



Press Release

For immediate release:
December 15, 2009

East Lansing Educational Foundation Announces New Board Leadership and Members

East Lansing, MI – The East Lansing Educational Foundation, a local, non-profit agency working to raise private funds to support public education in East Lansing, announces new board officers and new board members.

Joan Berardo and Jane Bitsicas have begun their terms as co-presidents, taking the reins from Julie Cawood, who led ELEF for three years.

Berardo and her husband, Patrick, have lived in East Lansing for 25 years. Her eldest daughter Lauren is a graduate from East Lansing High School and attends Albion. Caroline is a junior at East Lansing High School. Prior to "retirement," Joan was a lobbyist, the Director of the Office of Substance Abuse Services for the State of Michigan and was director and owner of The Marriage and Family Counseling Clinic.

Bitsicas lives in East Lansing and works as a Doncaster Clothing wardrobe consultant and an analyst with the Michigan Department of Community Health. She is in the middle of three generations of East Lansing High School graduates. In addition to her work with the ELEF, she has actively volunteered with the Junior League of Lansing, the Zonta Club of Lansing and the Mid Michigan Affiliate of the Susan G Komen for the Cure.

The ELEF Board of Directors welcomes new members Jack Bamford and Wanda Lipscomb.

Bamford retired from the ELPS after serving 32 years as a high school teacher, coach, athletic director, associate principal, and middle school principal. He is currently a Realtor® with Tomie Raines, LLC.

Dr. Lipscomb is Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Diversity and Outreach, and Associate Professor of Psychiatry, at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. Wanda has two children who graduated from East Lansing Schools - Nicholas, Class of 2004 and current graduate student in administration at CMU, and Victoria, Class of 2009 and current freshman at Oakland University. Wanda was an active parent volunteer throughout her children's enrollment in ELPS and Membership Chair of the ELHS Athletic Boosters for several years.

Contact:
Dorsey Weber Gude, ELEF Director of Development,
333-7413 (office)
Gude_dw@elps.k12.mi.us