiness* is percentage of student in grades 11 and 12 achieving benchmark on at least one of the following: Smarter Balanced 11th grade test or SAT or ACT or AP or IB.

*College Entrance* is percentage of graduating class who enrolled in a two or four year postsecondary institution any time during the first year after high school graduation.

\*\*WAMOGO not included because AG program not sufficiently accounted for in results.



## AREA SCHOOLS HONORED

LEF would like to congratulate the following schools for their achievement in being recognized as a **"School of Distinction"** in the CT Dept. of Education Next Generation Accountability System for 2018-2019.

- ★ BETHLEHEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - High Growth (All Students) - Math and High Growth (High Needs Students) - Math
- ★ BOOTH FREE SCHOOL, ROXBURY - High Growth (All Students) - ELA\*
- ★ THE BURNHAM SCHOOL, BRIDGEWATER - High Performance
- ★ CORNWALL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL - High Performance
- ★ EXPLORATIONS DISTRICT - Great Improvement
- ★ HARWINTON CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL - High Growth (All Students) - Math
- ★ LITCHFIELD CENTER SCHOOL - High Performance
- ★ TORRINGFORD SCHOOL & VOGEL-WETMORE SCHOOL, TORRINGTON - Great Improvement
- ★ WASHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL - High Performance and High Growth - ELA

*The Next Generation Accountability System is a set of 12 indicators of how well a school is preparing its students for success in college, careers and life. The system moves beyond test scores & graduation rates and instead provides a more holistic, multi-factor perspective of district and school performance and incorporates student growth over time. \*ELA - English Language Arts.*

## GIRLS ROBOTICS HAS STRONG SHOWING

Congratulations to the Litchfield Area Girls Robotics Team! 8th graders **Jillian Saunders, Colleen Malo, Cecelia Stowe, and Sophia Gabriele** tied for 3rd out of 26 teams in the Middle School Vex Robotics Competition at Mansfield Middle School this weekend. These dynamite young women got better with each round, steadily climbing in ranking all the way through the semi-final round of competition!

Congratulations to 7th graders **Grace Thompson and Ivy Lillie** and 6th graders **Dorothy Olmstead, Emma Strub, and Addie Foss**, who were in 10th place coming out of the qualifying rounds and then lost in a close match in the first round of single elimination competition.

These first time competitors have worked together as a team since November, meeting weekly to build & program their robots, problem solve through challenges, and in general, arrive today ready to be serious contenders. The dedicated coaches, Chris Thompson and Sanna Lillie, are incredible mentors and guides and have struck the perfect balance of learning and fun.

LEF is proud to sponsor this program at no cost to interested youth as part of our ongoing efforts to shrink opportunity gaps, both for women in STEM and for ALL students in rural communities within our region.



## 20 Things for LEF in 2020 *continued*

(cont. from pg. 1) funded by LEF, hosted at several school and community organizations and serve all area children. As we look to the future, we will continue to seek and fund innovative opportunities for youth.

**Phase 3:** As out-of-school programming provided by schools and community organizations grows, LEF has continued to evolve by engaging in thinking about how learning opportunities will affect the changing landscape and needs of our region.

When LEF started having conversations around regional sustainability, we realized, from talking with others committed to ensuring the Litchfield Hills is a place people continue to move and have access to jobs and affordable housing, education was not yet a part of those discussions. Because education and opportunities for youth are important factors in determining housing affordability and whether to move to the region at all, LEF is working to ensure education is a part of those conversations moving forward. Simply stated, we don't think it is possible to talk about what kinds of jobs people have access to without talking about things like talent pools and job training.

LEF recognizes that true service to our community means the need to continue to evolve and bring education to the forefront of the sustainability discussion. In service of that evolution, here are 20 connections LEF plans to initiate, maintain, and nurture in 2020.

### **LEF will continue to nurture connections with...**

1. Youth in our region, regardless of whether they attend public school, private school, or school at home.
2. Community organizations who provide robust enrichment programming in STEM, Civics, Entrepreneurship, Multiculturalism, and Literacy.
3. Donors who value transparency, education and children.
4. Corporate partners interested in sponsorship opportunities aligned to LEF's pathways.
5. Students interested in opportunities to build skills that transfer across content areas and careers.
6. Volunteers who wish to contribute to the educational opportunities of youth in our area.
7. Educators & school administrators in Litchfield and Region 6.
8. Parent Teacher Organizations who partner with LEF.

### **LEF seeks new connections with...**

9. Innovative program providers who seek to work with area youth.
10. Teams who are exploring and supporting regional sustainability efforts.
11. Donors willing to invest in the future of our region.
12. Committee and board members with skill sets aligned to the needs of our organization.
13. Big thinkers including but not limited to students, educators, parents, seniors, and members of the business community that will broaden our perspective as a service organization.
14. Movers & shakers who can connect LEF with new opportunities.
15. Learning experts who can help us identify educational needs for continued success.
16. Regional stakeholders that will broaden our perspective as an organization and evolve in service of the changing needs of youth in our area.
17. Students, educators & school administrators in surrounding towns.

### **LEF aspires to be a catalyst for connections among...**

18. Regional organizations supporting initiatives in service of Litchfield area youth.
19. Our community and research around innovative educational practice.
20. Organizations supporting regional sustainability to ensure education is a visible part of sustainability efforts.

See a connection you can help with or one that we missed? Interested in being one of LEF's accountability partners?

**We hope you will reach out: [lefforstudents@gmail.com](mailto:lefforstudents@gmail.com).**



# FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS AT WORK!

The 1st annual LEF Young Entrepreneur Show was huge success with more than 25 participants showcasing unique products and services including fishing expertise, self-care items, t-shirts, pies, slime & snow-cones. Students learned about product development, delivery, marketing and finance. Thank you to **Litchfield Bancorp** for sponsoring a great event!

## Young Entrepreneur Show **YES!**





**LITCHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL**  
**FREE ADMISSION**

**FORM A TEAM or  
 SPONSOR the  
 Event**

- ◆ \$240.00 - Team Registration: Team of 6 players
- ◆ \$500.00 - "Go for the Gold" Sponsor
- ◆ \$250.00 - "Go for the Glory" Sponsor

**TO REGISTER:**  
[WWW.LEFFORSTUDENTS.ORG](http://WWW.LEFFORSTUDENTS.ORG)



**ABOUT LEF**

OUR VOLUNTEER BOARD

- Danielle Hawley, Chairperson
- Julie Foss, Vice Chair
- Sarah Worden, Secretary
- Dave Reynolds, Treasurer
- Tim Breslin
- Debra Cahill
- Heather Ford
- Tiffany Hussey
- Rebecca Munday
- Susan Murphy
- Sara Schuch

WHAT WE DO

- ➔ Seek, promote and fund innovative programming tied to future academic success and employment opportunities for area youth
- ➔ Increase shared experiences by bringing children from different towns and schools together
- ➔ Partner with business community, experts and donors as well as educators to fuel growth
- ➔ Increase awareness of educational and learning needs of our young people and its importance to our community's future and sustainability
- ➔ Prioritize efforts to key pathways: Civics, Business & Entrepreneurship, STEM, Multiculturalism & Literacy