

BE THE BRIDGE



Lake Washington
Schools Foundation
Invest in students. Invest in our future.

Evening Benefit
April 29, 2021

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LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOLS FOUNDATION APRIL 29 EVENT TO REVEAL PANDEMIC IMPACTS & LOOK AHEAD TO FUTURE *CELEBRITY GUESTS INCLUDING JUSTIN RUPPLE AND SHANNON O'DONNELL*

Redmond, WA, April 3, 2021 – When the pandemic hit and schools closed to in-person learning last spring, Lake Washington Schools Foundation (LWSF) had to make major changes to its programs and services. With a traditional reliance on in-school systems and personnel, the operations of programs like Pantry Packs and LINKS had to be reconfigured to meet the unique demands of remote learning life.

“Everyone pitched in to find safe solutions to these brand-new problems,” explained LWSF Interim Executive Director Katy Philips. “I am in awe of the dedicated volunteers and staff who showed incredible ingenuity as they reinvented programming and service delivery from the ground up.”

Other LWSF programs and services, like Find Your Fit college counseling and Youth Mental Health First Aid training, sprang to life under these new conditions, going online and reaching more people than ever before.

To learn more about how LWSF pivoted during the pandemic, and what it all means for the future, register now to attend **Be the Bridge**, LWSF’s evening benefit event on Thursday, April 29, 2021.

This year’s event, which also celebrates LWSF’s fifteen years of service, is fully online and features special guests including stand-up comedian, actor, and voice actor Justin Ruppel and broadcast meteorologist Shannon O’Donnell. The event’s virtual waiting room opens at 6:45 PM with entertainment provided by a student jazz band, and programming runs from 7-8:00 PM.

Major corporate sponsorship of this event is provided by Cornerstone, Lydig Construction, Microsoft Philanthropies, and Overlake Medical Center & Clinics, along with Google, McKinstry, and Waste Management.

Tickets are free but pre-registration is required. To register, please visit <https://www.lwsf.org/bethebridge>.

Justin Ruppel is a stand-up comedian, actor, and voice actor from Bellevue, Washington, whose mind-blowing impressions made him a champion on USA Network’s “Dana Carvey’s First Impressions.” A winner of a prestigious Voice Arts Award for his costarring role in “How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World,” this Washington State University graduate’s versatile and dynamic voice has also been featured in the films “Spider-Man Homecoming,” “Fast 8,” and “Hobbes & Shaw.”

Shannon O’Donnell is the award-winning chief broadcast meteorologist at KOMO4 News and KOMO Newsradio in Seattle. A former valedictorian of Redmond High School in Lake Washington School District, Ms. O’Donnell is also a research meteorologist in atmospheric science at her alma mater, the University of Washington, where she developed and launched a “Media & Meteorology” class, helping the next generation of prognosticators learn to forecast and present weather and science information via the “UW Dawgcast.”