



**Outline of OPEF presentation to District 97 Board of Directors
February 10, 2015
Deb Abrahamson, Executive Director and Karen Daily, Board President-Elect**

OPEF themes for 2014-15:

- Focusing on our core strengths: Innovation and Real-world connections
- Pushing the limits of our program models
- Dream big!

Update on OPEF programs, serving about 4,000 students this year with our FREE programs:

Science Alliance:

- Partnerships in 7th grade science

Geared Up:

- Field trips to Public Works for 3rd graders (simple machines) and 7th graders (alternative energy, Gold LEED building)
 - Taking advantage of our community's best assets and making more connections for kids

Art Start:

- Project with curricular connections and community involvement

Architecture Adventure:

- Beloved projects
- Enlisting volunteers a continuing struggle

VEX Robotics:

- Serving 124 students (+28% in 2014-15) and growing percentage of girls (28% in 2014-15, up from 18% in 2013-14)
- Practices borrowed from business
- PLTW levels and raises the playing field
- Expanding middle school robotics throughout the state

BASE Camp, our innovation playground:

- Summer and school holiday enrichment in a fun, collaborative environment!
- Served 1,099 kids in 2013-14 -- and growing!
- Fee-based endeavor that helps fund all our free programming during the school year
- New topics with real-world connections (sailing & STEM, Good Food, Video Game Lab, Science Lab, Making 'Zines)
- Hiring and training D97 teachers, hiring HS and college kids as mentors extends our reach
 - 90% of Build³ Day (MLK Day program) teachers and 100% of "Guides" were D97 staff
 - Summer BASE Camp: 65% of staff are D97 teachers
- New partnership with Park District for Extended Camp to serve working parents
- Granting \$13,000 in scholarships this year

Looking ahead:

- Call for Ideas update
 - Engagement with the community + all middle school students
 - Program development begins soon
- Innovation – and aligning to the curriculum
- Expanding our capacity
- Help us think big, serve more kids
 - If we could have 5 times greater impact on D97 kids, what would it look like?
 - Share your hopes & dreams for D97 with us as we revisit our strategic plan next year

Join us at the Staszak Gala Saturday April 11, 7 PM!