

## **Education Grant Policy and Process**

The Association's educational grant program is proceeding well under the direction of board members David Vance and Dwight Johnson. They are assuring the public and students that our policy and procedures for granting education funds to support Bowen graduating seniors is readily understood by the students, school administrators and counselors, parents, including members of the Local School Committee. Graduating seniors are encouraged to speak with their parents first and counselors to understand the application and submittal process. Doing so might help them offset some traditional higher education or career training costs.

## **Bowen Hall of Fame**

Since its humble beginning in May 1886, shortly after Col. James H. Bowen died, the local citizens clamored to the local and county authorities for a high school in South Chicago to serve its growing youth population. Soon, a first-ever high school program was begun under the roof area of South Chicago's first two-story brick public elementary school building built in 1876. It was located near South Houston Avenue and 93<sup>rd</sup> Street. Most of its students were of European decent and some were American-born youth who had limited formal education. Their academic programs were short, and they quickly earned their high school diplomas or certificates and then mostly went into the world to work.

Then, in May 1910, the 'attic' campus moved to a brand new first-class, stand-alone multi-floored structure that in time had additional floors with thousands of square feet added to the campus as South Chicago populations grew with families who had children of high school age. In May 2026, Bowen High School will celebrate its 116th-year anniversary on this site and 140 years of public high school service since it started. It is a living story of how its teachers, administrators, and classified staff persons were direct or indirect mentors who influenced and encouraged youth to be successful in high school, opened their ken about entering higher education, or about considering training in technical and vocational programs, and about being personally responsible and helping others.

The Alumni Association's Hall of Fame committee strives to recognize alums who graduated or attended here and proceeded to be outstanding individuals in their lives. To date, legacy of some fifty alums from the twenty-first century have been recognized in their particular major field of work: art, performing arts, education, religion, music, movies, sports, news reporting, medicine, community affairs, historic preservation of building, and advancement in technology. Each makes us proud to be Boilermakers. Summaries of each are in the process of being finalized in a new format for posting on our Association's website by Ken Litzsey, board member and director of technology. Please contact the Association if you believe a particular person should be considered for this recognition.

## **Landmarking Designation for Bowen High School**

In our December 2025 *Newsletter*, we reported that the arduous process to reach landmarking status for the Bowen High School building was proceeding. At the March 19, 2026, Board meeting, Marc Edelstein, Board member and lead person on this project brought an updated verbal report as to the status of our seven-year effort to get our high school listed on an important register to recognize and confirm the architectural significance of our high school building.

We briefly remind the reader that Bowen High School building is a 'twin' to Carl Schurz High School which is located in the Irving Park neighborhood. Both extant buildings are considered prime examples from the Chicago School and Prairie School styles of architecture from the early twentieth century. Both were designed and built in 1910 by Dwight H. Perkins (1867-1941), who was born in Tennessee. His family emigrated here when he was a young man. When his mother became a widow, he found work in the Chicago Stock Yards and later went on to study architecture and ultimately became a renowned architect in the Chicago Public School system as an architect in many school buildings in this city and other architectural projects for the rest of his life.

Our landmark project is derived from the Association's interest and investment in partnership with a small grant from the Landmarks Illinois' Timuel D. Black, Jr. Fund. This has enabled us to contract the expert consultant services of the Chicago-based Ramsey Historic Consultants, Inc., to research the architectural significance of our school building. The Ramsey company is recognized for its expertise in conducting research projects similar to ours and has been successful in helping organizations to reach their goals. The Ramsey company has completed its research and application for our school's inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. It is being reviewed by the Illinois National Register Advisory Council in Springfield, Illinois. This decision is expected to be made by the end of 2026. We are optimistic about a positive outcome. The Board of Directors thanks all who have helped us with this significant project.

### **Future Alumni Gatherings**

Dwight Johnson, board member, is working diligently with other board members to determine if an alumni event might be possible in the near future to bring them together to celebrate their history. His "interest inventory" survey produced a favorable response from over sixty alumni who affirmed they would participate in such an event. This has been a long-awaited goal for our Association.

### **Remediation of The *Bowen Arrow***

Efforts to save and restore the school's newspaper, the *Bowen Arrow*, historically produced by the student body has been an agenda item by the Association for several years. The latest report by Robert Kuhel (MBA), Association board member and treasurer, indicates this project needs more discussion and additional funds in order to preserve this historic school publication for future generations. The pages in each edition chronicle the weekly student life in Bowen High School, community and worldwide events, academic and other information that may have impacted their personal learning and development while enrolling here. The current inventory of the *Bowen Arrow* represents almost 100-years of non-sequenced editions from September 1922 to December 2018, for a total of about 6,600 pages. The remediation is a two-step process. The first is: removing the editions from their binders, cleaning them of any mold residue as needed and taping the pages when necessary. Thereafter, determine which editions are ready to be sent to a contractor who can digitize them. This latter process will facilitate putting them online for public access and preserve them as Bowen High School history. The Association board will continue to discuss its strategy regarding this project. You can be an active and important partner with the Association to support this and other projects listed on our website, **[bowen-alumni.org](http://bowen-alumni.org)**.

## **Alumni Association Membership**

We are continually seeking Bowen alumni who are interested in becoming new or renewed members. A full, updated membership report will be shared with the Association board by our treasurer, Robert Kuhel, at the March 19, 2026, meeting. Enrollment can be easily accomplished by signing up on our website: [bowen-alumni.org](http://bowen-alumni.org). Dues are inexpensive. In addition, you can designate supporting any of the projects listed on this site. Your membership is critical to the Association's goal to continue awarding educational grants to Bowen's seniors. This choice might uplift your spirit by knowing you are helping youth on their journey of becoming future leaders.

## **Bowen High School's New Classes**

In early March of this year, Principal Priscilla Horton informed us that students enrolled in Bowen High School will be able to matriculate in another dual credit course in Sociology which is being offered in partnership with nearby Chicago State University. This is an exciting time for our students to participate in college level courses on campus while in high school and earn credits for their work. Also, new after school vocational programs are being arranged in cosmetology and barbering classes provided funds are available and students actively enroll and complete for these offerings. Some classes could be extended for the next three years, she stated. Such offerings are powerful trends that have been launched on high school campus across our country for years. We applaud her leadership and all the other stakeholders who are bringing to Bowen High School students these exciting learning opportunities.

## **Seeking Room on Campus for the *Bowenite Yearbook***

David Vance, Association board member and Local School Committee representative advises us that he is working with Principal Priscilla Horton to locate some space on campus to store current and future year books. He states this task is close to resolution.

## **Bowen High School's Connection to the Illinois Quantum Center**

Our local alma mater has been recognized as a partner with the multibillion-dollar quantum computing center. It will be a research hub that will bring employment for thousands of people who are prepared to work in this exciting research hub and economic development complex. Some of the parents of former Bowen alumni worked in the historic steel mills that existed on the property that employed thousands of men and women from nearby neighborhoods in the greater South Chicago area for over 100-years. We are informed that Mr. Adam Davenport, a physics instructor at Bowen High School, is using a classroom curriculum that includes Quantum concepts to be used in next-generation technology that will operate businesses on this site. Parents and students are enthusiastic that Bowen High School has become an active partner in this landmark center. In the near future, Bowen alumni will be able to participate in the new kinds of employment opportunities that will come to this local lakefront site.

## **Who We Are**

**Legal Status.** The Bowen High School Alumni Association, Inc., Corporation is Federally Tax-Exempt under section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code. It received its exemption letter on May 11, 2012, effective March 18, 2011. It is qualified to receive Federally tax-deductible contribution, bequest, devises, transfer or gifts under section 170 of this code. Its employer Identification Number is 80-0707355 and State of Illinois Not-for-Profit file Number of 67734823. **Mission Statement.** Bowen High School Alumni Association' Inc., is organized to support James

H. Bowen High School's programs, activities and educational grants (formerly known as scholarships), strive to connect and engage Bowen High School Alumni and friends to support future of James H. Bowen services consistent with the purposes of the Corporation. Donations may be made for: Educational Grants, Remediation of Bowen Arrows, Restoration of Mendoza wall Mural and Athletic Sports fund.

Please mail your check to Bowen High School Alumni Association, Inc., P.O. Box 43, Highland Park, IL 60035. Our website is: [bowen-alumni.org](http://bowen-alumni.org)

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