

Innovative Donors, Lasting Impacts

We honor the visionary leadership of **Bill Kind P'09** and Castilleja's in-house educational researcher **Karen Strobel**, whose contributions enable Castilleja to measure the hallmarks of experiential learning and teaching in real-time.

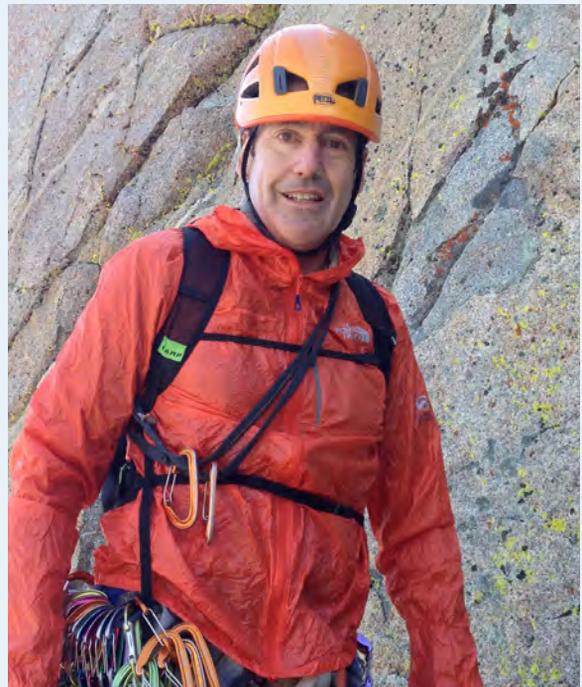
Finding the Best Route Forward

Bill Kind P'09, former Castilleja trustee and visionary donor for the Partnership for 21st Century Assessment

Every Castilleja student's experience is unique; it's amazing how many different paths can be forged while walking around the same circle for a few formative years. Even so, all graduates share and continue to appreciate Castilleja's Core Competencies—initiative, agility, and purpose—throughout their lives no matter where they go or what they choose to do after they graduate.

These competencies have always been central to the work of educating girls to become compassionate leaders and effect change in the world. However, identifying a common language and tools for tracking how these competencies evolve to meet the challenges our students face today required an investment of time and resources. It also required vision, which as a member of the earliest wave of high-tech leaders in Silicon Valley and the Board of Trustees at Castilleja, Bill Kind P'09 could provide.

When the school approached Kind in 2013 about attaining a matching grant from the Edward E. Ford Foundation to support sharing best practices in 21st Century Assessment, he immediately understood the importance of the request. Kind, who is also an avid rock climber, likens innovating to climbing. "You need to be aware and alert at all times. That way you can make changes and adjustments to find the best route forward." Similarly, Castilleja's innovative teachers needed to be able to measure their impacts to continue to make adjustments to be able to do their best work with students.



INNOVATIVE INVESTMENTS Thus Bill and his wife, Jaynie Kind, became leadership donors for a new Innovation Investment Fund (IIF). Along with other donors, they provided the matching donations that allowed Castilleja to receive funding from the grant to establish the Partnership for 21st Century Assessment, which sought to find new ways for teachers to measure the hallmarks of experiential learning, such as curiosity, collaboration, global awareness, and problem-solving in their classrooms. There are always important turning points in the history of a school as old as Castilleja, and this moment is one—it gave Castilleja the capacity to be creative and responsive in real time, a luxury so few schools enjoy if they always need to wait until summer to reflect and adjust.