

43rd Annual



ROCK ISLAND-MILAN
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY • SUPPORT

Austin Academic Achievement Awards
and
RIMEF Scholarships



May 9, 2023

Austin Academic Achievement Top Ten Awards

Recognition of the Top Ten Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors

Austin Academic Achievement Departmental Awards

Scholarships totaling \$35,000 awarded to Seniors from ten Academic Areas

Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Scholarships

\$106,200 in scholarships awarded to the Class of 2023

**The Austin Academic Achievement Awards program is made possible by
contributions from individual, family, and business donors**

Thank you to Bally's Quad Cities for their generous sponsorship:



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Bob Swanson

Monta Ponsetto, Executive Director



Austin Academic Achievement Awards &



RIMEF Scholarship Night

**Tuesday May 9, 2023, 6:30pm
Rock Island High School Auditorium**

WELCOME

**Pryce T. Boeye, President
Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Board of Directors**

Presentation of:

AUSTIN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION TOP TEN CERTIFICATE AWARDS

Jeff Whitaker, Principal of Rock Island High School

Presentation of:

AUSTIN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLARSHIPS

**Ann Austin, AAAA Committee
Scholarship Awards - 1st Place: \$2,000, 2nd Place: \$1,500**

RIHS Presenters:

**Business: Sean McCollum, Patricia Matson
Career and Technical Education: Susan Laning, Jason Kitterman
English: Connie Hayek
English Learners: Robert Mwaga
Fine Arts-Performance: Scott Voigt
Fine Arts-Visual: Andy Gray
Math: Tim Corwin
Science: Christopher LaRoche
Social Studies: Chad Kennelly
World Languages: Nikki Regan**

Presentation of:

RIMEF NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

Monta Ponsetto, RIMEF Executive Director

CLOSING REMARKS

**Please join us in the “Island” immediately after the ceremony
for refreshments courtesy of Bally’s Quad Cities.**



Austin Academic Achievement Awards

The Austin Academic Achievement Awards (AAAA) is a Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation program rewarding the academic excellence of Rock Island High School students. Every year, the Top Ten students of each class are recognized and the top 2 seniors in ten academic areas are awarded scholarships. Departmental scholarship recipients are selected by their teachers and awarded in the amount of \$2,000 for 1st place and \$1,500 for 2nd place for the following academic areas:

- Business
- Career & Technical Education
- EL - English Learners
- English
- Fine Arts - Performing
- Fine Arts - Visual
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- World Languages

These awards are presented annually at the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation's *Austin Academic Achievement Awards and RIMEF Scholarship Night*.

History

The Academic Achievement Awards program was originally established by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce in 1980 to recognize academic achievement in all Rock Island County high schools. When the Chamber made the decision to end the program in 2010, Rock Island High School teacher and community leader Chuck Austin turned to the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation (RIMEF) to ensure the awarding of academic excellence continued for Rock Island High School students. In 2018, the RIMEF renamed the awards the "Austin Academic Achievement Awards" to honor Chuck and his commitment to the continuation of this worthwhile program. In 2022, the RIMEF added two academic areas to the awards: English Language Learning (EL) area and the Fine Arts area was divided into Visual Arts and Performing Arts.

Since 1981, nearly 700 Rock Island High School seniors have received scholarship assistance through the Austin Academic Achievement Awards. Including this evening's awards, the RIMEF has provided over \$300,000 in scholarships to 256 of these deserving Rocky graduates. Each year, the program and scholarships are made possible by the generosity of alumni, businesses, and members of our community who understand the value of acknowledging the academic achievements of our students. The RIMEF is grateful for the AAAA contributors' support in helping our RIHS students further their education.



Top Ten Academic Achievers

Freshmen:

Lauryn Barker	Zaynah Hassan	Haleigh Laud	Eh Dah Soe
Landyn Bowker	John Sel Htoo	Gabriel Mahn	Jackson St Amand
LaRayah Carroll	Emily Ignatius	Fedora Noya	Averi Vroman
Francesca Guyette	Owen Klapperich	Claire O'Hern-Maidak	

Sophomores:

Elaina Adlfinger	Alexis Gahimbare	Abbagale Lieber	Linda Rose
Hussein Alhamdan	Lauren Gottcent	A'rion Lonergan-Shinskia	Olivia Samuelson
Carson Banks	Mia Hixson	Isabella Marceleno	Mylie Shook
Bibi Barikzay	Karsen Horton	Kevin Mayares	Sophia Stout
Madison Carroll	Stella Houk	Elizabeth McCoy	Madison Wangler
Alexander Churchill	Ywa Tar Hay Htoo	September Naing	Tyler Whipple
Nathaniel Cruz-Oliveros	Benjamin Huisman	Grayson Perion	Kiana Williams
Chase Curry	Naomi King	Lily Phares	
Max Davis	Mu Phlay K'Tooe Soe	Pedro Ramirez	
Zoe Ehlers	Yessenia Leos-Ochoa	Lyric Rice	

Juniors:

Presley Behrens	Eva Essman	Asa Mahn	Chloe Turner
Jackson Bennett	Lucette Feigley	Almir Matias	
Leah Conner	Riley Levan	Alivia Stanley	

Seniors:

Julian Anderson	Stephen Dillender	Madelyn Maidak	Natalie Pothoven
Daxon Ashpaugh	Ella Hansen	Keller Mathews	Lucas Rettig
Vix Dang	Riley Hawotte	Kaylee Plohr	

Austin Academic Achievement Awards - Departmental Scholarships

Business

Career & Technical Education

EL - English Learners

English

Fine Arts - Performing

Fine Arts - Visual

Math

Science

Social Studies

World Languages

First Place - \$2,000

Kennedy Maombi
Olivia Wiese
Klae Kpor
Natalie Pothoven
Kassandra Miller
Madelyn Maidak
Ella Hansen
Vix Dang
Emma Jasper
Riley Hawotte

Second Place - \$1,500

Emily Myers
Dominic Baker
Maryrose Abuke
Daxon Ashpaugh
Brennan Hampton
Vaida Gunasheva
Nathan Hendrickx
Keller Mathews
Nathanial Gottcent
Aiyanna Lacey

Academic Excellence Awards - \$1,000: Daxon Ashpaugh

Austin Academic Achievement Award Assistance: Ann Austin, Janet Moline



Thank You to Our AAA Contributors



All Donations received 5/1/2022 – 4/30/2023

Individual/Family

\$1,000+

Ann Austin
Nancy & Nick Coin
Kitty & Ray Nolin
Megan & Andrew Rockwell

\$500 – \$999

Nanette Albracht
Michele & Bryan Blew
Beverly & Duane Bonsall
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Sue & Paul McDevitt
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Sue & Mike Oberhaus
Linda & Gary Rowe
Wendel Swan
Stephen Teigland
Sara & Mike Thoms
Patty & Craig Tillman
Linda Tobin
Jean Kuehl Tuech

\$250 – \$499

Cheryl Faidley & Dee Ahuja
Chris & Vic Boblett
Mark Brooks
Barb & Brian Cady
Louise & Jim Davis
Karen & John Frieden
Nancy & Dustin Galbraith
Sheila & Paul Guse
Julie & Paul Hansen
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Ginny & Ed Payton
Monta & Mike Ponsetto
Nancy Schwegler
Thomas Schwegler
Colette & John Westensee
Kitty Wolcott

\$100 – \$249

Phyllis Ahlstrand
Anonymous
Bruce Andich
Ann Balderson

Julie & Bob Blew
Virginia Blinn
Judy Blomgren
Pryce Boeye
Mary & Bruce Boehm
Maureen & Pat Brandle
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Emilie Braughton
Bev & Norm Brunswig
Kathy & Dan Davis
Candy Canik & Dave Dehnel
Patricia & Lowell Dorman
Marie & Achiel Dupont
Marilou & Charles Dyson
Sue & Al Fensterbusch
Patricia & Loren Flater
Chloe Andich Goldsmith
Cindy & Larry Graves
Connie & Kevin Guthrie
M Joyce Hanna
Charles Hanssen
Connie Hayek
Kathy & Don Healy
Michael Higgins
Donna & Kenneth Hill
Lorey Moore Hillyer
Dora Hoben
Shirley Dooley Knight
Larry Koester
Mary Kvamme
Eileen & Joseph LeCluyse
Lisa & Jon Loquist
Nancy Luckenbill
Patricia & Mike Matson
Jay P Mayesh
Jane McGinnis
Karen & Tim McMillan
Diane & Greg Moroni
Carroll & Vicky Morrow
Ronna & Stephen Nitekman
Karen & Peter Nyman
Jeanne & David O'Melia
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Jan & Jerry Tutskey
Kym & Jeff Vandygriff
Lois Wehner
Sandy & Don Wentler
John Wetzel
Marybeth Doden & William Whitten
Mary & Seiji Yoshioka
Deloros Young

\$50 – \$99

Fred Attwood
Karlee Buhman Babcock
Laura & Louis Belby
Karen & William Bibee
Lynne & Larry Brandenburg
Peg Bulat
Rita & William Currier
Jean Dasso
Gail & Mark DeBarr
Shelley & Steve Deutsch
Carol Drish
Frank Edwards
Glenna & Randy Friel
Helen & Michael Haney
Julie & Doug Humphrey
Peggy & Ed Lieblein
JoEllen & Jeff Maurus
Nancy McManus
Karen & Jerry Murphy
Mary & Jeff Newcomb
Dee & Paul Noe
Rob Schab
Margaret Tweet
Darla & Ralph Walters
Sue & Galen Westerfield
Christy & Thom Wignall

Up to \$49

Susan Collins
Fran & Reed Doughy
Dan Fay
Richard Holman

Joyce & Frank Lambert
Cindy & David VanLandegen
Rita & Bill Martin
Carl Schoessel
Lisa & Tim Sparkman
Mary Ann & Randy Slusser
Mike Soboroff
Charles Wilt
Joyce & Preston Zawada

Business/Corporate Contributors

Allmakes Office Furniture
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Chris Elsberg State Farm Insurance
Crawford Company
GECU – Gas & Electric Credit Union
The Hungry Hobo
IBEW Local Union #145
Illinois Casualty Company
IMEG Corporation
IMPACT: Illowa Construction Labor & Management Council
Nikulski Financial, Inc.
Picture Perfect Travel
Quad City Orthodontics
Rafferty Funeral Home
Rock Island/Milan Booster Club
Rock Island Optometric Center
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Tri-City Building & Construction Trades Council
Wheelan-Pressly Funeral Homes
Whitey's Ice Cream

In-Kind Business Contributors

Bally's Quad Cities
ComedySportz Quad Cities
Olde Towne Bakery
Twisted-BoKay
Whitey's Ice Cream

Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Scholarships

The RIMEF has 49 named scholarships and funds nearly 70 individual scholarship awards. These scholarships provide over \$100,000 in financial assistance to Rock Island High School graduates. Any Rock Island High School senior may qualify for one or more of these awards to further their education. We offer scholarships for those planning to attend a vocational school, junior college, or a traditional four-year college/university. The RIMEF is the largest single provider of scholarships just to RIHS Seniors having awarded over \$1,000,000 in scholarships starting with the first Hass Family Scholarship given in 1998.

Each RIHS senior's scholarship application package includes our online application, high school transcript, letter of recommendation from a teacher or coach, and a 500-word essay illustrating how the assistance will help them achieve their dreams and how they will use their education to make a difference.

New scholarships starting with the Class of 2023:

"Failure is Not an Option" the Candice Hinze Williams Drama Scholarship

This scholarship was established to keep alive the memory of Candice Hinze Williams (Rocky Class of 1986.) Candice was a drama teacher and dedicated to improving the lives of young people. While battling illness, Candice adopted the motto "Failure is Not an Option" which exemplified her spunky, determined attitude. Students interested in pursuing drama in a college/university are nominated and must complete an essay. A special committee will review the essays and award the scholarship based upon the essay's strength and academics. Award: \$1,000

Timothy Joannides Family Foundation Scholarship

Timothy Joannides and his family established this scholarship for students having participated in band or orchestra while attending Rocky. Students must also have a GPA of 2.5-3.5 and letter of recommendation must come from their band or orchestra teacher. Award: \$1,000

Knights of Pythias Scholarship

The Knights of Pythias Scholarship was established by the order's Lodge based in Milan. The scholarship is awarded to one RIHS senior exemplifying the 3 main principles of the fraternal order: Friendship, Charity, and Benevolence. The letter of recommendation accompanying the RIMEF scholarship application should come from a teacher, administrator, or coach who can speak to these qualities in regards to the applicant. Award: \$1,000

Schwiebert Family Scholarship

Siblings Peter, Sara, John, and Mark Schwiebert established this scholarship to benefit liberal arts college-bound students. All four graduated from Rocky and liberal arts colleges before pursuing their varied careers. Those eligible for this scholarship must attend a liberal arts college/university. Consideration is also given to merit and financial need. Award: \$2,000+/- (based upon 4% of scholarship fund balance)

William and Saralie Shallman Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established by John D. Shallman ('82) in memory of William and Saralie Shallman. The Shallmans instilled in their children and grandchildren an abiding commitment to social justice and community engagement, demonstrating through word and action how tolerance, respect and kindness for others makes the world a better place. Students must demonstrate leadership and initiative in service and/or community involvement. Financial need and GPA are strongly considered. Written recommendation must come from a teacher, coach, or school advisor attesting to the student's character, leadership qualities, and service and/or community involvement. Award: \$2,500

Our community is most fortunate to have alumni, individuals, organizations, and businesses who appreciate the impact the Rock Island-Milan School District made on their lives. In return, they have provided thousands of dollars in scholarships to help other Rocks succeed. But these scholarships do something even more – they send the message that these students matter to our community – that their futures matter and they are supported as they try to fulfill their goals of furthering their education and fulfilling their dreams.

Scholarship Committee:

Don Wentler, Chair
Bryan Blew

Barb Cady
Rachel Gustafson

Jerry Jones
Cindy Lukasik

Robyn Jorgesen
Kym Vandygriff



Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Scholarships



Nell Althoff Family Memorial Scholarship - \$2,500 each

In memory of long-time 1st grade Audubon teacher Nell Althoff
Recipients: *Emma Jasper, Riley Jones, Montzerrat Meza-Pena, Brandon Poulos*

Charles O. Austin Leadership Scholarship - \$2,000

Honoring Charles O. Austin, Jr. and Charles O. Austin, III
Recipient: *Madelyn Maidak*

Bally's Quad Cities Scholarship - 3 awards

For students demonstrating academic and social achievement
Recipient, \$3,000 award: *Vix Dang*
Recipient, \$2,000 award: *Kaylee Plohr*
Recipient, \$1,000 award: *Stephen Dillender*

Carole S. Barkan Scholarship - \$1,000

In memory of Carole's life devoted to advocating for students
Recipient: *Amiyah Woods*

Boeye Family Scholarship - \$1,000

Established by the family to recognize involvement in extra-curriculars and the community
Recipient: *Mackenzie Meirhaeghe*

Grant W. and Virginia M. Brissman Scholarship - \$4,000

Established by the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation to honor the Brissmans
Recipient: *Dylan James*

Class of 1961 Scholarship - \$1,000 each

Established and funded by the Class of 1961
Recipients: *Dominic Baker, Monyonnoh Carr, Maricela Churchill, Nathaniel Gottcent, Tamiah Jamison, Niyitunga Jeanvier, Alyce Jett-Ryan, Austin Kowalik, Juanita Lopez, Kennedy Maombi, Nevaeh Robinson-Cunningham, Gavin Quinones*

Class of 1963 "First in the Family Scholarship" - \$1,000 each

Established and funded by the Class of 1963
Recipients: *Nelie Ninahzwe, Montzerrat Meza-Pena*

Class of 1965 Scholarship - \$500

Established and funded by the Class of 1965
Recipient: *Mizero Gerald*

Stanley H. Coin Business Scholarship - \$1,000

Established by American Bank & Trust to honor Stanley H. Coin
Recipient: *Riley Hawotte*

Donald E. Devinney Business and Business Education Scholarship - \$8,000

Established by former RIHS business teacher Mr. Don Devinney
Recipient: *Emily Myers*

Barbara Fackel AVID Scholarship - \$1,000

In memory of Barbara Fackel and her commitment to education - for a student completing 4 years of the AVID program
Recipient: *Aline Niyogusenga*

Ben D. and Nancy K. Brown Farrar Scholarship - \$2,000

Established by former RIMSD teacher Nancy K. Brown Farrar
Recipient: *Kennedy Maombi*

Jim and Doug Franz Memorial Scholarship: \$1,500

Established in memory of the former Rocky Grads
Recipient: *Madelyn Maidak*

Rick Gilliland Scholarship - \$500

In memory of teacher Rick Gilliland - for a student attending Black Hawk College
Recipient: *Aiyanna Lacey*

Ray and Elva Haberthur Memorial Scholarship - \$2,000

Established to honor the long-time Rock Island contributors
Recipient: *Natalie Pothoven*

Hass Family Scholarship - \$1,000

Established by the family in honor of Mary and Art Hass
Recipient: *Mackenzie Meirhaeghe*

Heart of a Rock Scholarship - \$1,000

Established by 2010 alum Megan Wilson and Triona Roberts - for students who have a family member struggling with a major illness
Recipient: *Gavin Quinones*

Amy Helpenstell Liberal Arts Scholarship - \$1,000

Honoring Rocky and Augustana College graduate, Amy Helpenstell
Recipient: *Mackenzie Meirhaeghe*

"Failure is Not an Option" the Candice Hinze Williams Scholarship - \$1,000

Established in honor of Candice Hinze Williams (Rocky Class of 1986) - for students interested in pursuing drama at a college/university.
Recipient: *Brennan Hampton*

Jerry and Sue (Farrow) Horton Scholarship - \$1,000

Established by the Hortons to encourage work in trades or nursing
Recipient: *Dominic Baker*

Derek James Jackson Art Scholarship - \$500

Established for a student who has participated in the Rocky art curriculum
Recipient: *Chanel Colvin*

Timothy Joannides Family Foundation Scholarship - \$1,000

Timothy Joannides and his family established this scholarship for students having participated in band or orchestra while attending Rocky.
Recipient: *Maricela Churchill*

Tyler John Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000

In memory of Tyler for a student in band and/or orchestra
Recipient: *Nathaniel Gottcent*

Judith A. Katz Scholarship - \$4,000

Established in memory of Judith for a student exhibiting outstanding academic achievement
Recipient: *Julian Anderson*



Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Scholarships



Donavin J. Keim Scholarship – \$1,000

Funded by the family in memory of the former student athlete
Recipient: *Darius Tongo*

Knights of Pythias Scholarship – \$1,000

The Knights of Pythias Scholarship was established is awarded to a senior exemplifying the 3 main principles of the fraternal order: Friendship, Charity, and Benevolence
Recipient: *Camryn Milefchik*

R. Decker Magee Memorial Scholarship - \$500

Established in memory of RIHS graduate Decker Magee
Recipient: *Jake Brandt*

The Marler Clark Science Scholarship - \$2,000

Established to aid a student pursuing a degree in science
Recipient: *Keller Mathews*

Mollie Montgomery Scholarship - \$2,000

Established by the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation for a student entering a medical field
Recipient: *Anjilika Barikzay*

Herb Niemann Scholarship - \$1,200

In memory of former teacher and principal Herb Niemann
Recipient: *Lucas Rettig*

R. Dale Owen “Be the Light” Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000

Established by the Ascentra Credit Union Foundation to honor Dale Owen and his generosity of spirit to his community
Recipient: *Ntiebuwayo Leya*

Charlie White/Richard Klatt Purple Tuna Creativity Scholarship - \$1,000

Established by '83 grad Cary Hinze in honor of his influential RIHS art teachers
Recipient: *Vaida Gunasheva*

Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Scholarship - \$2,000 each

Established by the Reynolds to reward hardworking students
Recipients: *Rafael Lopez, Dustin Moreno*

Miles W. Rich Family Scholarship - \$4,000

Established by Mr. Rich for a student who will major in Business Administration
Recipient: *Ethan Smithson*

Jayovontae “Jaree” Roberts Scholarship - \$500 each

Funded by family and friends to honor former student Jaree Roberts
Recipient, Education: *Riley Jones*
Recipient, Music: *Nathaniel Gottcent*

Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Scholarship - \$1,000 each

3 scholarships funded by the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation
Recipient, 4-year College: *Jake Brandt*
Recipient, 2-year College: *Aiyanna Lacey*
Recipient, Vocational School: *Isabelle Roelens*

Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Merit Scholarships - \$500 each

3 scholarships funded by the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation
Recipients: *Jace Bennett, Alexis Carroll, Stephen Dillender*

Fred Houlton “Service Above Self” Rock Island Rotary Scholarship - \$1,000

For demonstrating service to the community and living the Rotary 4-Way Test
Recipient: *Ella Hansen*

Rock Island Township Scholarship - \$1,000

To support a student residing in RI Township and attending an Illinois college
Recipient: *Gavin Quinones*

Chet and Louise Schultz Scholarship - \$2,000

Established in memory of Rocky wrestling coach/teacher Chet Schultz and teacher Louise Schultz
Recipient: *Brandon Poulos*

Schwiebert Family Scholarship - \$2,000

The Schwiebert siblings established this scholarship to benefit liberal arts college-bound students
Recipient: *Lucas Rettig*

William and Saralie Shallman Memorial Scholarship - \$2,500

This scholarship was established by John Shallman (Class of '82) to memorialize his parents - students must demonstrate leadership and initiative in service and/or community involvement. involvement.
Recipient: *Nee Pwe*

Terry Stephens Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000

Established to honor former baseball coach Terry Stephens
Recipient, Softball: *Alexis Carroll*

Elizabeth Kennel Williams Scholarship - \$1,000

Honoring the '86 RIHS graduate who dedicated her career to helping students overcome challenges
Recipient: *Venansia Annuarite*

Women’s Computer Science, Math, & IT Scholarship - \$500

Encouraging women to pursue a degree in computer science, technology, or math
Recipient: *Amiyah Woods*

Rosemary Woodward Scholarship - \$1,000

Established with a grant from the RI Community Foundation to honor Mrs. Woodward. The scholarship is awarded to a student who will study nursing or to be a CNA
Recipient: *Monyonnoh Carr*

DW Young Memorial Scholarship - \$4,000

Established by the family in memory of DW Young, a strong supporter of RI schools
Recipient: *Kayla Rice*

Class of 2023 Scholarship Recipients



Maryrose Abukey



Julian Anderson



Daxon Ashpaugh



Dominic Baker



Anjilika Barikzay



Jace Bennett



Monynnoh Carr



Alexis Carroll



Maricela Churchill



Chanel Colvin



Vix Dang



Stephen Dillender



Mizero Gerald



Nathaniel Gottcent



Vaida Gunasheva



Brennan Hampton



Ella Hansen



Riley Hawotte



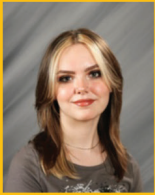
Nathan Hendrickx



Dylan James



Tamiah Jamison



Emma Jasper



Niyitunga Jeanvier



Alyce Jett-Ryan



Riley Jones



Austin Kowalik



Klæ Kpor



Aiyanna Lacey



Niebuwayo Leya



Juanita Lopez



Rafael Lopez



Madelyn Maidak



Kennedy Maombi



Keller Mathews



Mackenzie Meirhaeghe



Montzerrat Meza-Pena



Camryn Milefchik



Kassandra Miller



Dustin Moreno



Emily Myers



Nelie Ninahzwe



Aline Niyogusenga



Kaylee Plohr



Natalie Pothoven



Brandon Poulos



Nee Pwe



Gavin Quinones



Lucas Rettig



Kayla Rice



Nevaeh Robinson-Cunningham



Isabelle Roelens



Ethan Smithson



Darius Tongo



Olivia Wiese



Amiyah Woods

Not pictured:
Jake Brandt
Annuarite Venansia



ROCK ISLAND-MILAN
EDUCATION FOUNDATION
INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY • SUPPORT

Our Mission: To Enhance Academic Opportunities for Student Success

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation supports the students, teachers, and schools of the RIMSD through grants, programs, and student scholarships. Believing there is "no greater return than an investment in a child's education," our generous donors help fund major programs and initiatives including:

- **PRIME (Promoting Rock Island Milan Education) Grant Program**— funds teacher, department/school, and multi-school innovative projects and new materials throughout the district
- **Austin Academic Achievement Awards** – provides scholarships to top seniors in ten academic areas and recognizes the top ten of each Rock Island High School (RIHS) class
- **INCubator.edu/Entrepreneurship Class** – leads RIHS students through the entrepreneur process from idea to start up. Program ends with a "Shark Tank" Pitch presentation which awards prize scholarships for best business model
- **RIMEF Named Scholarships** – awards nearly 80 individual scholarships to deserving RIHS seniors helping them to further their education

For more information and to learn how you can help make a difference for the 6,000+ students in our schools, please contact us at:

rimef@rimed41.org 309-581-2154 or visit our website: www.rimef.org

