Union Public Schools is a rapidly growing suburban, K-12 district in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The 28-square-mile area that comprises Union is unique in that it does not encompass a township, but rather incorporates within its boundaries much of southeast Tulsa and the northwest portion of nearby Broken Arrow. The school system acts as a unifying organization within the community, providing activities for its families and a sense of pride, support and identity for its patrons.

When Union was founded in 1919, it combined four small, rural communities and had only four students in its graduating class. A two-story brick building housed all of its classes, K-12. In the 1980s, Tulsa’s residential and commercial building began booming toward the southeast, and Union’s student population grew along with it. Today the district serves more than 13,000 students in its eleven elementary sites, the Sixth/Seventh Grade Center, the Eighth Grade Center, the Intermediate High School, the Alternative School and Union High School. All have State Department of Education and North Central Association accreditation.

Thanks to a supportive community, the district has been able to fund computers, local- and wide-area networking and other instructional technology to enhance reading, language, math, science, music and writing skills. Every school has media specialists, nurses and counselors. Programs for gifted students and students with special needs are also offered at every grade level, as are music, art and physical education.

Elementary school students and their parents have the option of following Union’s Continuous Learning Calendar (CLC or year-round program) or the Traditional Learning Calendar (TLC or 9-month school year). The seven-year-old voluntary CLC program has steadily grown at the elementary level, and the Board has voted to offer it through eighth grade if and when there is a demand for it.

Another option at the elementary level is the Primary Multiage Classroom for grades 1-3. Children in the Multiage program stay with one teacher for more than a year and progress as quickly as their development allows, but those needing more time to master skills can do so without being "held back."

Union’s comprehensive secondary curriculum provides both college-bound and non-college-bound students a wide range of offerings. Among them are Advanced Placement (AP) courses in all core academic areas and Concurrent Enrollment, which enables students to earn college credit while fulfilling high school coursework requirements. Students interested in careers or courses in vocational areas are transported to the appropriate Tulsa Technology Center campus for the curriculum they desire.

Community education, the district’s central enrollment center and Union Alternative School are located in the district’s Extended Education Building, 5656 S. 129th E. Avenue. The alternative education program helps students stay in school or return to school, giving them a chance to get back on track to graduate.
Other features of the district include the Extended Day Program (before-and-after-school care for Union students in grades K-5), a host of parent organizations and the Union Schools Education Foundation which funds innovative teaching projects to reward and reinforce excellence. Union’s Board of Education consists of five members elected by district zones for five-year terms.

Our Mission

It is our Mission to provide our community of learners with educational opportunities to acquire and develop the best possible academic, vocational, recreational, social and participatory skills, enabling them to become valued, contributing members of a changing global society.

Our Goals

- Academic excellence for all students
- Preparation of students for positive citizenship
- A positive educational environment in which students, parents, community and staff assume responsibility for their role in the learning process
- District excellence for all employees
- Expanded opportunities for learning
- Increased use of technology
- Enhanced Union pride
- Support base to include patrons, partnerships and community resources
- Long-term plan to accommodate growth

Message from the Superintendent

Learning is a magical experience. One moment a student may not understand something and then, with the help of a knowledgeable and caring teacher, all of sudden the information makes perfect sense! That experience happens daily in our classrooms, which is why we selected "U Can Do Magic" as our theme to encourage staff this school year.

Our entry into the new millennium in 2000-2001 was marked by excellence in academics and co-curricular activities and through student participation in our Character Counts program. It was also marked by community involvement, which reached an all time high as 300 patrons participated in strategic planning for Union's future. The PTA, Education Foundation and booster clubs also contributed to the strong sense of pride and support we enjoy.

Passage of the 2001 bond issue assured funding for a Multipurpose Activity Center near Union High School. Ground was broken in August, and construction is expected to be complete in 2003. The large margins of victory for the bond and millage issues and the district's population growth continued to suggest that parents who care about their children's education choose Union. Also last school year, Marshall T. Moore Elementary opened with excitement and more than 500 students. Its full-size gymnasium proved helpful in providing much-needed space for various district activities.
To ensure that all secondary students have access to the highest quality curriculum, Advanced Placement opportunities were expanded from the 9th to 12th grades. Teacher training, along with increased parent and student awareness, paid off—48% of our high school students are now taking pre-AP/AP classes that offer superior preparation for higher education as well as possible college credit. At the elementary level, the focus has been on designing assessment tools to assist teachers in continually evaluating their students, and the new inquiry-based science kits captured the imagination of young scientists during 2000-2001.

The magic of learning is continuing, and with it there is a pride and spirit that makes ours an excellent school district. I am pleased to present this report documenting our year, and I invite you to become a part of the excitement that is Union Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Cathy Burden, Ph.D., Superintendent

Facilities/Operational Statistics

Union’s well-equipped buildings, swimming pool, ropes course, stadium, ball fields, tracks, gymnasiums, theaters, etc., were used by district and community organizations for everything from practices, games, rehearsals, performances, meetings, job fairs and craft fairs, to before-and-after-school care, classes, competitions and parent-sponsored fundraising events. Over 33,000 scheduled activities were held in our facilities last year. Booked events took place from early in the morning until late at night, seven days a week, nearly every day of the year.

Approximate value of facilities: $260,157,903 for buildings and contents.

Transportation

A fleet of 94 buses transported students a total of 4,744 miles per day.

Food Services

Counting breakfasts and lunches, child nutrition workers prepared and served 1,577,418 meals.

Operations

In February, district voters turned out to approve a $12-million bond issue which included continuation of the Multipurpose Activity Center. The issue passed with an impressive 70% majority of the vote. Ceremonial groundbreaking for the new activity center was held in August and attended by both the Mayor of Tulsa and the Mayor of Broken Arrow along with other dignitaries and guests. Construction of the new center began October 1 and is expected to be completed in 2003.

The district showcased its newest, state-of-the-art school, Moore Elementary, during dedication ceremonies October 4. The $7-million construction project, made possible
through passage of a bond proposition in March 1998, took approximately three years from planning to completion. The school opened its doors to 538 students on August 17. Moore Elementary is named for Marshall T. Moore, a farmer and landowner in the area who served as a member of Union's first school board from 1918 to 1933. Moore was partially responsible for the consolidation of four one-room schools into the unified district that is Union.

Several other major projects were completed or near completion by the beginning of the 2001-2002 school year. Among them were new marquees at the High School and the Intermediate High School; a new entry plaza at the Eighth Grade; new boiler equipment at Union High School; floor covering, sidewalk, roof and fencing upgrades throughout the district; alarm and detection system upgrades; and office remodeling at the 8th Grade Center and the Education Service Center.

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**Student Statistics**

Growth has been a constant factor throughout Union’s history. As Oklahoma’s ninth largest district, Union served 13,054 students in the 2000-2001 school year. Of those, 6,286 were elementary age and 6,768 were in our secondary schools; 50.6% were male and 49.4% were female. In terms of ethnic origin, 8.0% were Native American, 7.1% were Hispanic, 9.0% were African-American, 45.2% were Asian and 70.7% were Caucasian.

9.6% or 1,253 of our students were enrolled in special education.

Throughout the district, approximately 1,224 students were bilingual in 2000-2001, compared to 206 in 1995. The total bilingual count included 71 different languages.

More than 29.73% of our students reported that they live with just one of their biological parents.

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**Student Achievement**

For Union students in grades 5, 8 and 11 taking the Criterion-Referenced Tests, which measure the Oklahoma Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS) objectives, the percentage with satisfactory scores in the core areas exceeded the state average in every content area tested. Their grade scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, a norm-referenced test which compares our students against the nation, exceeded the national average in every content area tested.

Approximately 86% of Union’s seniors took the ACT and/or the SAT college entrance exams. They scored an average of 22.2 on the ACT and 1122 on the SAT. By comparison, the national average on the ACT was 21 and on the SAT, 1020.

163 Union High School seniors earned college credit based on their performance in our 14 Advanced Placement classes. 223 juniors and seniors were enrolled in Advanced Placement courses.
There were 769 graduating seniors in the class of 2001. More than 93% of the Class of 2001 chose to enroll in colleges, universities or some form of vocational training, receiving nearly $7.2 million in scholarship offers to do so.

Union's Alternative School graduated 55 students, the highest number of any of the alternative programs in Oklahoma.

Twelve UHS students were named AP Scholars by the College Board in recognition of the exceptional achievement on college-level Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

Seniors Heather Huskinson, Anthony Quinn, John Soderstrom, James Thompson, Brian VanSchoyck and Daniel Birnbaum (Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics) were named National Merit Finalists. Commended students were Meagan Bradley, Christine Clodi, Marni Gesinski, Charles Huddleston, Maryellen Loeffler, Whitney Lynn, Lindsey McClure, Katherine Mentzel, Deborah Pense and Jacob Robbins.

Tamara Woodson was recognized as a finalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program which honors and provides scholarships for outstanding African-American students, and senior Marni Gesinski was identified as a finalist in the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition program.

John Soderstrom was named a semifinalist in the Presidential Scholars Program, and Union's Academic Allstataters were Anthony Quinn and John Soderstrom.

Seniors Lindsey McClure and John Soderstrom were named Byrd Scholarship recipients.

Four senior girls, Brittany Amilian, Marni Gesinski, Erin Dethlefs and Alicia and Alicia Lyon, received Girl Scouting's highest honor--the Gold Award.

The High School Renegade Regiment marching band accepted an invitation to march in the 113th Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., on New Year's Day 2002. It took top honors at the Catoosa Tournament of Bands, won first place at the St. Louis Bands of America Regional and garnered Grand Champion honors for the eleventh time at the Oklahoma Bandmaster's Association 6A State Championship. At Grand Nationals in Indianapolis, Ind., the Regiment received tenth place among 90 of the top high school marching bands from across the nation.

For the third consecutive year, the Union varsity football team finished with a winning regular season and advanced to the state finals.

Members of the High School Winter Drum Line, won Concert Open Percussion at the Winter Guard International (WGI) World Championships in Milwaukee, Wisc.

The High School Winter Guard finished third in Scholastic "A" national competition against 98 other groups in their class.

Members of the High School choir performed three concerts in Boston, Mass., in honor of the 225th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In state competition, the choirs received Superior ratings in both concert and sight reading, to earn their first Sweepstakes Trophy since 1997.
Eleven Union High School drill team and pom squad members were selected to the Oklahoma State Dance Team.

The Union Varsity Cheerleaders won the National Championship at the Universal Cheerleading Association (UCA) competition in Orlando, Florida. The win represented the third time Union squads had won a UCA national championship, winning similar titles in 1988 and 1995.

The Highsteppers Varsity Drill Team took first place and Large Division Best in Class at the 2000-2001 Marching Auxiliaries Dance National Championships in San Antonio. They received Choreography Awards on all routines; the Circle of Winners award for technique; first place trophies in Jazz, Novelty and Lyrical; and a second place trophy in Kick.

Senior Jerome Janet was named a Parade magazine All-American football player and received an invitation to play in the Oil Bowl.

Members of the Eighth Grade Young Astronaut's Club submitted the winning entry for the official seal of the Oklahoma Space Industry Development Authority. Union's winning design, developed under the leadership of student Scott Rainwater, was chosen from entries by students in grades 6-8 across the state. Members of the club, along with faculty sponsors Linda Brooks and James Kerr, were honored at a news conference and state luncheon in Oklahoma City by Lieutenant Governor Mary Fallin and members of the OSIDA.

Darnaby third grader Dillon Jarman received a medal from an international Pokemon competition hosted by game manufacturers in Honolulu, Hawaii. He won the all-expense paid trip by amassing points in local competitions, thereby earning the ranking of 30th in the world in the 14-and-under age category.

Sophomore Phillip Douget received national recognition for conducting a flag retirement ceremony to coincide with Pearl Harbor Day as part of his Eagle Scout project. The full military ceremony honored members of the Last Men's Club, a veteran's group made up of survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Phillip was awarded the highest honor of the Freedom Foundation, The George Washington Award, for his project.

Unique community service projects earned the Seventh Grade Center Student Council recognition as the State Honor Council from the Executive Board of the Oklahoma Association of Middle and Junior High Student Councils (OAMJHSC).

Melodie Dunbar, a junior at Union High School, was selected to participate in the National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC) on Medicine and Health Care, a leadership development program for outstanding high school students.

Sophomore Greg Gilmore was named to join more than 280 outstanding high school juniors and seniors from across the United States at the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine (NYLF/MED) in San Francisco.

Andersen third grader Kelsey Griswold and Darnaby second grader Kaitlin Butts were chosen as two of the ten national finalists for the Oscar Mayer "Jingle Jam" Talent Search. Kelsey went on to become the national winner and, in addition to being selected as the Oscar Mayer spokesperson, received a $20,000 scholarship.
The Eighth Grade Academic Team completed an undefeated season and was awarded a first place trophy in competition against schools from Broken Arrow, Jenks, Tulsa and the University School at the University of Tulsa. The team was comprised of students from the Seventh Grade Center as well as the Eighth Grade Center.

Curriculum/Programs/Special Events/Initiatives

The Union 6th/7th Grade Center was once again granted the opportunity to host an actual Naturalization Ceremony and reception where more than 60 immigrants representing 25 different countries took the Oath of Allegiance.

During 200-2001, the English-As-A-Second Language (ESL) program served 300 students with limited English proficiency.

Union's Continuous Learning Calendar (CLC) served approximately 573 students districtwide at three elementary hub sites--Cedar Ridge, Clark and Peters.

Drug-Free Youth (D-FY), a program that rewards students who pledge to avoid the use of drugs and alcohol, grew to more than 2,800 seventh through twelfth grade students, making it the largest student organization in the district with a chapter at each secondary school including the Alternative School.

Two of our elementary schools--Boevers and Grove--celebrated their 25th anniversaries.

Union Public Schools is the first in the state to implement a Multi-Track Teacher Assessment system which allows teachers options to become actively engaged in their own professional growth. It involves peer coaching, mentoring and committee support in addition to administrative feedback.

The Extended Day Program continued to meet the needs of district families for before- and-after-school care.

More than 75% of Union students in grades 1-12 were involved in the award-winning Fine Arts programs. The number of 6-12th grade students enrolled in Fine Arts classes, 5,655, was divided as follows: 800 in drama; 150 in competitive speech; 150 in mass media; 100 in music technology; 1,200 in band; 250 in orchestra; 125 in digital imaging; 1,960 in visual arts; 800 in vocal music; and 120 in Colorguard/Winterguard. All students in grades 1-5 received instruction in general music and visual art.

Union's Preschool program remained a popular offering serving approximately 400 four-year-olds at nine of the district's elementaries.

In the spring, nearly 100 participants, including Board of Education members, parents, teachers, administrators, staff, community leaders and students took part in two intensive days of the "Re-Focus on Results" strategic planning process. They identified ten critical areas that were then to be addressed by action teams whose 150 members were to outline strategies for implementation over the next five years.

Leadership "Union" - A one-day session was held for district administrators and aspiring administrators to receive training for a Union Speaker's Bureau. The training will aid
them in speaking to the community about education issues in general and those specific to Union.

Literacy First continued with training for all new primary level through third grade teachers, giving them the opportunity to learn effective strategies from nationally known professional development experts.

Night School, which offers students in grades 6-12 the opportunity to earn class credits, served 574 students during the fall and spring semesters.

Primary Multiage classes for elementary students in grades 1-3 served more than 900 children.

Union's Special Services department provided educational programs for students with a specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairments, deafness or hearing impairments, autism, serious emotional disturbance, visual impairment, developmental delays, and traumatic brain injuries. Staff included a director, office manager, curriculum specialist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, six psychologists, 9.5 speech/language pathologists, 63 special education teachers, and 45 paraprofessionals and behavior aides.

Union's Parents As Teachers program grew from the prior year to serve more than 103 families with an average of 110 children enrolled, through parent meetings, weekly play groups and home visits.

2001 Summer School was the largest ever, serving 715 elementary students and 639 secondary students. For the first time, English-As-A-Second-Language (ESL) was offered through summer school.

Television studios at Andersen, Briarglen and McAuliffe elementary schools continued to provide classroom learning through integration with technology and enhanced students' skills in teamwork, oral and written communication and leadership.

Union hosted a large group of Tulsa-area school board members, administrators and school attorneys for a "Finding Common Ground" First Amendment workshop sponsored by the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ).

Students in grades 8, 9 and 10 planned for future career goals as part of the Union Career Action Planning (UCAP) program.

An important part of the district's student assistance program was the Union Challenge Adventure Ropes Course at Union Intermediate High School. In the period of August 200 to May 2001 we hosted 48 Union ropes course groups with 1,170 participants, three outside groups with 80 participants and 12 elementary experiential learning programs with 996 participants.

The large crowds attending "Youth Arts! 2001" proved how successfully the artistic talents of our elementary and secondary school students were showcased last year.

The introduction of a hands-on science curriculum, developed by the National Science Resources Center (NSRC) of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Academy of Sciences, benefited students at all elementaries. Teachers across the district received
professional development to implement the new program, and both teachers and students were extremely enthusiastic about it.

Program development continues on Union's new Criterion-Referenced testing system which will allow each teacher to chart individual student progress by district standards and to produce a portfolio for parents to inform them about their child's strengths and weaknesses. The program was piloted during spring testing at certain grade levels.

Kindergarten Assessment was implemented at Grove Elementary and found to be a valuable tool for providing personalized interaction between teachers, students and parents beginning the first day of school. Plans were made to expand the assessment program to include each of the district's elementaries in 2001-02.

Union and Jenks collaborated on the first-ever elementary science conference, "Soar Into Science," held in March at Tulsa Technology Center's Riverside campus. More than 700 fourth and fifth grade students from both districts participated in the conference, which featured workshops on various aviation and aerospace topics.

Twenty-eight 7th Grade Academic Resource Center (ARC) students saw history in the making as they attended the inauguration of the 43rd President of the United States, George W. Bush. The students viewed the inauguration ceremony and parade, laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and received a private tour of the Capitol building, courtesy of Oklahoma Senator Jim Inhofe.

The fourth annual Union Schools Education Foundation Dinner and Auction provided a fun-filled evening while raising enough money to award more than $9,900 in classroom grants to 26 teachers. The Discover Broadway performance of Aladdin was another Foundation project that provided a wonderful theater experience for Union elementary students.

Twenty district employees rolled up their sleeves and helped where needed during the United Way "Day of Caring." Employees served four United Way agencies, including the Credit Counseling Center, Hospice of Green Country, the Salvation Army and the Girl Scouts of Magic Empire Council.

Union employees completed their most enthusiastic and successful United Way campaign ever, donating a record breaking $86,592.34. Leading the district in most dollars donated was the Intermediate High School, followed by Jarman Elementary, the 6th/7th Grade Center and the High School.

The district made plans to consolidate all high school honors and gifted courses into the Advanced Placement (AP) and pre-AP program during the 2001-02 school year, following academic guidelines established by the College Board. These changes were made to strengthen curriculum and increase academic skills necessary to prepare them for success when they take Advanced Placement and other challenging courses.

The grades for Advanced Placement and pre-AP classes will be modified to encourage and reward students for taking more challenging academic courses. The basic purpose of the weighted grade is to provide an incentive for students to enroll in a program of advanced studies. Beginning in 2001-02, AP classes will carry a weight of 2.0, and pre-AP classes will be weighted by 1.0 point.
To celebrate student excellence and increase academic recognition, Union's valedictorian program will also be expanded. Beginning with the Class of 2002, valedictorians will be determined by selecting students who rank in the upper 1% of the class as determined by their weighted grade point average. Salutatorians will be determined by selecting those who rank in the upper 2% of the class.

We continue to refine and expand the Focus on Careers program to take students successfully from school to college, career or whatever further training they desire. Job shadowing was the focus at the secondary level, and the district produced a School-to-Work video for all school sites to share with teacher groups, parent groups, etc. Two schools now have access to the Bridges.com career/college web site. Coordinators attended summer training on Bridges and provided a workshop for information sharing between all of our schools.

All secondary teachers began using the Integrate Pro gradebook program which integrates with SASIxp, the district-wide student data base, to average grades automatically as they are input. Grades can be imported from Integrate Pro to SASIxp, which cuts down on the time teachers spend figuring and entering grades.

New marquees at the High School and Intermediate High were made possible through the district's exclusive vendor contract with Coke. Now in the third year of its 5.5-year contract with Coke, the district receives cash benefits, free product and promotional goods.

Thirty-three juniors and seniors attended the district's first Academic Camp for Enrichment (ACE) during the summer. As preparation for the SAT test, they learned strategies for improving test-taking skills and enriched their general verbal and mathematics skills through a variety of activities.

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**Employee Information**

Union was the tenth largest employer in Tulsa during 2000-2001. Of our 1,400 staff members, 549 served in support positions; 796 were teachers; and 55 were administrators. In terms of ethnic origins, 1.3% were Asian, 4.1% African-American, 87.4% Caucasian and other, 2.3% Hispanic and 54.8% Native American.

The majority of our employees lived in Tulsa (54.69%) or Broken Arrow (31.7%), but other places of residence included Adair, Afton, Bartlesville, Beggs, Big Cabin, Bixby, Catoosa, Claremore, Cleveland, Collinsville, Copan, Coweta, Fort Gibson, Glenpool, Haskell, Henryetta, Hominy, Inola, Jenks, Kellyville, Langley, Leonard, Locust Grove, Mannford, Mounds, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Owasso, Pawhuska, Porter, Porum, Pryor, Ramona, Sand Springs, Sapulpa, Skiatook, Sperry, Stillwater, Tahlequah, Talala, Vinita and Wagoner.

Thirty-nine percent of all instructional and administrative staff had a master’s degree or higher.
During the 2000-2001 school year, the district paid a total of $12,050 for 252 hours of higher education course work for certified employees. Nearly $15,000 was paid in higher education reimbursement for support employees.

The average 2000-2001 teacher salary was $34,054, not counting the end-of-the-year stipend, and the average 1999-2000 teacher stipend was $1,683.00. The salary range for our bus drivers/assistants was $6.91-$12.51 per hour with an average salary of $9.71 per hour. For our child nutrition workers, the range was $6.78-$11.08 per hour with an average salary of $8.93 per hour. Custodians and building engineers earned $7.36-$18.33 per hour with an average salary of $12.85 per hour.

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**District/Employee Recognition**

Superintendent Dr. Cathy Burden was selected as State Administrator of the Year by the Oklahoma Association of School Administrators (OASA), a professional organization of school superintendents and other central office administrators.

Director of Special Services Dr. Bonnie Johnson was named State Special Education Director of the Year at the annual Oklahoma State Directors conference in Oklahoma City.

Dr. Angie Love was presented the Faye Catlett Award for Outstanding School Psychologist of the Year by the Oklahoma School Psychological Association.

Grove multiage teacher Theresa Kiger was given the National Educator Award and $25,000 by the Milken Family Foundation headquartered in Santa Monica, California, for her teaching excellence.

Briarglen fourth grade teacher Shelia Smith was awarded certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, a highly sought-after designation.

Darnaby teacher Pam O'Halloran was selected as Union’s "District Teacher of the Year."


2000-2001 Operations Department Team Award Employee of the Year was district carpenter Jim Coldwell. Boever's cafeteria assistant manager Kathy Roblin was honored as Child Nutrition Employee of the Year, and bus driver John Milgate and driver assistant Donna Thomas were named Transportation Employees of the Year.

Moore principal Sandi Calvin was named a recipient of the 2001 Best of Tulsa Community College Alumni Achievement Award.

Jarman teacher Vicki Perritt was nominated to the Oklahoma Social Studies Educators' Millennium Hall of Fame.
Union Alternative School was awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the Oklahoma Department of Education in the Students Teaching AIDS to Youth (S.T.A.Y.) Peer Education Program. Senior Lyndsey Vandeventer was recognized for her volunteer work in providing AIDS education to more than 1,500 of her peers. Lyndsey represented S.T.A.Y. at the national Ryan White HIV/AIDS Youth Advocate Conference in Boston and has worked with the Tulsa-based H.O.P.E. testing clinic where clients receive free and voluntary HIV testing.

The district's Standard and Poors rating was 'AA.' The rating reflects strong economic and tax base growth, strong financial management and low overall debt levels which are expected to be maintained.

The Union Finance Department's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report continued to win top honors from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada and the Association of School Business Officials.

The Communications Department won three awards of excellence from the Oklahoma School Public Relations Association (OKSPRA). One for the video, Election 2001: Completing What We've Begun; another for the district newsletter, The Communicator, and the third for Union's annual report, Re-Union Tour 2000.

Grove principal Angela Bauer was named to the State Superintendent's Principals Advisory Board by State Superintendent Sandy Garrett. She was one of only two principals in this area to be asked to serve on the Board.

Native American teachers Sue Ashby, Pam Lee and Zachariah Lightning were invited to be presenters at the Johnson-O'Malley State Conference.

Webmaster Shannon Phillips and the district's University of Tulsa Internet collaborator Dr. Kaveh Ashenayi presented at the Metropolitan Tulsa Electronic Network (MTEN) conference.

Employees districtwide completed their most successful and enthusiastic Tulsa Area United Way campaign ever, donating a record-breaking $86,592.34 to charitable organizations within the community. The district surpassed its goal of $70,000, increasing last year's donation by over 34%.

"Team Union" took top honors for the third consecutive year in Division VI of the annual citywide Corporate Challenge 2001. In the district's second year of hosting a major portion of the competition, a record number of district participants competed.

Communications

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report - Award-winning review of district finances

Union Board of Education Policies - Updated annually and distributed to every building and department

Student Handbooks - Published annually for all students K-12
Communicator - An 8-to-12-page newsletter for patrons; approximately 22,000 copies printed every two months and mailed to every district households, to area media and to district state legislators

District and Foundation Annual Reports - Combined in a special October issue of the Communicator.

Insider - A 2-to-4-page newsletter for employees; approximately 1,600 copies printed monthly or more frequently as information warranted

Insider Home Edition - A two-page newsletter sent to district parents monthly or more frequently as information warranted; approximately 13,000 copies of each edition

Information Packets - A collection of district brochures, maps and calendars providing both general and specific information about the district

The Union website grew in size and depth through the district's ongoing partnership with the University of Tulsa electrical engineering and computer science departments. Information added to the site included school and department calendars, enrollment and registration forms, curriculum programs and resources, school board policies, student handbooks and news features. In addition, the Union Intranet was launched as a tool for communicating with employees within the district.

Focus On Results - A state and national award-winning magazine, written in 1996, summarizing expectations for students, staff, parents and the community; approximately 20,000 copies printed; widely distributed to new employees, parents, staff and members of the community

Emergency Procedures Guide - An employee manual for dealing with and reporting emergencies

Facilities Use Manual - A publication of the Operations Department which outlines procedures for using district facilities

Union Purchasing & Procurement Procedure Manual - Instructions and guidelines for employees making purchases for the district

PTA Newsletters - Newsletters produced by members of the parent-teacher organizations at each site

Smoke Signals - A quarterly publication prepared by the Native American student organization.

District Videos:

- Election 2001 - Completing What We've Begun An eight-minute summary of 2001 school bond and millage levy projects
- Forming A More Perfect Union - An overview of the district
- Union Alternative School - A six-minute report on the school and its offerings
- Continuous Learning Calendar - A nine-minute video featuring the school and its students
Technology

Technology Ratio - Through the district's continued effort to provide students and staff with the most advanced tools available, the district's computer-to-student ratio is 1:4 and our computer-to-teacher ratio is 1:1.

More than 280 teachers were upgraded with new computers, either a Pentium III 933 MHz or a Macintosh G4. The computers being replaced were relocated for student use either in a classroom or a lab.

25 Pentium III 933 MHz computers and six laser printers were installed for student use at Moore Elementary.

One keyboarding lab was upgraded with Pentium III 933MHz computers at the Sixth/Seventh Grade Center.

One new computer application lab was installed and another computer lab was upgraded with Pentium III 933MHz computers at the Eighth Grade Center.

One new business computer lab was installed with Pentium III 933MHz computers at the Intermediate High School.

Two business computer labs were replaced and one art graphics lab was replaced with Pentium III MHz computers at the High School.

Upgrades were made to the district network.

Network servers were upgraded at the secondary schools.

Economic Condition & Outlook

Within Union's boundaries is one of the fastest-growing retail and restaurant areas in the Southwest, an area in which the state's largest shopping mall, Woodland Hills Mall, is located. Some of Union's corporate neighbors include State Farm Insurance, MetLife, Visteon Corporation, and the national reservations centers for American Airlines and Avis Rent-A-Car.

The Tulsa metropolitan area has exhibited steady, methodical, economic growth since the recession of 1991. The number of jobs in the Tulsa area grew by approximately 1/2% from July 2000 to July 2001. The Tulsa Metropolitan Statistical Area is projected to grow
faster than most metropolitan areas in the nation during the remainder of the decade, according to the National Planning Association. The Tulsa area unemployment rate was 2.6% in July 2001, down from 2.8% in 2000.

Per capita income in the Tulsa area is well above state and national levels. Per capita income increased to $32,335 in 2000 from $30,704 in 1999, exceeding the national average of $30,252 by approximately 7%. The cost of living in Tulsa is 94.1% of the national average, so the salaries purchase more here than elsewhere. Retail sales increased 7.4% for the twelve months ending July 2001 compared to the previous twelve months.

A total of 2,170 new residential building permits were issued in the Tulsa metropolitan area during the first seven months of 2001, valued at approximately $282.7 million. Nonresidential building permits issued in the Tulsa metropolitan area during the first eight months of 2001 were valued at $79.7 million. Much of this new, residential and business construction is taking place within the Union School District and is expected to continue well past the year 2001. Current lane expansion projects on Highway 51/64 (the Broken Arrow Expressway) and Highway 169 (the Mingo Valley Expressway), as well as a series of improvements on several arterial roadways, are further indications of the rapid growth of commercial, residential and industrial properties within the Union boundaries.

Oklahoma has one of the best vocational and applied technology education systems in the country. The labor force is plentiful and better educated than in most cities in the nation.

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**Bond Funds**

1999-2000 bonding capacity: $42,893,537

On February 8, 2000, voters turned out in record numbers to overwhelmingly pass an $18-million bond issue which will allow the district to turn an exciting vision for a multipurpose, 5,800-seat Student Activity Center into a reality.

It will contain enough floor space to accommodate school and community workshops; a host of practices and competitions; PTA and booster club fundraising events; music concerts and events such as the highly successful Young Writers’ Conference and Union’s YouthArts.

The structure will include space for a Wellness Center and will be located south of Union Tuttle Stadium on the High School campus. Groundbreaking is scheduled for the summer of 2001.

All three of the annual school millage levies on the February 8, 2000, ballot also passed with more than 70% of the vote.

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**Grants/Federal Programs**
During the 1999-2000 school year, Union received approximately $2,452,366 in federal and state grant money. Money was used for programs such as drug education, professional development, teachers for special education, remedial programs, enrichment programs in math and reading, supplies and materials.

The district’s average for free or reduced lunches was 15.3%.

Union High School was awarded a $29,700 grant as part of the Oklahoma Advanced Placement Incentives Program (OAPIP). The funding was based on the number of Union students who scored a 3, 4 or 5 on Advanced Placement tests.

Union was one of only two Oklahoma schools to participate in federal grants for school safety co-ops with law enforcement agencies. The $34,000 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant was used for drug-free youth programs at the secondary level.