

Knowles Science Teaching Foundation

Annual Report 2013

June 1, 2012-May 31, 2013



ABOUT KSTF

The Knowles Science Teaching Foundation (KSTF) was established by Janet H. and C. Harry Knowles in 1999 to increase the number of high quality high school science and mathematics teachers and ultimately, improve math and science education in the United States. KSTF operates three programs that build national capacity for improving STEM teaching, leading, and learning: Teaching Fellows, Senior Fellows and Research & Evaluation. KSTF has supported more than 240 Fellows in over 40 states.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of KSTF,

The fiscal year ending May 31, 2013 (FY13) was one of the most transformative in KSTF's history. After two years of operating without an Executive Director, I was elected to the position by the Board of Trustees on March 1, 2013. My election to this position coincides with a period of remarkable transition for the organization as a whole. While we remain dedicated to our original mission of increasing the number of high quality math and science teachers in U.S. high schools, it has become increasingly clear that we occupy a very specific niche in the education landscape: improving education by building a stable, sustainable core within the teaching profession.

This core has four defining features that shape KSTF's work:

- Outstanding teachers: This stable core that we are building first and foremost consists of experienced practitioners with both broad and deep expertise, who have been in the profession long enough to learn how to teach well and are committed to the profession and to education more broadly. Both the Teaching Fellowship and Senior Fellows Programs focus on building teaching expertise, but also building teachers' capacity to sustain themselves in the profession.
- **Leadership from within:** A stable core that drives the teaching profession to truly thrive and develop must include more than just expert practitioners who remain in the profession. Thus, KSTF works to develop and support leaders within the profession, that is, teachers who lead from the classroom, rather than leaders who are "anointed and appointed" from or by external sources.
- Knowledge generated by and shared among practitioners: A stable core that drives the teaching profession to continually improve from within must generate knowledge about the practices, theories, beliefs, and values that shape the work of teachers. For this reason, KSTF has increasingly focused on supporting Fellows to study and learn from their own practice, and share that knowledge with others in the field.
- A national network: In order to shape the entire teaching profession and improve educational outcomes in the U.S., the stable core that we envision must be situated within a networked community of education professionals in order to leverage and amplify knowledge and practices. Although KSTF invests in individual teachers, the ultimate outcome is a national network of highly effective, committed teacher leaders.

We continue to refine and improve the Teaching Fellowship Program, and are now beginning to explore how to leverage the national network of nearly 250 KSTF science and math teachers to solve the most pressing problems in education this country has ever faced. KSTF Research and Evaluation has begun to document and study the effects of the Teaching Fellowship Program on the individual teachers and their classrooms. What we're learning is that providing our Fellows with structured support to study their practice, delve deeply into the content that they teach, and develop leadership skills has a layered effect: a positive effect on Fellows' instructional practices, a positive effect on their ability to sustain themselves in the profession so that they can develop the expertise that can only come through experience, and a positive effect on colleagues in their local teaching contexts.

We see this layered effect as an amplification of KSTF's investment in individual Fellows. Rather than increasing the number of Fellows in the program, or attempting program replication, KSTF seeks to bring it's work to scale by developing and supporting teacher leaders who can inspire and mobilize their colleagues to improve education from the ground up in school, district, state and national contexts.

The generous endowment provided by our founders, Harry and Janet Knowles, continues to provide a solid base from which we continue our current operations, as well as the base from which we have begun exploring new options in terms of programs, revenue and mission. The financial statements that follow reflect our currently solid position, but also reveal that KSTF needs to develop new strategic models that align income with our ambitious programmatic goals.

Although the national conversation about education often includes references to master teachers and teacher leaders, there is a crucial gap around understanding and supporting the development of mastery and leadership in the teaching profession. KSTF is poised to lead the way in filling that gap and I look forward to the exciting and challenging work that is ahead of us.

Warmest regards,

Nicole M. Gillespie, PhD

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Executive Director

Knowles Science Teaching Foundation

Improving Education by Building a Stable, **Sustainable Core Within** the Teaching Profession

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION MAY 31, 2013 AND 2012

	2013	2012 (Restated)
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,604,497	\$ 5,494,037
Investments	56,197,030	52,892,985
Accrued interest and dividends	10,279	21,553
Unconditional promises to give	9,111,023	10,509,287
Other receivable	72,555	240,531
Prepaid and refundable federal excise tax	_	3,791
Prepaid expenses	16,608	105,633
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	2,276,495	2,417,192
Deposits	33,036	15,144
Total assets	\$ 70,321,523	\$ 71,700,153
	2013	2012 (Restated)
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 317,020	\$ 311,692
Deferred federal excise tax liability	95,473	56,720
Total liabilities	412,493	368,412
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	60,798,007	60,822,454
Temporarily restricted net assets	9,111,023	10,509,287
Total net assets	69,909,030	71,331,741
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 70,321,523	\$ 71,700,153

^{*}Full Audited Financial Statements available upon request



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