



#AlwaysADiscoverer

# The Anchor



Linking the Past, Present and Future



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Abbi Hellbusch, Class of '02
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Past, Present, Future

On The Cover: (2013) A Columbus High School arranges her display of works in CHS library before the December 2023 show. More than a dozen students presented their works in a variety of mediums including painting and sculpture. (2024) The Columbus High School football offense runs a play during its summer camp held in June. Fall sports practice begins August 12th with football's first game at rival Norfolk, on Friday, August 30th. (Scholarships) Carter Fedde poses with Columbus School Board member and Candy Becher after being awarded the Discoverer Way Spirit Award scholarship during CHS Honors Night, held in May.

Stay in Touch



www.cpsanchor.com

The Columbus Public Schools Alumni Association wants to help link the past, present and future alumni and students by keeping in touch. Check out our pages for an easy way to stay connected daily.

A Round of Applause

SPRING SPORT STATE CHAMPIONS



UNIFIED TRACK - SHOT PUT
Matthew Holcomb Adam Cruise
Columbus Telegram photo. READ THE FULL STORY HERE.

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Bank of the Valley Discoverers Visa Debit card advertisement with text: Support your School with every purchase! \$10,000 Donated! Bank of the Valley

Discoverer Of Distinction nominations open



Discoverer of Distinction Legacy inductee and class of 1957 alum, Ron Lambert (right) poses for a photo during the inaugural banquet held in April.

There are two categories for nominees: Legacy and Honorary.

LEGACY NOMINATION CRITERIA:

- Must be a graduate of Columbus Public Schools (Columbus High School or Kramer High School).
Graduated at least 10 years ago.
Demonstrate significant contributions or accomplishments in their profession or field.; or made exceptional contributions to mankind.
Be distinguished at the state, national or international level in contributing to their field of work or study.
Demonstrate personal excellence.
Possess high character.

HONORARY NOMINATION CRITERIA:

- Individual does not need to be a graduate of Columbus Public Schools.
Must have supported the academic mission of Columbus Public Schools and has made positive contributions to the education of our students.

The Columbus Public Schools Academic Hall of Fame honors former students and those who have positively impacted Columbus Public Schools.

We hope that from our inductees current students will take inspiration for their own education and adult lives.



CLICK HERE TO MAKE YOUR NOMINATION TODAY!

The goals of the Columbus Public School Academic Hall of Fame are:

- To provide positive role models for the students of Columbus Public Schools.
To recognize achievements of CPS alumni.
To recognize those who have positively impacted Columbus Public Schools.

The CPS Foundation will honor both graduates and supporters of

Columbus Public Schools (CPS) as Discoverers of Distinction. Individuals may be nominated by a CPS graduate or current/retired staff member. Selections will be made by a committee of the Columbus Public Schools Foundation.

Up to 5 inductees will be honored annually in March.

Inductees will have photo plaques with biographical information displayed in the Discoverers of Distinction Academic Hall of Fame located in the entrance of Columbus High School.

Legacy inductees will be denoted by graduation year and anchor logo next to their name.

Nomination for posthumous awards will be accepted.

If a nominee is not inducted in a particular year, the nomination application will be kept on file for consideration in future years.

Prairie Village Retirement Center advertisement with details: 3000 39th Ave, Columbus | 402.563.4213 | www.pvrc.net

Calling All Alumni

Share your musical talents and Christmas spirit! Dust off your Santa hat; tune your jingle bells and submit a video of yourself or other alumni singing a classic Christmas carol or holiday original to Nicole Anderson, andersonn@discoverers.org to be featured as a part of the 2024 Lighting of The Anchor.



Watch the past performances on our Facebook channel, @CHSAnchorAlumni by scanning or clicking the QR code.



Lighting of the Anchor



### Alumn, brothers serve 225+ meals daily for summer lunch program

When you're planning for and serving lunch for 225 or more people, your day can go a lot of ways. When those meals are sack lunches from the side of a van, Brent Beard ('21) knows it'll likely go one of two ways. "Some days, it's a walk in the park, and some days it's a walk on Legos," he quips.

Brent and his brother Brendan Beard ('16) serve more than 225 meals a day at three locations throughout Columbus. "You got to roll with the punches," Brendan says. The grab-and-go meal service runs five days a week from May 28th through July 26th, excluding the Fourth of July holiday. With the help of volunteers from Columbus Public Schools and United Way Pacesetter businesses, they manage to serve a variety of kid-favorite items like ham and cheese sandwiches, PBJs, and even warm dishes like chicken nuggets. Each meal includes fruits and vegetables, ensuring a balanced diet for the children. The summer lunch program extends beyond the van with sit-down serving sites at Columbus High School, Columbus Middle School, and the Kramer Education Center, collectively serving over 1,900 meals a week.

## 'HOW MANY YA NEED?'

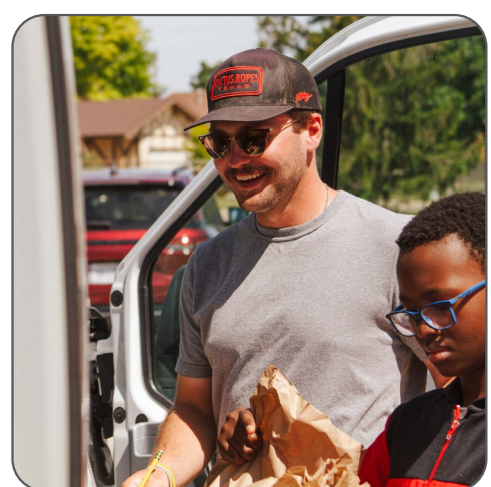


Brendan, who holds a degree in nutrition from UNL, is the kitchen manager at Columbus Middle School, which acts as the central kitchen for

the district. "It's kind of up my alley and a great starting point if I want to expand my horizons," he explains. "I can get my foot in the door and gain experience here." Meanwhile, Brent works in the food service area at Lost Creek alongside his mom, Brenda Ensinger. Reflecting on his unexpected career path, Brent says, "I would have never thought I'd come back and work with the school district, but now that I am, I really enjoy it." Brendan and Brent both tout CPS and its lunch program. They hope people can see what it takes to get community youth fed in the summer and students throughout the school year. "Their job is so hard, but they make it



look so easy because they do such a good job," Brendan said of his staff. The brothers take immense pride in serving the students and are active in the community beyond their jobs. They coached their youngest brother, a 7th-grader, in Anchor Hoops, and Brent coaches the Junior Blues baseball team during the summer. For Brent and Brendan, whether their day feels like walking on Legos or strolling in the park, it's all worth it. "It's a great program, and we get to connect with the community," Brendan shares. Brent adds, "At the end of the day, if kids are eating, then my job is complete. That's a reward in itself."



**From Top:** Brendan Beard ('16) packs a lunch outside Westpark Elementary school. {2} Brendan, and Brent ('21) talk CPS Superintendent Dr. Chip Kay during a brief pause in serving. {3} Cherie VanDyke ('83) handsout lunches to a group of bike riders. {4} Brent Beard ('21) smiles as he hands lunches at Carriage Park during one of three stops they make each day.

## Your 2024 annual award winners

Each year the Columbus Public Schools Foundation, in partnership with Brian Christensen '76 of the OneNebraskaFederal Credit Union and Bob '76 & Chris Markham, celebrate three amazing CPS staff members who give the district and their school building their very best everyday. Winners received a cash prize and recognition in local publications. The Educator of The Year will apply for the Nebraska Educator Of The Year award.



**EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**  
**Jeff Peabody**  
Director of Bands, Columbus High School



**NEW\* EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**  
**Erin Settles**  
Teacher,  
Kramer Preschool

\* - less than three years total teaching experience



**OPERATIONS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**  
**Allen Rerucha**  
Head Custodian, Columbus Middle School

**Banking services for our community.**

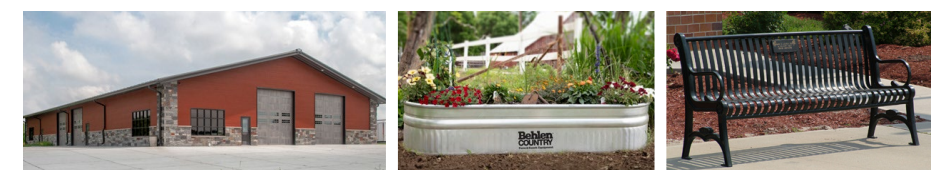
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# Foundation Awards 35 scholarships,

**Nielsen Family**  
Taina Davis - \$5,000

**Bill & Barbara Ferguston**  
Alissa Pacheco - \$2,500

**Anton Micek/  
Vincent Mausbach**  
Ella Shevlin - \$2,500  
Lillian Hudnall - \$1,500  
Hannah Dahlke - \$1,000

**Ron Callan**  
Hailey Hahn - \$2,500

**Class of 1940**  
Addison Johnson - \$2,000

**Chris Saalfeld**  
Caden Kapels - \$1,800

**Edward Nielsen Jr/Sr**  
John Bloomquist - \$1,800

**Babka**  
Emma Dunn - \$1,000

**Wilson-Covert  
Centennial**  
Hailey Hahn - \$1,000  
Addison Johnson - \$1,000

**Speice**  
Alan Adame-Alcantar - \$1,000

**Todd Schlender Memorial**  
Kelvin Coria - \$1,000  
Pedro Madrigal-Mendoza - \$1,000

**Discoverer Athletic Hall  
of Fame**  
Carly Gaedeke - (Female) \$500  
Preston Hastreiter - (Male) \$500

**Joyce Malena Memorial**  
Ellie Loeffelholz - \$500

**Discoverer Way Spirit  
Award**  
Carter Fedde - \$500

**Trevor Luckey Memorial**  
Kamryn Jaeger - \$500  
Kaitlyn Smith - \$500

**Don Schupbach Memorial**  
Ryland Prokopec - \$500

**Speice Memorial  
Scholarship for the Trades**  
Alan Adame-Alcantar - \$500

# totaling more than \$35,000 for grads

**Lisa Bock Memorial**  
Hailey Hahn - \$500

**Robert "Bob" Johnson**  
Jarrett Peabody - \$500

**Joyce Dohmen Memorial  
Scholarship**  
Emma Dunn - \$500

**Pinnacle Bank**  
Emma Carlson - \$250

**Pinnacle Bank CCC**  
Alissa Pacheco - \$250

**Vocal Music Boosters**  
Kasha Iwan - \$250

**Vocal Music Boosters**  
Ella Shevlin - \$250

**Andy J Neuhaus  
Scholarship**  
Victoria Dannelly - \$250

**Lanny Neese Scholarship**  
John Bloomquist - \$2,000

**Rice Family  
Memorial Scholarship**  
Brenyn Delano - \$1,000

**Colman Bieber Scholarship**  
Kaden Brownlow - \$750

**David Bennett Scholarship**  
Tanner Esch - \$511

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Convention & Visitors Bureau  
visitcolumbusne.com

SEPTEMBER 27  
**DISCOVERER DASH 2024**

FIND MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTER YOUR RUNNER FOR THE 8TH ANNUAL DISCOVERER DASH ON SEPTEMBER 27TH!

Register Online Today!  
www.cpsanchor.com/news-events/discover-dash.html

## Time to mark you calendars! Upcoming Reunions

**1964 - 60th Class Reunion**  
The Class of 1964 is planning a 60th Class Reunion in 2024. Icebreaker on Friday, August 9, 2024 at Maximus. Dinner on Saturday, August 10, 2024 at VFW. Contact Carolyn Hasek Fitzke at carfit66@gmail.com.

**1969 - 55th High School Reunion**  
The 55th High School Reunion for class of 1969 is Saturday, August 3, 2024, 3pm until closing at Lamplighter Lounge in Westbrook Lanes, 3156 51st St, Columbus. Good Food and prices available. RSVP to kawaldman51@gmail.com.

**1974 - 50 Year Class Reunion**  
The class of 1974 50 year class reunion will be held on August 3rd at the VFW. A social will begin at 4 p.m. followed by an informal buffet dinner. Please contact Judy (Michaelsen) Wolf at judykwolf@gmail.com or Ron Ernst at ronannernst@outlook.com or Dave McWilliams at Dmcwilli@gmail.com with questions. Invitations/reservation information will be sent out in early April. Please spread the word to fellow classmates.

We look forward to seeing you in August!  
**Class of 1981 - 45th Reunion**  
45th Reunion Planning Committee is planning a reunion for 2025. More information to follow.

**1989 - 35 Year Class Reunion**  
Friday August 9 at 5 p.m., Columbus Days Beer Garden, Frankfurt Square. There will be food trucks at Frankfurt Square. Saturday August 10 at 5 p.m., at 3212 S Ninth Street. Bring your own drinks. We'll order pizza based on interest. The Class of 1989 Reunion Facebook page will have more information as the date gets closer.

**Class of 1994 - 30 Year Class Reunion**  
30 Year class reunion will be held on August 10th at 5:00 p.m. at Maximus.

**1999 - 25 Year Class Reunion**  
The Class of 1999 will host its 25 Year Class Reunion on Friday, July 12th and Saturday, July 13th. There will be an organized gathering on Saturday, July 13, 2024.

**1956** - Meets at 10 a.m. the first Wed. of every month at Stack & Steak for morning coffee. All classmates welcome.

**1958** - Class lunch the first Wednesday of every month at noon at Maximus. All classmates and spouses welcome.

**1959** - Meets the second Thursday quarterly (January, April, July and October) at Stack n' Steak at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and conversation. Classmates and spouses are welcome.

**1966** - Meets the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (always on odd months) at the Pizza Ranch at 11:30 a.m.

**Let us help you plan your reunion**

Contact: Jen Augustin  
402-563-7000 ext. 13033  
AugustinJ@discoverers.org

**What we can do for you:**

- Class list and mailing labels
- Discount mailing rates
- Tours of CHS and CMS
- Tips on planning reunions

## BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class of: \_\_\_\_\_

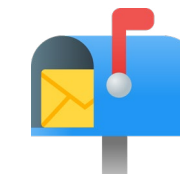
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

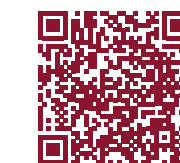
Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Mail form and payment to  
CPS Foundation,  
Attn: Alumni Association  
PO Box 947, Columbus, NE  
68602

Make check payable to  
CPS Foundation



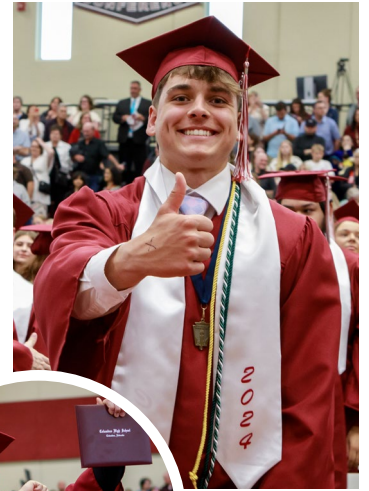
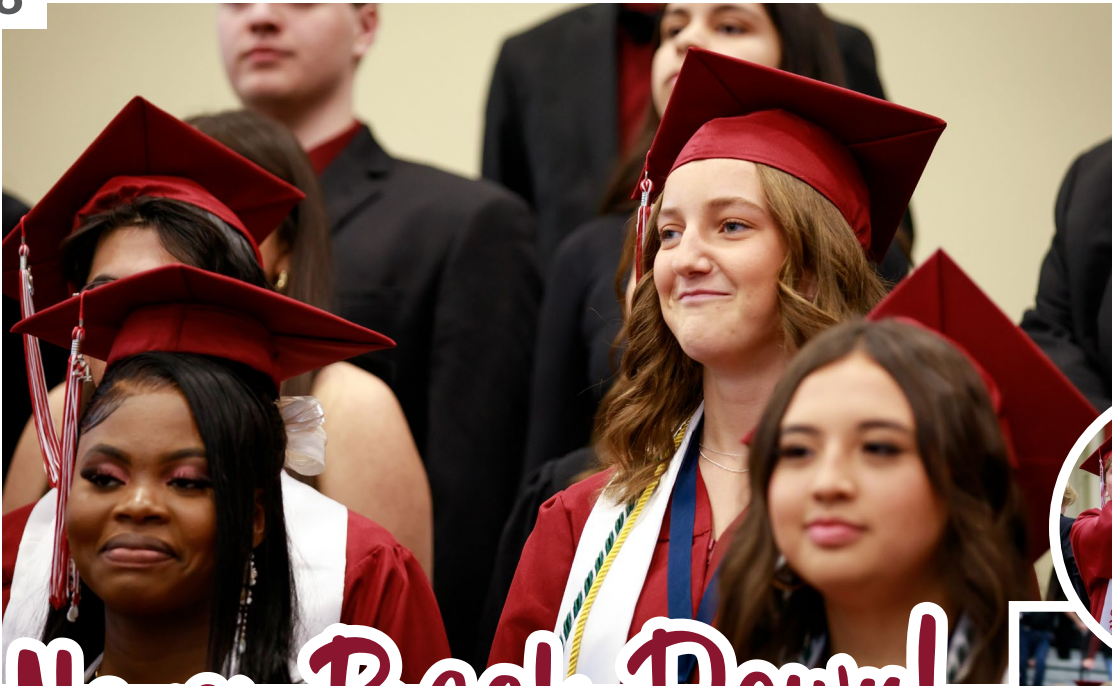
<-- Click the QR code on the left with your mobile device

Or visit  
cpsanchor.com/alumni  
and click on  
"Become a Member"



I would like to become a lifetime member.  
**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP \$300**  
You will receive a brick with your name and graduation year.  
Your brick will be placed at the Columbus High School Anchor.

I would like to become an annual member for the year of 2023-24.  
**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$20**  
First-time members will receive an alumni association window cling!  
Second-time renewing members will receive a lapel pin!  
Third-time renewing members will receive a can cooler!  
Fourth-time renewing members will receive a Discoverers notebook!



# Never Back Down! Never Give Up!

*Congratulations Class of 2024*



Scan Now To Register Online



# ENROLL TODAY!

The Kramer Child Development Center in Columbus offers flexible childcare from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. for children aged 6 weeks to preschool.

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