

**IECA Foundation  
2017  
Annual Report**

**LEAVING  
FOOTPRINTS OF IMPACT**



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Friends,

Thanks to the support of our incredible donors, 2017 was a year of success and progress for the IECA Foundation. We granted \$51,500 to 31 organizations across 19 states. We held our biggest fundraiser yet in Washington, DC, hosting more than 300 guests and raising over \$45,000 towards our mission. We also began a partnership with a national nonprofit consulting firm to identify organizational efficiencies and further professionalize our operations so that we can better fulfill the Foundation's mission.

While 2017 was indeed a year to remember and celebrate, we are moving into the new year with excitement. In 2018, we plan to grant at least \$75,000 to organizations that address the needs of underserved students. We strive to expand our reach, touching the lives of more students each year.

A sincere thank you to our loyal supporters. We look forward to continuing the important work of the Foundation, together.

Gratefully,

Luisa M Rabe, CEP  
Chair, IECA Foundation Board

## IECA Foundation Mission Statement

The IECA Foundation was founded in 1996 to support the mission and expand the role of the Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA).

The Mission of the IECA Foundation is to identify and support programs that have significant impact on students and their educational environments. Priority is given to programs that assist students as they make educational choices.



Chucktown Squash

2017

Grantees

### GRANT RECIPIENTS 2017

- Best Foot Forward- Florida
- Chucktown Squash- South Carolina
- Codman Academy Charter Public School- Massachusetts
- Community Preparatory School- Rhode Island
- Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization- Florida
- National GRACE Foundation- Rhode Island
- New Futures- New Hampshire
- Reading Power- Illinois
- Sisters Circle- Maryland
- TREAT- Texas
- New Orleans Center for Creative Arts- Louisiana
- Thread- Maryland

### MICRO-GRANTS 2017

- Prepare2Nspire- Minnesota
- Bright Futures- Utah
- Waukegan to College- Illinois
- The Legacy Foundation of Hartford- Connecticut



Reading Power

## TESTIMONIALS

### SISTERS CIRCLE



Thanks to the generosity of the IECA Foundation, Sisters Circle expanded its college and career support program by:

1. Helping young women explore their post-high school options;
2. Offering intense support throughout the college application process;
3. Providing resources and connections for non-college students; and
4. Offering ongoing support to retain and complete degree programs.

Heather Harvison  
*Founder and Executive Director of Sisters Circle*

### WAUKEGAN TO COLLEGE

On behalf of Waukegan to College students and parents, thank you IECA Foundation for the generous grant that allowed us to take 150 students and parents to visit three college campuses. Four buses brought eager parents and students to University of Wisconsin Parkside, Carroll University and Beloit College, exposing many families to a college campus for the first time ever. The visits included talks from the admissions staff and student led tours where families got to see classrooms, cafeterias, dorm rooms and much more. These annual visits help students envision that one day they too will be enrolled on a college campus!

Gratefully,  
*The staff and families of W2C*



All of us at Gold Coast are so grateful to the IECA Foundation for their amazing support of the Learning Program. The generous grant has allowed us to produce hundreds of books, flash cards and other materials for our parents to take home and use with their children. Ninety-one percent of our families surveyed indicated that they are using these materials once or multiple times a week. They will use those books and materials for years, and often will share them with other parents as their kids grow up. The IECA Foundation is a silent partner in the kitchens and family rooms where our families are working to improve the education of our children. You may not be seen, but your presence is very real.

One of our parents said of the Learning Program, "I couldn't do it without you guys. Thank you for your help & support." And we couldn't do it without the generosity of the Independent Educational Consultants Association Foundation.

Anne Dichele  
*Executive Director of Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization*

### GOLD COAST DOWN SYNDROME ORGANIZATION



### BEST FOOT FORWARD



The support we receive from IECAF enables us to assist youth in foster care with reaching their educational goals. Best Foot Forward is able to provide weekly sessions with graduation coaches, which results in our students having a 100% high school graduation rate compared to a national average of 46%. We are very grateful for your partnership.

Donna Biase  
*Co-Founder of Best Foot Forward*

# KATZ AWARD

## AWARD WINNERS:

Marilyn Emerson  
 Brittany Maschal  
 Amy Rich  
 Kristina Dooley  
 Tina Heiman  
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 Lynn Pulito  
 Robyn Spoon  
 Elaine Seremetis

The 2017 Katz Award was presented to a group of 37 IECA members who volunteer their time to work with students pro-bono through The Possibility Project, a New York City-based organization that “Empowers teenagers to transform the negative forces in their lives and communities into positive action.” IECA members work with at-risk students in the program to help them identify postsecondary options and successfully navigate the college application process. Led by IECA Past-President, Marilyn Emerson, this group of volunteers demonstrates the commitment of IECA members to helping all students achieve success in education, regardless of social and financial barriers.



Jason Katz, son of award namesake Irv Katz, Marilyn Emerson, IECA member who led The Possibility Project, Robin Abedon, 2017 Chair of IECA Board, Betsy Donnelly, Chair of the Katz Award Committee



Marilyn Emerson accepting the Katz Award along with IECA members who volunteered with The Possibility Project

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Luisa Rabe honored the following individuals for referrals she received this year:

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