

Early CELF Supporter Inspired by Progress and Expansion

“I was determined to spread an understanding of sustainability through child education to teachers in Los Angeles,” Diane Fletcher Hoppe explained in a recent interview. Through the San Diego Foundation, Willis and Jane Fletcher Family Fund III, Diane and her husband Carl Hoppe did exactly that, creating a scholarship fund to bring a team of teachers from LAUSD to the CELF Summer Institute.

Mrs. Hoppe’s passion began at a young age: “even as a little child, I was worried about what was to become of our world, that it would be overcome by waste, air pollution and over-building.” Sustainability became a major issue for her into her adult life.

In the early 2000s, Hoppe encountered an international research and project initiative group called ZERI, (Zero Emissions and Research Initiatives). The premise of ZERI is to apply the “economy of nature” to human systems. She met founder, Gunter Pauli, and later learned that he was the instructor for the inaugural CELF Summer Institute in 2005.

Hoppe sponsored teachers from her daughter’s school to attend CELF’s first Institute and independently continued leading sustainability efforts in southern California schools. Skipping ahead to 2016, Pauli reconnected Hoppe with CELF and informed her of CELF’s LAUSD pilot project.

For Hoppe, what made CELF stand out is the way “it weaves sustainability throughout the entire curriculum and becomes a way of life.” She was inspired by the “level of the training that Katie Ginsberg and other CELF teachers had developed and by the level of the teachers who participated.”

Hoppe believes that CELF’s implementation is, “heuristically sound because it addresses ‘place, problem and project’ as the means of discovering experiences and problems and creating sustainable solutions that are near and dear to the students, families and teachers.”

In the current political climate, Hoppe sees CELF’s work as “more urgent than ever before” adding that, “sustainability is not a partisan issue.” Everyone must be reached to preserve our planet.”

We couldn’t agree more!

“It makes me feel very inspired and motivated to support this work. It’s positive to be contributing to both the present and the future.”



Diane Fletcher Hoppe, center, with CELF team at Wilmington Middle School.

“I want to make sure younger generations have the deep essential grasp of sustainability and thoroughly incorporate it into an ongoing living reality.”
–Dianne Fletcher Hoppe