

Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana  
2300 173<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Hammond, IN 46323  
Phone: (219) 989-3250  
Fax: (219) 989-3256



**Board of Directors**

**Marty Wielgos, Chairman**  
Hammond Sanitary District

**Dody Russell, Vice Chairwoman**  
Bellsom Electric

**Kris Sakelaris, Treasurer**  
Hammond Legal Aid Clinic

**Adam Baron, Secretary**  
Horseshoe Casino

**Alexius Barber**  
Peoples Bank

**Elaine Carey**  
Purdue University Northwest

**Michael Dye**  
Root Brothers Manufacturing & Supply Co.

**Kevin Keough**  
Keough Mechanical, Inc

**Mary Beth Nickolaou**  
School City of Hammond

**Kathy O'Donnell**  
Franciscan Alliance

**Dewey Pearman**  
Construction Advancement Foundation

**Tom Ploski**  
Pepsi, retired

**Brian Popp**  
Laszlo and Popp, PC

**Justin Stowe**  
Hammond Sanitary District

**Kellie Taillon**  
Peoples Bank

**Phil Taillon**  
City of Hammond

**Jennifer Vavrek**  
Teacher, retired

**Emeritus Members**

**Michael Hawkins, Sr.**  
MR Hawk Enterprises

**Randy Palmateer**  
NWI Building Trades

**Jan Rattazzi**  
Crown Point Community Schools, Retired

**Hon. Ed Soliday**  
Indiana State Representative, District 4

Dear Friend,

The Challenger Learning Center (CLC) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to ignite student interest and cultivate career paths in science, technology, engineering, and mathematic (STEM) fields. In order to continue this work and inspire learners of all ages through accessible education and reach this year's goals, we need *your* help.

I am writing to request your support of the Challenger Learning Center's "Go for the Gold" Fundraiser, to be held on **Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020** at the Hammond Sportsplex & Community Center in Hammond, Indiana. Proceeds from the event directly benefit the students, teachers and families across Indiana and the Chicagoland area by providing educational programs and science equipment.

This fundraiser will feature a silent auction with a variety of items from local businesses and organizations. We are kindly requesting a donation of gift cards/certificates, promotional merchandise, or services to be featured at our event in the silent auction.

Estimated attendance for the event is 300, in addition to over 3,000 people that will hear about the event and the generosity of donors, like you, through CLC's social media platforms, website, e-newsletter and event materials. Donations are tax deductible and can be arranged for pick up by a Challenger staff member, dropped off at our Center, or sent through the mail. Donation drop off, pick up, or arrival deadline is **May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 4 pm.**

With supporters like you, our event will be a success. We are truly grateful that local businesses choose to support organizations that strive to inspire and engage generations of today and tomorrow. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of our request, and hope you will join us in making STEM accessible for everyone.

Sincerely,

Lara Bates  
Executive Director  
[bates@clcnwi.com](mailto:bates@clcnwi.com)

The Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to carrying on the educational mission of the Challenger 51L crew and first Teacher In Space, Christa McAuliffe. **Tax ID: 35-1995603**

Contact [emma@clcnwi.com](mailto:emma@clcnwi.com) with any questions or concerns.