

THOMPSON EDUCATION FOUNDATION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Kim Akeley-Charron
January 20, 2026

1. The WOW grant applications are with the committee members for evaluation and the finalist interviews are scheduled for Monday, February 2. We will plan to announce the 2026 recipient shortly after the interviews. We received 7 completed applications this year.
2. I will be presenting on our Project Prom program as part of a National Association of Education Foundation's webinar panel on Thursday, January 22.
3. Art teacher Jessica Disparti has offered to have her students at Carrie Martin elementary create the category prizes for the Earth Day race this year. Student painted canvases have proven to be a very popular prize and cost us little beyond the 8 1/2 x 11 board and some paint.
4. TEF was a sponsor for the annual Martin Luther King Day celebration on January 15. As we have in the past, we funded the student contest prizes and a portion of the cultural entertainer's fee. I had the opportunity to speak and then assist Dr. Heller with distributing the prizes to students.
5. The foundation has used the same Customer Relationship Management (CRM) program – Bloomerang - for several years. This is the system that tracks our donor relationships and provides the online donation pages. Eowyn and I decided that it was time to do a scan of what else is available in the marketplace and have identified three other tools to investigate and demo. We haven't completely finished our review yet but have found that the new tools seem to provide the same base service as Bloomerang and potentially significantly more – with less annual cost and more user-friendly interfaces. I'll provide an update to the board when we have finished with the research and demos.