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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

Eagle News *April 2026*



Our first-ever Bingo Rocks the Nest was a success!



Dear Supporter,

At the Foundation office, we are hoping that April showers bring May flowers and sunnier days!

I want to thank everyone who supported Central High School this past month at our very first Bingo Rocks the Nest! This year, we played Bingo at the Pella at Blackstone, where winners were able to choose which CHS program to support with their winnings! Eagle Nation made this event a great success, and your generosity will go to supporting the next generation of Central Eagles. Thank you!

It may be difficult to believe, but this school year is almost over! Administrative Professionals' Day is this week, and our office is gearing up to hold our annual support staff luncheon as a way to thank Central's support staff for their hard work. Also coinciding with the end of the school year is the [Senior Recognition Ceremony](#). This year's ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 12, in the Central auditorium. In May, we will award nearly 100 scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to full tuition, to Eagles who will attend colleges all across the country. It is bittersweet to see our Eagles leave the Nest to pursue their dreams in the world after graduation, and we are so excited to see all of the amazing things they will accomplish.

Lastly, we are proud to announce that the Central High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame Selection Committee has selected the 2026 Hall of Fame class! Read on to find out more and keep an eye out for more information in the coming months.

As always, thank you for helping perpetuate more than 167 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence.

Go Eagles!

Sincerely,



Michele Roberts, Executive Director



2026 Hall of Fame Class Announced



Pictured: 2025 Central High School Hall of Fame inductees

We are pleased to announce the Central High School Hall of Fame Class of 2026! These inductees have exemplified the Eagle spirit of excellence in their respective communities, in their professional endeavors, and in their ceaseless efforts to give back to others. The 2026 Hall of Fame ceremony will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2026, at Central High School.

Dr. Edward Bennett, *Distinguished Educator*

Comfort Baker Caldwell, *CHS 1889*

Arthur Harz, *CHS 1991*

Morris Jacobs, *CHS 1914*

Heather Schacht Reisinger, *CHS 1992*

Alvin Samuels, *CHS 2006*

Rachel Shukert, *CHS 1998*

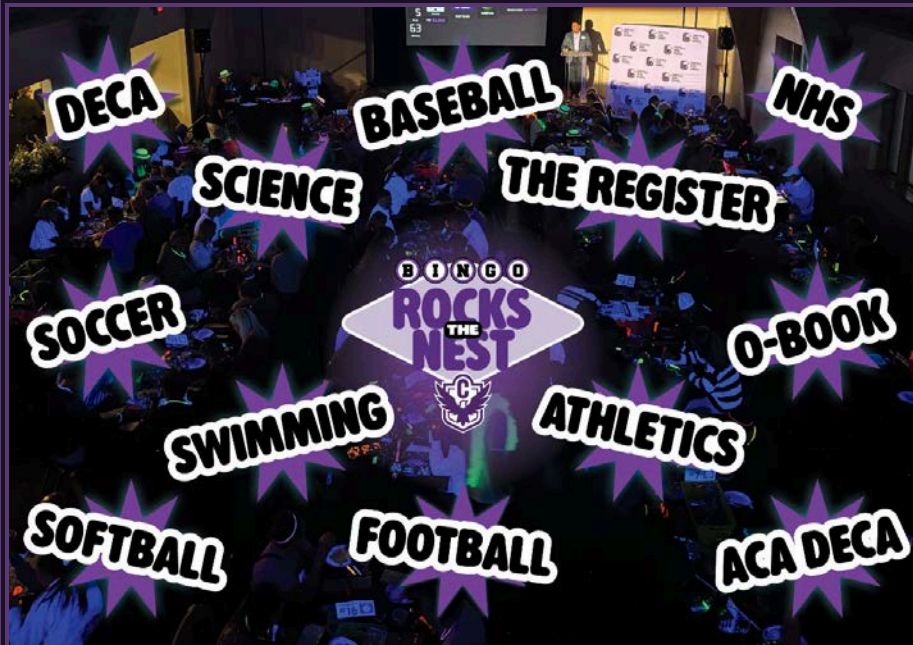
Muzette Hill Stallings, *CHS 1974*

Dr. Gary Thompson, *Distinguished Educator*

Matthew Wynn, *CHS 2002*

Keep an eye out for their forthcoming biographies and photos! Congratulations to all who are being inducted! Is there someone you would like to see in the Central High School Hall of Fame? Remember, for them to be considered by the Central High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame Selection Committee, they have to be [nominated](#)! Nominations are considered by the committee for three years and may be renewed.

Bingo Rocks the Nest a Success



What a night at Bingo Rocks the Nest! Featuring an exciting program showcasing the great things happening at Central – dinner, a silent auction, and Bingo; this was a night full of school pride, fun, and giving back!

BINGO ROCKS THE NEST – WINNERS & IMPACT!

At our Bingo Rocks the Nest fundraiser, our amazing Bingo winners didn't just yell "Bingo!", they chose how to impact Central! Here's where the impacted landed:

Game 1: \$500 → 🏆 Science

Game 2: \$1,000 → 🏈🏟️ Football, Baseball, & Register/O-Book (Jackpot Split!)

Game 3: \$1,500 → 🏃⚾️ Athletics

Game 4: \$2,000 → 🏈 Football

Game 5: \$2,500 → 📚 Academic Decathlon

Game 6: \$3,000 → 🏐 Softball

Game 7: \$3,500 → 🏊 Swim Team

Game 8: \$4,000 → 🎓 National Honor Society

Final Blackout: \$5,000 → 🏈🏟️ Boys Soccer & DECA (Jackpot Split!)

We are so grateful to every participant who attended and supported Bingo Rocks the Nest. Your generosity makes such a meaningful impact on our students and programs.

Your Impact: UNO Language Celebration



CHS FOUNDATION OPENS DOORS FOR STUDENTS TO EXPLORE LANGUAGE LEARNING AT UNO CELEBRATION

YOUR IMPACT

92 STUDENTS IMPACTED
AMOUNT FUNDED: \$1,000



Project Proposal

Funds from the Foundation were used to send Central students to the UNO Language Celebration. There, they learned about the university's programs in Spanish, French, German, and Japanese. They also competed in a variety of events such as skits, song and dance, poetry recitation, and creation that highlight their linguistic and cultural accuracy, as well as creativity and presentation skills.

Commitment to Closing the Opportunity Gap

The CHS Foundation covering the potentially prohibitive cost allowed students to take advantage of the enrollment fee covering entertainment, food, UNO swag bag, competitive events, and awards. According to CHS French Teacher, Micah Ringlein, the cost has always been a well vocalized reason why students are hesitant to sign up, and all students were grateful for the thoughtfulness of the CHS Foundation.

Translation to College and Career Readiness

As a responsible educational institution, Central High focuses on creating responsible global citizens. This requires students to be multilingual and multicultural. Business and travel necessitate students to have experiential learning opportunities like these to prepare them.

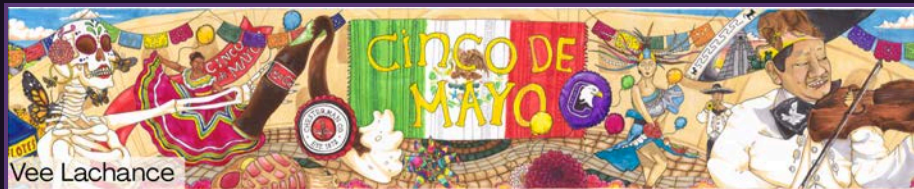
"Merci, I really enjoyed the opportunity to go to the UNO Language Celebration. The best part was performing with my friend, Audriana, and winning first place in poetry creation. I was able to express myself and my journey of learning French through this opportunity. Thank you, CHS Foundation, for caring about our French class and our journeys."

Claudia Mauwa, Class of 2026

Opportunities like this one are thanks to YOU, Eagle Nation! To continue making an impact, [join Generation "C" today!](#)

Join Generation "C"

CHS Freshman Wins Coca-Cola Art Contest



Vee Lachance



Blaise Weyerman



Rayne Bettcher



Our Adopt-A-School partner, [Chesterman Co.](#) [Coca-Cola](#) held an art contest this spring to design a truck trailer in honor of Cinco de Mayo. Students from metro area high schools submitted entries, and last week, Chesterman announced Vee Lachance, CHS 2029, as the contest winner! Once the design has been installed on the truck trailer, Chesterman will drive it in the Cinco de Mayo Omaha parade.

Congratulations to the top three entries for their outstanding creativity!

First Place: Vee Lachance, *CHS 2029*

Second Place: Blaise Weyerman, *CHS 2027*

Third Place: Rayne Bettcher, *CHS 2028*

Great job to all the participants!

March Madness Bracket Winners Announced



It was another successful year of March Madness with a great turnout from Eagle Nation!

Congratulations to Chandler Sanders, CHS 2010 (left), for winning the Men's Bracket and who is our first repeat winner! She previously won the competition in 2018. This year, she correctly picked Michigan to win the championship, correctly picked 43 out of 67 games, and scored 142 points!

Men's Top 3:

1. Chandler Sanders, CHS 2010: 142 Points
2. Shannon Dillman, CHS 2015: 135 Points
3. Matt Scanlan, CHS 1992: 134 Points

Congratulations to Erica Corwin, CHS 1993 (right), for winning the Women's Bracket! She correctly picked UCLA to win the championship, correctly picked 53 out of 63 games, and scored 157 points!

Women's Top 3:

1. Erica Corwin, CHS 1993: 157 Points
2. Dan Sitzman, CHS 1986: 154 Points
3. Greg Smith, CHS 1985: 144 Points

Register Now for Golf Fore Eagles



Golf Fore Eagles - Monday, June 8th, 2026

Players Club of Omaha - 10 AM shotgun start

2026 Honorees: Rob Likes '91 and Steve Likes '89

The cost is \$175 per golfer and includes:

- 18 holes of golf, cart, and driving range
- Brunch and banquet dinner for all players
- Hole-in-One Challenge on Hole #3

All registration fees are due by May 29. Make your check payable to: The Central High School Foundation. Both women and men players are encouraged to participate! Golfers of all abilities are welcome. Sign up as a foursome, individual or a co-ed team. Sponsorships are also available to purchase. [Click here to view the sponsorship levels.](#) If you have any questions, please contact Erika Buffington at 402-556-1996 or email events@chsfomaha.org.

Register for Golf Fore Eagles

Alumni Spotlight: Susan Katzman, CHS 1964



After 36 years helping St. Louis students prepare for careers and college, educator and community volunteer Susan Katzman (CHS 1964) will be recognized this month by the National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis with the national organization's highest honor, the Hannah G Solomon award. The award recognizes leadership and service that reflect the group's mission of improving the lives of women, children and families. Her professional and volunteer career has focused on equity, expanding educational opportunity, workforce readiness, and leadership development.

She served the St. Louis Public Schools for 36 years, retiring as Divisional Director for Career & Technical Education, where she led initiatives in curriculum development, career academies, and innovative partnerships with more than 3,500 business/college partners. Her work helped create experiential programs that were replicated across the US and internationally. Susan spearheaded the development of two public high schools. The most recent, the magnet Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience, is currently ranked as the #1 high school in Missouri by *US News*. She serves on that advisory board and works with the student internship program.

Deeply committed to civic engagement, Katzman is a past president of National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis and serves as chair of the current \$5.4M capital campaign. She has been past-president or has held advisory roles with the St. Louis Community Credit Union, Prosperity Connection, the Michael K. Thomas Scholarship Fund, the Brown School at Washington University, St. Louis Workforce Investment Board, and the National Career Academy Coalition.

She has also focused on developing women leaders, co-founding the CORO Women in Leadership Alumnae network, serving as a leadership trainer and helping create programs aimed at mentoring and supporting women in their professional growth. Her work also included helping establish the first internship program within St. Louis Public Schools. Susan was a 1995 Leadership St Louis participant and a St Louis Woman of Achievement in 2020.

Since retirement Susan has been engaged in national consulting around high school reform. Her greatest joy has been working with the Omaha Public Schools for the past ten years to develop the career pathways and academies initiative. This has included time working closely with Central High administrators Dionne Kirksey, Christy Flaherty-Colling, and Jodi Dierks. What they have developed is outstanding and has connected many local people and businesses with Central students.

Central High gave Katzman the foundation and the love of teaching that has propelled her career and volunteer work forward. Teachers like Mr. Clark, Mr. Sorenson, Ms. Fellman, Mr. Walker, Ms. Pilling, Ms. David, and so many others instilled the importance of strong skills in writing and speaking and the values of integrity, equity, and commitment. Pictured below is Katzman at the 60th class reunion in 2024 with Linda Graetz, Jim Abrams, Gail Brodkey, Paula Bercutt Borsody and Stuart Smith. She also finds it especially heartwarming that the Foundation offices are now located in the Mastercraft Furniture building, the location of her family's old business.



Nominate an Alum for the Spotlight

New Podcast Episodes



[Chatting at the C](#) is a CHSF-sponsored podcast series by CHS teachers Scott Wilson and Ben Boeckman, which focuses on highlighting the history of Central High School. In each episode, they interview past and present CHS staff to preserve their contribution to Omaha Central High School.



[Jerry Kreber](#)



[Diane Allen](#)



[Michelle Synowiecki](#)

Listen to Chatting at the C

2025-2026 Generation “C” Chairs

The Past: A Tradition Begins

Jennifer Johnson Taylor, Class of 1991, was the first in her family to attend



Central, and in doing so, she began a proud family tradition. Growing up in Omaha's Dundee neighborhood, Jen followed the classic midtown path: Dundee Elementary, Lewis & Clark Middle, and finally, Central High School. The historic architecture of Central first drew

her in, but it was the vibrant community and transformative experiences that made her a lifelong Eagle. After graduating, Jen pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy at Hamilton College in New York, then returned to Omaha to earn her Juris Doctor from Creighton University School of Law. Her career has taken her from private practice to public service, and today she serves as Deputy City Attorney for the City of Omaha - working in an office with a view of downtown that reminds her of her days at Central. Jen's sisters, Kathryn Johnson Krueger, Class of 2004, and Molly Johnson, Class of 2014 also joined the Central family further cementing the Johnson legacy at Central.

The Present: Soaring Higher

When she and her husband, Darin, started their family, Jen passed on her love for Central to the next generation. Her daughter, **Cecilia** Taylor, Class of 2026, is a four-year varsity swimmer and state qualifier, a varsity golfer, and an active member of HOSA and National Honor Society (serving as Activities Coordinator). She is also involved in several advanced academic programs outside of Central, including the Haddix STEM Corridor and the UNMC High School Alliance. Cecilia credits Central with connecting her to these incredible opportunities and inspiring her passion for science. She plans to major in Microbiology with a minor in Chemistry and is exploring undergraduate research programs at the University of Washington and the University of Pittsburgh.

The Future: The Legacy Continues

The Eagle spirit lives on in Charles "**Chuck**" Taylor, Class of 2032. Currently a student at Dundee Elementary School, Chuck is already preparing to follow in the footsteps of his mother, aunts, and sister. An avid golfer in the Nebraska Jr. PGA League, Chuck also enjoys basketball, football, swimming, baseball, and chess. His teachers note his love of history and enthusiasm for fun facts. With his boundless curiosity and love for learning, Chuck is ready to carry the family legacy forward at Central High School.

Join Generation "C"

Join the 1859 Society Today



What is Your Legacy?

Named for the year of Central's founding, the [1859 Society](#) honors donors who have included The Central High School Foundation in their estate plans. By arranging for such deferred gifts, alumni, parents, and friends of CHS play a vital role in securing the future of Omaha's oldest educational institution. Combining financial planning, estate planning, and tax planning techniques, planned giving enables donors to make gifts of significance often with tax and financial rewards. If you're interested in joining the 1859 Society and making a planned gift, contact Michele Roberts at the CHSF Office at 402-556-1996 or michele@chsfomaha.org.

Join the 1859 Society

Upcoming Reunion Schedule



The class of 1965 at their reunion in 2025!

[Class of 1961](#)

August 21-23, 2026

Dick Zacharia - dickzacharia@gmail.com

[Class of 1966](#)

September 4-5, 2026

Cindy Hadsell - clhadsell@aol.com

[Class Website](#)

[Class of 1976](#)

September 11-13, 2026

Rosalyn Cotton - rosalyncotton56@gmail.com

[Class Website](#)

Class of 1981

Dates TBD

Scott Barker - sbarker@episcopal-ne.org

Bob Atherton - athertonrobert8@gmail.com

[Class of 1986](#)

October 2-3, 2026

Becky Reynolds Crowell – rebeccajane67@gmail.com

Bart Lovgren – bartlovgren@gmail.com

[Class of 1996](#)

October 9-10, 2026

Kelly Titus - kellytitus@me.com

Sally Reiser Christensen - sallyachristensen@gmail.com

[Class of 2001](#)

October 2-3, 2026

Jenny Storm – Jennifer.storm@ops.org

Abby Waller – Abigail.waller01@gmail.com

[Class of 2006](#)

October 2-3, 2026

Hannah Andahl-Newman - hannahandahl@gmail.com

Jim Hubbard - James.d.hubbard@gmail.com

Alvin Samuels - alvin.samuels1@gmail.com

If you are the reunion organizer for your class and haven't finalized a date for your class reunion or would like to look at postponing or cancelling it, please contact Erika Buffington at events@chsfomaha.org or call 402-556-1996.



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