

# Press Clippings - 6/20/2023

## – ISBE’s Weekly Message / OneGoal – U-46 partners with OneGoal to support post secondary success

June 13, 2023

The mission of **School District U-46** in Elgin is to “be a great place for all students to learn, all teachers to teach, and all employees to work. All means all.” With six high schools and nearly 12,000 high school students, achieving this goal of equity is no small task. The district partnered with OneGoal to advance postsecondary outcomes and to increase college and career readiness for its students.

District leaders at **U-46** evaluated their postsecondary advising and preparation program and found that the percentage of students attending college was not meeting district goals. In fact, a survey of students showed that one in five disagreed that all students are encouraged to go to college. A survey of teachers found that a majority reported they did not think postsecondary was part of their work.

OneGoal has identified seven focus areas related to a district’s postsecondary practices. Each district working with OneGoal selects 1-2 areas for improvement. U-46 had the opportunity to work with OneGoal through ISBE’s partnership, funded by federal pandemic relief funds, and selected Continuous Improvement Cycles and Adult Capacity Building as its areas of focus.

Seeing an increase in the number of students completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and more students with a documented postsecondary plan have been big wins for the district. **Lead Counselor Alexa Charsha-Hahn** also points to a larger cultural shift in the district since it began partnering with OneGoal: “The conversations that counselors are having with students has changed, and the language we’re using has helped us translate the options available to our students in really meaningful ways.”

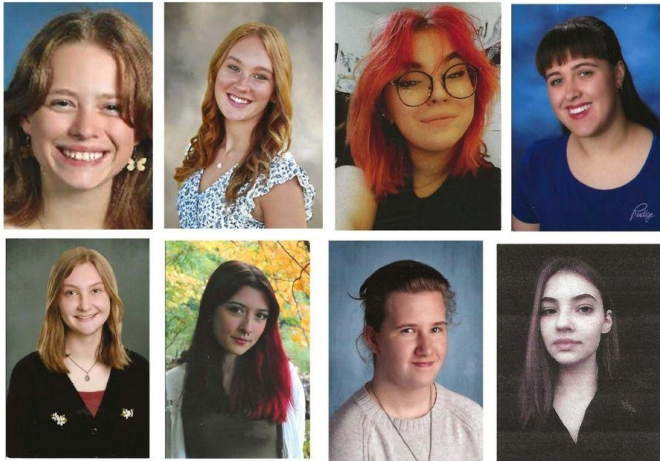
[Read more](#) about how **Elgin U-46** is advancing postsecondary readiness and success for its students.

# – Daily Herald –

## Fox Valley Beaux Arts names annual scholarship winners

June 15, 2023

Submitted by Pat Szpekowski



*Fox Valley Beaux Arts 2023 scholarship recipients, from left, starting top row: Madelyn Dobbeck, Karoline Olechna, Katelyn Padgett, and Stephanie Skrabacz; left to right, bottom row: Ella Strzempa, Nayeli Wood, Katherine Wynn, and Anastasiia Zorina. Courtesy of Fox Valley Beaux Arts*

Fox Valley Beaux Arts, a nonprofit women's club founded in 1984 to foster and support the arts, recently presented eight Elgin area students with college scholarships valuing a total of \$22,000.

"Our club's mission is to elevate the arts through area youth scholarships to those Elgin area high school seniors going on to major or minor in the arts in higher education," said Susan Pepa, club president. "We are proud to continue our tradition and award these amazing creative students."

These eight students were recently showcased at our "Taste of Talent" event held on May 3 at the Elgin Country Club.

The eight scholarship recipients all intend to pursue the arts in their areas of talent and interest this fall. The students are:

Madelyn Dobbeck, Larkin High School, Elgin (graphics - University of Dubuque)

Karoline Olechna, Bartlett High School, Bartlett (photography - University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign)

Katelyn Padgett, Larkin High School, Elgin (drawing, painting, graphics - School of the Art Institute of Chicago)

Stephanie Skrabacz, Elgin High School, Elgin (clarinet - Augustana College)

Ella Strzempa, St. Edward Central Catholic High School, Elgin (drawing, painting - Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design)

Nayeli Wood, Larkin High School, Elgin (viola - Illinois State University)

Katherine Wynn, Larkin High School, Elgin (piano, composition - Lawrence University)

Anastasiia Zorina, Bartlett High School, Bartlett (drawing, painting, graphics - Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design)

"Major support for our scholarship donations is raised through our popular annual luncheon event," said Loretta Heuer, vice president. "We are pleased to announce that the Fox Valley Beaux Arts fundraiser 'Off the Hanger' will take place this year on Saturday, Aug. 26, at the Elgin Country Club.

In addition to a luncheon, we will feature a Fashion Show by Chico's, vendors, raffles, and a silent auction. The monies raised will fund next year's talented recipients."

For more information about this event, please contact Susan Carroll-Pepa at [leoandsusan@msn.com](mailto:leoandsusan@msn.com).

Fox Valley Beaux Arts members consist of a wide range of women who are engaged or support the arts and who reside throughout the Fox Valley area. Members of the club's board of directors include Susan Pepa, president; Loretta Heuer, vice president; Florence Ostdick, secretary; Mary McCarthy, treasurer; Marge Haefliger and Chris Womac, programs; Rose Engle and Barb McGee, scholarships; Cheryl Hallquist and Kathleen Mink, membership; and Loretta Heuer, publicity.

Anyone interested in joining the group should contact the membership chair, Cheryl Hallquist, at [cherylhallquist@att.net](mailto:cherylhallquist@att.net). For more information about Fox Valley Beaux Arts, contact Susan Pepa at [leoandsusan@msn.com](mailto:leoandsusan@msn.com).

**– Daily Herald –**

**Neighbors in the News: District U-46 names its new superintendent**

**June 15, 2023**  
**Norrine Twohey**



***Suzanne Johnson, superintendent, School District U-46.***  
***Courtesy of School District U-46***

• Streamwood resident **Suzanne Johnson** was named **superintendent of School District U-46**, the state's second-largest school district.

**Johnson** began her career in education in **U-46** nearly 26 years ago, and since February she's served as the district's interim superintendent. She will officially assume the role July 1.

"The board is delighted to welcome Dr. Johnson as our new superintendent. We look forward to working with her and are excited about the future of U-46," said board President Susan Kerr.

Johnson had served for five years as U-46's deputy superintendent of instruction when the board appointed her as interim superintendent on Feb. 23, after the district's previous leader, Tony Sanders, was named state superintendent for Illinois.

A graduate of Elgin High School, Johnson, returned to her U-46 roots to teach language arts at Canton Middle School in Streamwood. Johnson's first administrative role was at Bartlett High School. She quickly advanced into the role of associate principal and then principal prior to moving into a role in central administration in 2013, first as an assistant superintendent of Teaching and Learning before being promoted to the deputy superintendent position.

Within U-46, Johnson is known for her deep understanding of instructional practices and a commitment to fostering academic excellence.

Johnson holds her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa, her master's degree in curriculum and instruction from DePaul University, and her doctorate in curriculum and instruction from the University of Illinois-Chicago.

## – Chicago Tribune –

### Elgin News Digest: Unite U-46 update session set for Tuesday night

June 16, 2023

By Mike Danahey - The Courier-News

#### Unite U-46 update session set for Tuesday night

The next **Unite U-46** update session is scheduled for 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, from the **U-46** Welcome Center, 1019 E. Chicago St., Elgin.

According to the **U-46** website, the session will provide a review on where things stand related to the district's facilities master plan, which calls for extensive building, remodeling and maintenance work.

Registration is not required, but is requested to help in planning. A recording of the presentation will be available online following the event.

To register or for more information, go to [www.u-46.org/uniteu46](http://www.u-46.org/uniteu46).

To read the full article, click [here](#).

## – Daily Herald –

### Final softball Top 20

June 14, 2023

#### Softball

#### Team | Comment

1. Antioch (35-2) Class 3A runner-up
2. Barrington (35-7) 12th time in state finals
3. Lake Park (26-12) First supersectional since 2008
4. Warren (22-7) Fell to Barrington in supersectional
5. St. Charles North (22-7) Upended by Lake Park in sectional finals
6. WW South (18-13) Lost to Yorkville in sectional final

7. Buffalo Grove (25-6) 1st MSL title since 1999
8. Maine South (17-8) Sweet 16 qualifier
9. Huntley (26-8) FVC champs lost to Barrington in sectional
10. Libertyville (25-12) Regional champs fueled by soph Callahan
11. Carmel (23-6) Grace King had 11 homers and 43 RBI
12. **South Elgin** (24-5) Bell was stellar for UEC champs
13. Fremd (24-9) Wins 22nd regional title
14. Downers Grove S. (18-9) Ran the table in WSC Gold
15. Addison Trail (24-9) Matthews led the way for Blazers
16. West Chicago (19-16) Wildcats snare regional title
17. **Bartlett** (21-8) **Hawks** scored runs in bunches
18. Montini (16-12) Made Class 2A supersectional
19. Mundelein (26-6) North Suburban runner-up
20. Conant (18-10) Big season for Spaitis

## **– Chicago Tribune – Introducing the 2023 Beacon-News/Courier-News Girls Soccer All-Area Team**

**June 16, 2023**

**By Patrick Z. McGavin - Aurora Beacon-News**

**First Team**

**Ella Dihel, South Elgin, junior, forward:** Scored team-high 17 goals and added two assists. All-state and all-conference.

**Alyssa Gluting, Metea Valley, junior, goalkeeper:** Posted nine shutouts. Played 1,760 minutes. Had 112 saves and 1.00 goals-against average. All-sectional and all-conference.

**Anya Gulbrandsen, Oswego East, junior, midfielder:** Established single-season program record with 30 goals. Added eight assists. All-state, all-conference and repeat all-area. Committed to Wisconsin.

**Rilee Hasegawa, Geneva, senior, forward:** Led Vikings to regional title with 16 goals and 11 assists. All-state and all-conference.

**Anna Johnson, Oswego, senior, forward:** Lethal scorer tallied 46 goals and seven assists. All-sectional and all-conference. Committed to Lindenwood.

**Tyra King, Metea Valley, senior, forward:** Scored 23 goals and contributed eight assists for defending state champions. All-state, all-conference and repeat all-area. Committed to Northern Illinois.

**Jordan Lange, Metea Valley, senior, midfielder:** Injuries limited her to 12 games but still scored 13 goals and added four assists. All-state, all-conference and three-time all-area. Committed to North Central College.

**Mackenzie Loomis, St. Charles East, junior, defender:** Physical player keyed back line that produced 12 shutouts. A specialist on set pieces, resulting in nine goals and three assists. All-sectional and all-conference.

**Bella Najera, St. Charles North, senior, midfielder:** Paced North Stars to Class 3A supersectional with 20 goals and seven assists. Conference MVP. All-state, all-conference and three-time all-area. Committed to Michigan State.

**Abby Vichich, St. Charles North, senior, defender:** Disruptive force on back line as North Stars notched 11 shutouts en route to Class 3A supersectional. Also scored a goal. All-conference. Committed to Milwaukee.



**Grace Williams, St. Charles East, senior, forward:** Scored team-high 29 goals and added nine assists. All-state, all-conference and repeat all-area.

## **Second Team**

**Taylor Ahmadian, Waubonsie Valley, junior, midfielder:** Came up with 18 goals and seven assists. All-sectional and all-conference.

**Brooke Baumann, Bartlett, senior, defender:** Top player for a back line that produced eight shutouts. Also scored three goals and added an assist. All-sectional and all-conference. Committed to St. Mary's.

**Lucy Burk, Metea Valley, junior, forward:** Finished with nine goals and 11 assists for defending state champions. All-sectional, all-conference and repeat all-area. Committed to Northern Michigan.

**Macey DeMoss, Rosary, senior, midfielder:** Scored 22 goals and contributed 18 assists. Ended up with 90 goals in three-year varsity career. All-conference and repeat all-area.

**Brigid Gannon, Kaneland, senior, midfielder:** Totaled 30 goals and 11 assists. Shared conference MVP with teammate Emily Kunzer. All-conference.

**Kailey Hansen, Batavia, senior, midfielder:** Tallied six goals and four assists. All-sectional and all-conference. Committed to Purdue Fort Wayne.

**Sam McPhee, Oswego East, senior, goalkeeper:** Recorded eight shutouts and 0.92 goals-against average. Added four goals and an assist as a field player. All-sectional and all-conference.

**Kaelyn Nash, Aurora Central Catholic, senior, forward:** Set program record with 26 goals and also contributed five assists. Chipped in with six saves in spot duty as a goalkeeper. All-sectional and all-conference.

**Bella Vargas, West Aurora, senior, midfielder:** Scored 18 goals, including four hat tricks, and added five assists. All-sectional and all-conference. Committed to Lewis.

**Isabella Walls, Geneva, senior, defender:** Stopper on back line for team that posted 13 shutouts. All-sectional and all-conference. Committed to Richmond.

### **Honorable Mention**

Genevieve Bangert, Hampshire, senior, forward; Ava Elders, Burlington Central, senior, midfielder; Annika Johnson, IMSA, junior, forward; Emily Kunzer, Kaneland, junior, defender; Sidney Lazenby, St. Charles East, sophomore, goalkeeper; **Dahlia Perez, Elgin, senior,** forward; Olivia Rawls, Geneva, junior, forward; Ellie Semerau, Harvest Christian, sophomore, forward; Avery Solomon, Batavia, senior, forward; Laney Stark, St. Charles North, junior, forward; Gabby Wojtarowicz, Jacobs, sophomore, forward

*Patrick Z. McGavin is a freelance reporter for The Beacon-News.*