

Favorable estimates

Budget plan ups funding for 3 local districts

By Mikel Livingston
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School funding estimates released earlier this month give an indication of how local districts might fare over the next biennium.

The Senate version of the state budget passed last Tuesday and heads to conference committee.

In fiscal year 2013, Tippecanoe, Lafayette and West Lafayette school districts received \$72,057,424; \$47,110,558 and \$11,978,441 respectively.

Here are estimates from the proposals on how much each

district might receive over the next biennium under the Senate and House plans:

» Tippecanoe School Corp. would receive \$74,891,883 in fiscal year 2014 and \$75,840,566 in fiscal year 2015 under the Senate proposal; and \$74,690,971 in fiscal year 2014 and \$75,711,666 in fiscal year 2015 under the House proposal.

» Lafayette School Corp. would receive \$48,532,535 in fiscal year 2014 and \$48,810,702 in fiscal year 2015 under the Senate proposal; and \$48,401,579 in fiscal year 2014 and \$48,722,639 in fiscal year 2015 under the House proposal.

» West Lafayette Community School Corp. would receive \$12,086,642 in fiscal year 2014 and \$11,979,437 in fiscal year 2015 under the Senate proposal; and \$12,042,209 in fiscal year 2014 and \$12,005,985 in fiscal year 2015 under the House proposal.

Some districts face shrinking funds because of the ongoing effort to equalize the funding formula across districts.

Districts, including LSC and WLCSC, that have historically been above the foundation level — the amount of per-pupil base tuition guaranteed to districts — will continue to see funds decrease gradually until they reach foundation level in 2019.

That would mean trouble for West Lafayette schools, said Superintendent Rocky Killion, if the district hadn't successfully championed a tax referendum in 2010 that nets the district an additional \$3.5 million a year.

"Without the referendum, the ongoing budget cuts by the state would be causing massive layoffs, ending art, music and co/extra-curriculum programs, and increasing class sizes to the upper thirties to low forties in most of our school buildings," Killion said.

"I continue to be perplexed that although WLCSC is nationally recognized, has one of the

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Irena Scott, left, and artist Julie Rotblatt-Amrany talk Sunday about the statue she created honoring Scott's relative, Purdue University's founder, John Purdue, on campus in West Lafayette. The statue was made possible through support from Purdue alumni and friends, the Order of Iron Key Class of 2012 and the university. The statue features a plaque with a quote from a book written by Scott. MICHAEL HEINZ/J&C

Founder can keep eye on his campus

Purdue unveils bronze statue of original benefactor

By Justin L. Mack
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Purdue University's newest memorial statue gives the school's namesake the opportunity to gaze across campus for the rest of his days.

A bronze statue depicting John Purdue on a bench, located east of University Hall and south of Memorial Fountain and John Purdue's grave, was unveiled Sunday morning. It is said the university founder sat in that spot almost 140 years ago.

The statue has John Purdue seated with a cane in one hand and an open book in the other.

The piece also features a plaque on the bench that reads, "For John Purdue, education was the flame that lit the world." The quote comes from a biography about him written by relative Irena Scott who attended the dedication.

"I am very honored to be here and have a quote from my book on his statue," said Scott, who is the great-great-grandniece of John Purdue. "Here is John Purdue on a bench looking across the street. He was right here in front of University Hall on his last day of life, and now he can look out across some of his legacy and see how it has changed. ... This was his dream, and he remained hands-on till the end.

"John Purdue was unique and his statue is unique. It's not a normal statue of a man standing with pigeons on his head. It is a user-friendly statue. He's waiting for people to stop and visit."

The statue was made possible through support

from Purdue alumni and friends, the Order of Iron Key Class of 2012, and the university. Each class of the Order of Iron Key contains 12 members, and their identities are secret while they are in the society.

Sunday was one of the rare moments when Iron Key members took to campus to be a part of such a public unveiling.

"I am very proud of this organization for taking the leadership and initiative to bring this incredible statue to campus today," said Stuart Shippee, a fifth-year senior and member of the Order of Iron Key Class of 2012. "This will become one of our campus icons, and will help to keep the man behind the start of our university alive in the hearts and minds of students, alumni and visitors."

John Purdue lived from 1802 to 1876. The university's primary benefactor, he was a prominent businessman in Lafayette. He was known for taking special interest in students, even paying for the education of those he thought held promise.

It's said Purdue sat outside University Hall, then called the Main Building, during its final construction in 1874.

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Q&A WITH
KIMBERLY PINTO

Teacher to take tasty diner tour

By Mikel Livingston
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A Burnett Creek Elementary School teacher will be spending two weeks this summer on a whirlwind tour of East Coast diners.

Kimberly Pinto, a second- and third-grade teacher, is one of 100 recipients of a \$10,000 Lilly Endowment Teacher Creativity Fellowship.

"I just really believe these types of things. We aren't given enough credit for putting that out there," Pinto said of the grant. "This is huge. This is absolutely a difference maker in my life."

She credits the atmosphere at the school, which she says encourages teachers to embrace such opportunities as this grant.

Pinto spoke with the Journal & Courier about the opportunity.

Question: Can you tell us a little about the grant?

Answer: It's a Lilly Endowment through Eli Lilly. They actually fund 100 of them, is my understanding, a year, which is so cool. Basically you shoot them an idea, lay it out. How it would affect kids. How it would affect you. How much money you'd spend. The biggest part is that that \$10,000 ... basically pays for the whole thing, and there's nothing out there like this that I'm aware of. I'm excited. It's a really cool opportunity, and the only way this would happen is through this particular endowment.

Q: Why diners?

A: I spent a lot of time with my grandmother, and she

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ABOUT KIM PINTO

Job: Second and third grade high-ability teacher at Burnett Creek Elementary School

Award: \$10,000 Lilly Creative Teaching Fellowship

Online: Follow Pinto's project at her blog at <http://pintodiner.com/>.