



Duluth East High School Foundation

Hall of Fame

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025

All the hard work, studying, and homework are about to pay off as you join the 74th Graduating Class of East High School.

Congratulations to you, your parents, and teachers for reaching this life milestone.

On behalf of the East Foundation, we would like to wish you all the best as you move forward in life.

CLASS REUNIONS

One of the several missions of the East Foundation is to help facilitate and act as a resource for class reunions.

We can help promote reunions on our website. We have the resources needed to help contact class members that the reunion's organizing committee cannot locate.

Please contact us through our website to give us the information you would like publicized and the names of classmates you cannot locate.

NEW MURAL GOING UP IN 2026

The Foundation has tentatively set the fall of 2026 for the unveiling of a new mural that will join the two murals currently on display in the East commons/cafeteria.

The new mural will cover the history of East in the 1980s in the original building of East High.

The Board, along with alumni artist Tim Cortes, are currently selecting elements to be included in these teaching murals.

ANNOUNCING THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE HALL OF FAME

THE CLASS OF 2025

The Hall of Fame was created in 2012 to recognize the outstanding achievements made by community leaders, athletes, coaches, advisors, and teachers from East High School. In creating this Hall of Fame, it was our hope that by placing the Hall of Fame display in the commons/cafeteria area, students could view the achievements made by East graduates and be inspired by them. Some of the 49 current members of the Hall include: Choir Director, Bob Mix; Emmy Winning Artist, Chris Monroe; ISS Chief Engineer, Heather McDonald, Major General Frank Stokes; Olympian Phil Verchota and Judge Sally Sjogren.

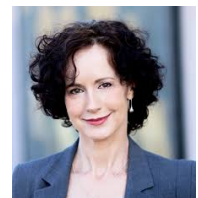
The following members of the Class of '25 will be inducted at a dinner at East on September 13 and will be honored before the Hall of Fame football game on September 12. Reservations for banquet tickets announced later this summer.



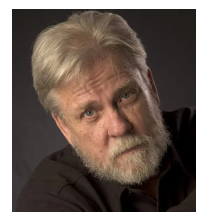
Bill Cortes long tenured popular social studies teacher and coach in multiple sports. He helped organize and fund the building of the Ordean Middle School baseball diamond at a time when there was only one field for all of Duluth. His first career was in journalism. Cortes was a leading anchor at KDAL radio and TV for 14 years.



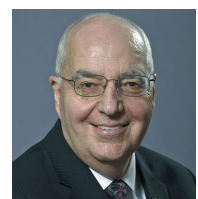
Bruce Savage member of the Class of 1980. Tribal advocate for the Fond Du Lac band treaty protection. A teacher of traditional skills - hunting, maple sugaring, and wild ricing. He is a dedicated advocate in preserving the Ojibwe language. Owner of Spirit Lake Farms dedicated to traditional seasonally harvested food. Elected FDL Tribal Chairman in 2024.



Brenda Varda member of the Class of 1976. Varda is a writer producer, actress, and musician. After regional theatre work and Second City in Chicago, she moved to Los Angeles, appearing in over 100 national commercials, numerous guest stars roles in TV, movies, and pilots. She is also a playwright and musical theater director in Los Angeles and Minneapolis.



John Salminen talented art teacher. John has won more than 250 awards in national and international exhibitions. Salminen is the President of the International Masters of Watercolour Association centered in Shanghai, China. His work is included in permanent collections in Asia and Europe as well as in numerous private and corporate collections around the world.



James C. "Jim" Backstrom a member of the Class of 1971. He is the longest serving county attorney in Dakota County's history. Jim was appointed county attorney and then won election to the post 8 times. Some career highlights - meeting with President Bill Clinton and AG Janet Reno about juvenile crime, and winning a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.