

"TEACHING GENEROSITY TO THE 4,000 STUDENTS OF BLAINE COUNTY FOR A STRONGER COMMUNITY"

Growing Philanthropists: *Dr. Lee Kaiser's Message to the Wood River Valley*



Generosity as a community is an effort that is often easier said than done. There are few instances in the US of a community working towards the common goal of growing philanthropists. The Wood River Foundation and wow-students began as an effort to increase awareness and opportunity to give back to Blaine County. Over the past couple years, they have connected students with nonprofits, expanded participation throughout the county as well as brought in speakers to address growing philanthropy in the Wood River Valley.

Dr. Lee Kaiser is a prominent name in the medical industry and teaching technologies. Through his well-recognized experiences, positions and generous contributions, he is known for his ability to change the way

organizations think. Blaine County was lucky enough to be the recipient of one of his important messages: We must shift the focus from finding philanthropists to growing philanthropists.

"As far as I know, there is no community in the United States that has ever declared its intention as creating future philanthropists. It's something remaining to be done and you can do it!"

Collectively, we need to provide the children the opportunity to be generous. Talking about the value and good of philanthropy is a start, but what changes us is the act of giving itself. The children in the Wood River Valley are ever changing and moldable so that engaging in these activities leaves an

imprint on their brains, incorporating how they grow in this world.

Through involvement and direction towards the appropriate resources, we can begin growing a whole generation of future philanthropists. Blaine County has the donors, the nonprofits, the people, the resources and the kids to make this happen. Coordinating these efforts has been a focus of wow-students and makes it possible to allow children to experience the thrill and the joy of giving.

"Declare, follow-up, and do! It is so simple, so profound and so doable."

For more on Dr. Kaiser's message to the Wood River Valley, visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KcX2SLJkGOY>

- ★ 1 county
- 10 schools
- 13 grades
- 12 investors
- 31 nonprofits
- 120 teachers
- 1,977 students
- 15,000 service hours
- \$135,000 generosity

wow-students.org

Meet the Valley: Hilarie Neely



I am always amazed at my students' creativity, especially the youngest. They are not afraid; they have no preconceived ideas and just let their ideas flow naturally. But the most gratifying experience for me is seeing dancers who excel in high school after being reserved and always in the back when they were younger, and to watch their self-esteem grow as they realize their potential. As a teacher we are always giving of ourselves to help others reach for their dreams. This is what brings us happiness, watching others grow and flourish.

GET TO KNOW 'EM • GET THEIR STATS!

- ★ **Name**
Hilarie Neely
- ★ **Occupation**
Owner/instructor Footlight Dance Centre
- ★ **Favorite Blaine County Activity**
Summertime hikes
- ★ **Favorite Song on Your iPod**
Don't even know where to begin...

CONVERSATION STARTER

What was the smallest gift you ever gave? What impact did it have?

WOW-Students mission is to inspire and expand generosity in Blaine County. WOW empowers students to make a difference and take responsibility for their community, inspiring others to follow.



wow-students.org



WOW-students is a 501c3 non-profit

Like us on Facebook

