

FOSTER FOUNDATION ATTENDS MIDWEST CLINIC CONFERENCE AND RECEPTION HONORING DR. WILLIAM P. FOSTER PROJECT RECIPIENTS: CELEBRATING MUSICAL EXCELLENCE THROUGH DIVERSITY

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The Dr. William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation (Foundation) leadership recently attended the Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference in Chicago. During the 71st Annual Clinic, members of the Foundation were on hand to recognize winners of the Dr. William P. Foster Project.

The Dr. William P. Foster Project, supporting school band programs from historically underserved communities, was initiated as the first major undertaking of the Music Education Alliance in the summer of 2016 and came to fruition on the stage at The Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic this past December. The Music Education Alliance recognized the inaugural Division winners with Dr. Foster's son, Anthony, announcing the first National Award of Excellence Winner. The reception, titled "*Celebrating Musical Excellence Through Diversity*" was a collaboration between the Music Education Alliance and The Midwest Clinic designed to honor the Foster Project award-winners, as well as all of the Midwest Clinic "L.E.A.D." clinicians and performers. The Midwest Clinic Medallion of Honor winners, Alfred Watkins and James Southall, were also recognized at the reception. In addition to recognition at the Midwest Clinic Diversity Reception, the band directors of the Foster Project Division were recognized at the National Band Association General Membership Meeting and received a standing ovation at the College Band Directors National Association Forum at The Midwest Clinic.

Dr. William P. Foster Award of Excellence Division Winners

- Eastern Division: Randolph High School, MA Adam Shekleton, Director
- Southern Division: Martin Luther King Jr. High School, GA Travis W. Kimber, Director
- Southwestern Division: S. P. Waltrip High School, TX Jesse Espinosa, Director
- Western Division: McKinley High School, HI Donna and Thomas Hesch, Directors
- Northwestern Division: Chiawana High School, WA Kevin Clayton and Peter Blake, Directors

Dr. William P. Foster Project Award of Excellence National Winner

- Chiawana High School, Kevin Clayton and Peter Blake, Directors, Pasco, WA

As part of their award, the Chiawana High School Band will receive a school visit from clinicians provided by Yamaha, Conn-Selmer, Jupiter and DANSR, as well as instrument accessories provided by those esteemed music companies. The Division winners will also receive clinician visits and accessories.

The Foster Project consists of three levels. The first, reaching a small number of excellent programs, is the Award of Excellence, mentioned above. In addition, the mentorship program is designed to encourage band directors within low-resourced programs to engage with successful music educators in similar situations, developing a network of support and guided assistance to benefit students. Lastly, the Best Practices Initiative is a growing collection of articles, videos, and links for band directors to access for help and support of their students and schools. More information can be found at <http://www.musicedalliance.org/william-p-foster-project>.

About the Dr. William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation

The Dr. William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation (Foundation) promotes increased awareness of the life, career, values and legacy of Dr. William P. Foster and his contribution in creating the legendary incomparable Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's (FAMU) Marching 100 Band. He is known as the Maestro, the Law and the Legend. Through his creation, the Marching 100 became the brand of FAMU. The Foundation promotes the ideals, values, commitment to music education and historical legacy of Dr. Foster and further promotes greater civic engagement and recognition of integrity in the public arena. It financially supports students who participate in the Marching 100 Band and others. The Foundation supports permanent and changing exhibits designed to promote historical literacy, conferences, educational outreach and other programs, both scholarly and popular.

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