

## Jeanette Wardinski

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**From:** Westallisfoundation <noreply@discoverhometown.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 31, 2018 2:23 PM  
**To:** Jeanette Wardinski; pmbwik1950@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Inquiry from westallisfoundation.org

From: Beth Koehler <koeheb@wawmsd.org>

Subject: Inquiry from

[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwestallisfoundation.org&c=E,1,B6hsHYanG9OCaROE1ScEepcDC9w4\\_3fncuP\\_KB440ID3y0KyH7ihqun6J1Fx4iSrmbRxL1HaVUL3\\_\\_Kvwy0iwFx6wlvLxD-ISMDc9CClonzRbCuPELMS&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwestallisfoundation.org&c=E,1,B6hsHYanG9OCaROE1ScEepcDC9w4_3fncuP_KB440ID3y0KyH7ihqun6J1Fx4iSrmbRxL1HaVUL3__Kvwy0iwFx6wlvLxD-ISMDc9CClonzRbCuPELMS&typo=1)

Message Body:

October 31, 2018

West Allis Community Improvement Foundation, Inc.  
7525 W Greenfield Avenue  
West Allis, WI 53214

Dear Members of the West Allis Community Improvement Foundation, Inc.:

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for funding from your foundation. We are excited about the opportunity to help our young men and women of color attend the African-American Summer Youth Institute at Concordia University.

This unique opportunity can help pave the way for these students to be college and career ready. We believe it is an important component of our equity work in the District.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 414-604-4927. We thank you, in advance, for your consideration of our request.

Respectfully,

Beth koehler  
Director of Communication and Community Services

The application period for beneficiary designations for the Foundation's 2019 Community Charity Gala are now being accepted. Please complete the form with as much detail as possible. Submissions must be received by Oct. 31, 2018.

**Name of Organization**

West Allis-West Milwaukee School District

**Address**

1205 South 70th Street - 5th Floor  
West Allis WI 53214

**Phone**

414-604-4927

**Contact**

Beth Koehler

**Email**

koehb@wawmsd.org

**Legal Status**

Non-profit

**Establishment Date**

1907

**Tax Status**

Exempt

**Service Area**

Public Education

**Mission/Purpose**

The West Allis-West Milwaukee School District develops inquiry-driven, independent learners through instruction that is personalized and engaging, with a focus on college/career readiness and 21st century skill development.

Over the past few years, the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District has been part of the "Closing the Achievement Gap Consortium" (CAGC). It is a regional coalition of diverse suburban public school districts and private school organizations located in the Milwaukee metropolitan area.

The leaders of these progressive school organizations have come together to develop common professional development options for their school communities in order to eliminate achievement and opportunity gaps for children attending CAGC schools.

The school leaders of CAGC institutions are committed to address the persisting inequities typically found in American schools. The member institutions of CAGC are high achieving suburban and private schools are historically high performing school districts who believe in the notion that equity in ensuring all children reaching their academic and social-emotional growth is the true measure of an excellent school district.

Since 2012, CAGC member institutions have worked together in collaborative ways to provide high quality professional development, examine practices and provide opportunities for underserved student populations attending CAGC schools. The mission of the CAGC: is to embrace and change, with all deliberate speed, school practices, instructional methodology and school structures that perpetuate achievement and/or opportunity gaps in our schools. All deliberate speed in the case of the Closing the Achievement Gap Consortium means expeditiously and swiftly.

### Justification for Funding Request

As a subgroup, African American students perform at the lowest level of minority groups on measures of achievement. To that end, the CAGC has formed the African American Youth Initiative (AAYI).

The purpose of the African American Youth Initiative is to support young men and women of African descent toward higher levels of academic performance in a K-12 setting. A main objective of the Initiative is to assist African American students in their persistence toward college readiness and completion.

Young people color are one of the most vulnerable subgroups in academic achievement. There is a serious lack of presence from these students in gifted and advanced placement courses. They are more likely to be suspended or expelled than any other subgroup. With these contributing factors, African American students are more likely to struggle academically than their classmates.

The Closing the Achievement Gap Consortium (CAGC) created a summer program to address this issue. Young men and women of color, who have been recommended by their schools, stay on Concordia's campus and take classes designed to prepare them for college.

### Explanation of Use of Funds

The West Allis-West Milwaukee School District is requesting funds from the Foundation's 2019 Community Charity Gala to send students of color to the Summer Institute at Concordia University's Mequon campus. The program goals are to:

- Create a cohort of students that support one another in pursuit of college readiness in high performing high schools.
- Set up school teams so that the work will continue throughout the school year.
- Create connections with local role models in Southeast Wisconsin.
- Provide instruction in utilizing effective academic and organizational strategies.
- Cultivate positive social-emotional and interpersonal skills in the participants.

In addition, the program provides:

Coaching with school-based mentors

Reinforce academic preparation for participants in order to successfully navigate highly-competitive high schools

Cultural empowerment and enrichment Psychological strengthening for African American females Family strengthening and education - How to access and leverage services within the school environment and beyond.

Activities include team-building, leadership, study-skills, career planning, college selection process, and field trips to various Milwaukee companies.

A team of educators from southeast Wisconsin have come together to form an initiative that serves the short and long range needs of African American females from the region. Successful African American females who have graduated from the participating high schools will act as directors and mentors for the participants.

Administrators and counselors from participating schools will be part of the agenda.

The West Allis Community Improvement Foundation can help us make a difference in the lives of high school students of color. The Summer Institute at Concordia University is designed to support these students as they pursue higher education and work to achieve their dreams.

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