



Partnership of Western Michigan University · Reading Now Network · GELN



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 24, 2019

Contact: elizabeth.shaffer@wmich.edu

WYOMING, MI—Godfrey-Lee Public Schools hosted a **celebration of literacy** on Wednesday, April 24th at the Godfrey-Lee Early Childhood Center in Wyoming, Michigan.

The event acknowledged and celebrated new reading opportunities for students thanks to donors who dramatically increased the number of books students have access to in classrooms and media centers. The new books were purchased through a generous gift by the Guido A. and Elizabeth H. Binda Foundation and other local partners.

Enhancing the number of books at Godfrey Elementary School and the Godfrey-Lee Early Childhood Center was a key recommendation coming out of the schools' work with the High Impact Leadership (HIL) Project, a grant-funded partnership of Western Michigan University, the Reading Now Network, and the General Education Leadership Network (GELN). Godfrey-Lee is one of 76 schools working with the HIL Project to improve early literacy for students.

“Making sure that students have easy access to high-quality, culturally relevant reading materials is an essential practice in literacy,” HIL Project Director Dr. Patricia Reeves said. “We are so grateful for strong partners like the Binda Foundation who are making such a difference for the young readers at Godfrey-Lee.”

The \$15,000 gift was given in honor of Dr. Vern Boss, retired superintendent of Kent ISD and Trustee emeritus of the Binda Foundation. The funds were issued as a challenge grant that raised an additional \$15,000 in matching funds from individuals and community partners in just a matter of months.

“The Binda Board is pleased to honor Vern with this grant to Godfrey-Lee that was given in the spirit of Reading Now Network’s philosophy of reaching across district and granting boundaries to support one another in reading,” said the Binda Foundation’s executive director, Nancy Taber.

For more information on the HIL Project, visit www.HILwmu.org; or follow/like us on Twitter ([@hilwmu](https://twitter.com/hilwmu)) or Facebook ([@HILProject](https://www.facebook.com/HILProject)).

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The High Impact Leadership for School Renewal (HIL) Project is a leadership development for literacy program for practicing principals working with a team of teacher leaders to implement the GELN Literacy Essentials in high poverty Reading Now Network (RNN) elementary schools.

The Guido A. and Elizabeth H. Binda Foundation is a private foundation established in 1977 by Guido and Elizabeth Binda. Guido was an architect specializing in school design. Elizabeth, a former educator and world traveler, was an avid reader and devotee of the opera, classical music and the arts. Guido and Elizabeth lived in Battle Creek and chose to focus on creative educational programs in areas throughout southwest Michigan.

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