



ROCK ISLAND – MILAN
**EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

www.rimef.org



*Celebrating 30 years of:
Enhancing Academic
Opportunities for Student
Success
1986 - 2016*

Fall 2016

RIMEF Awards \$79,047 in PRIME Grants

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation awarded a record \$79,047 in PRIME Grants (Promoting Rock Island Milan Education) to the teachers and schools of RIMSD41 during the Opening Day Ceremony for the District on August 1, 2016 at Rock Island High School.

42 grants were awarded supporting a wide variety of programs and providing resources to improve the quality of education for our students. All teachers and schools are encouraged to apply for funding from the



Foundation. Teachers may apply for grants up to \$1,000; departmental and school grants are available for up to \$3,000; and district-wide grants of \$4,000 are available where multiple schools will be affected.

This year, the overwhelming number of grant requests clearly illustrated the critical need for the PRIME Grant program. For the 2016-2017 School Year, grant requests increased by 50% over last year to total \$150,000. As in past years, the Foundation worked with the Department of Teaching & Learning in the school district to find sources for some of those unfulfilled requests totaling approximately \$21,000.

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation's PRIME Grant program is funded by the generous donations of individuals, businesses, and other organizations such as the Doris and Victor Day Foundation, the Rausch Family Foundation, and the Junior Board of Rock Island. Our Major Saver fundraiser also supports the program providing a little over 40% of the available funds.



Please consider donating and give our teachers the resources they need to provide "enhanced opportunities for student success" for our students throughout the Rock Island-Milan School District.

2016 Teacher Grants:

Jim Adams, RIHS - \$999.88 for Tools/Equipment in Welding Program
Lindsay Anderson, Edison Jr. High - \$977.50 for Student Selected Books
Cindy Arkebauer, Eugene Field - \$999.50 for Legos for Learning
Ron Boardman, RIHS - \$996.43 for *Clicker+: A Formative Assessment Tool*
Andrew Campbell, RIHS - \$1,000 for Fetal Pig Lab
Mara Goodvin, Ridgewood - \$798.17 for Rhythm Literature Project
Henry Hall, Earl Hanson - \$1,000 for Chrome Books
Kris Hays, RICMS - \$996.68 for iPad Investigations
Kate Lievens, Earl Hanson - \$972 for BRAIN materials
Christine MacDonald, Thomas Jefferson - \$999.65 for "Let's Engage"
Valerie Matson, Frances Willard - \$969.70 for Buddy Bench
Crystal McCaw, Eugene Field - \$650 for The Young Authors
Emily Petersen, Edison Jr. High - \$1000 for Book Beat
Katie Pokrajac, RIHS - \$559.65 for Calculators for Learning
Amanda Puebla, RIHS - \$1000 for Positive Future Project
Leah Quintana, Frances Willard - \$960 for Coding in First Grade
Shaya Smith, RICMS - \$1000 for Revive Our Reading Centers
Kayla Uffig, Edison Jr. High - \$1,000 for Book Beat
Baillie Vandygriff, Earl Hanson - \$1,000 for iPads to Meet 21st Century Needs
Laura Vroman, RIHS - \$818.78 for What Makes the Atomic Bomb Atomic?
Wade Weber, RIHS - \$1,000 for Tools/Equipment in Welding Program
Chad Wickard, RICMS - \$978.54 for Books

2016 School & Departmental Grants:

Sarah Andrus, RICMS - \$2,353.57 for Engage Reading
Gina Cox, Eugene Field - \$2,995 for Orff Curriculum Project
Edison Special Education Dept. - \$2,841.61 for Chrome Books
Rita Entsminger, RICMS - \$2,890 for Newsela PRO Nonfiction Reading
Michelle Greenwood & Connie Hayek, RIHS - \$2,996.56 for English AP: Language & Composition, Literature & Composition Exam Prep
Reshanda Johnson & Ron Boardman, RIHS - \$3,024 for Celebrating Diversity Through Leveled Geography & Science Texts
Angela Loebach, RIHS - \$2,909.49 for Welding Program
Dave Knucky, Longfellow - \$2,963.56 for Computer/iPad Lab
Jeff Martin, Denkmann - \$2,988.16 for Instruments & Literature: A Winning Combination
Jean Mercer, Earl Hanson - \$2,993.40 for Multicultural Percussion Project
Molly Nelson, Frances Willard - \$1,682.55 for Keys to Performance Success
Science Dept., RIHS - \$3,000 for Technological Advances in Science
Joann Stribling, RIHS - \$2,564.10 for Purchase of CNA Program Equipment

2016 District-wide Grants:

Carmine Draude, District - \$2,500 for Diverse Cultural Genres Exposure
Virginia Jarrett, District - \$4,000 for RI-M First Day Fund
Matt Manweiler & Katie Benson, District - \$3,997.99 for Electric Orchestra
Lisa Martens, District - \$1,000 for Special Education Program
Karen Neder, District - \$4,000 for Literacy Speaks! Program
Michael Tollenaar, District - \$2,699.32 for SmartMusic
Scott Voigt, District - \$3,971.48 for Choir Keyboards

HAVlife – Hunter Vondran Memorial Foundation Partnership

In 2010, the RIMEF entered into a partnership with the Hunter Aaron Vondran Memorial Foundation or HAVlife. It was a perfect collaboration as their mission and vision “to allow all youth to experience life to the fullest...” closely match our own. HAVlife was established in memory of Hunter Vondran and provides the resources in the areas of athletics, music and the arts. Too often the cost of associated with these areas prevent a student from pursuing an interest in these areas leading to what HAVlife calls “Lost Potential.”



Students pursuing music thanks to the RIMEF and HAVlife partnership!



Starting with an initial grant of \$10,000 the Education Foundation has awarded over \$34,000 in grants to our district students and schools for extra-curricular activities and after-school programs. Teachers or coaches must submit a needs request providing the student's name, age, interest, a need summary and a brief assessment of commitment & dependability. Over the past 5 years, the Education Foundation has awarded grants to cover the cost of art/theatre classes, music supplies, various athletic camps, and the rental or purchase of musical instruments. Many of these youth would be unable to participate in these areas if it weren't for the available funds. The RIMEF takes great care in ensuring that there is a financial need coupled with the passion/talent before issuing an award.

If you know of a RIMSD student between the ages of 10-15 who could may be eligible, please contact the Education Foundation for more information. We have funds available for these students to follow their dreams!

Brown Farrar Scholarship Honors Rock Island-Milan Schools

The Ben D. & Nancy K. Brown Farrar scholarship was established by Nancy Brown Farrar to honor the couple's commitment to the importance of a good education and our Rock Island schools. The \$2,000 scholarship is available to senior students exhibiting good work ethic and potential for success. Special consideration is given to students not in the top ten or without the highest GPA as their hard work often flies underneath the radar and goes unrewarded.

Nancy (and her family) not only attended Rock Island schools from K-12 but she taught in them as well. Nancy started her teaching career as a Kindergarten teacher at Denkmann and later moved to the “new” Ridgewood school from which she retired in 1994.

“Both my husband, Ben, and I felt strongly about getting a good education. We were pleased to start our scholarship this year.”

The Education Foundation thanks the Farrars for their support and providing a scholarship opportunity for one of our deserving Rock Island High School students. Nancy you are a Rock!



The Major Saver program helps provide critical funding for our PRIME (Promoting Rock Island Milan Education) Grants. Through funds raised by the sales of the Major Saver discount cards, teachers, schools and the district are able to purchase much needed academic materials and offer programs, which they would otherwise not be able to afford.

The \$15 card features offers from popular restaurants/establishments in Rock Island and surrounding area for savings up to \$160 or more! Our in-school campaign ended in August but you **can still purchase a card online** at: www.MajorSaver.com

Thank you for supporting our PRIME program and our students, teachers and schools!

RIMEF Celebrates 30 Years with “30 for 30” Campaign!

30 years ago, a group of committed, caring advocates of educational excellence for Rock Island youth established the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation as a 501(c)(3). Since 1986, through the dedicated efforts of board members and the generosity of alumni, individuals, families, and businesses, the Education Foundation has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships, funded hundreds of PRIME or Teacher grants, and given thousands more in assistance for programs, supplies, and initiatives throughout the Rock Island-Milan School District.

Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation

Founding Board Members:

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Today, the Education Foundation would not be able to maintain its mission to “enhance academic opportunities for student success” without the magnanimity of our supporters. We appreciate our many donors who, like our founders, understand the impact of their gifts. Each contribution provides the resources for programs that would otherwise go unfunded or rewards a deserving graduate with a scholarship to further pursue their career goals

The Education Foundation has grown tremendously in 30 years: growing our starting assets of \$15,000 to over \$3,000,000; compiling a database with nearly 6,000 names of alumni & supporters; and hosting two major programs - the PRIME Grants and the Academic Achievement Awards & Scholarship Night. In 2016, these programs awarded over \$150,000 to teachers and graduating seniors.

Support the ongoing work of the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation by helping us celebrate our 30th Anniversary with a donation to our “30 for 30” campaign. If you have never given to the Foundation in the past, please consider a donation of \$30. If you have already contributed, please consider an additional donation of \$30 or increasing your regular annual donation by 30%!

Thank you for being the “Rock” of our Foundation!

Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Gift \$100,000 to RIMEF

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation has received a \$100,000 gift from long-time, strong supporters and donors Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds. The donation was given at the beginning of August and will be invested carefully to establish a future program to benefit the students of RIMSD41.

Over the years, the Reynolds have made multiple contributions to the Education Foundation and endowed two scholarships: the Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Scholarship in 2012 and the Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Automotive Scholarship in 2014. Those donations and scholarships have provided resources for Rock Island-Milan teachers and assisted graduates to further their education. This most recent, act of philanthropy will allow the Foundation to invest even more in the future of our children by providing excellence in education.

Mr. Reynolds, a 1965 graduate of Rock Island High School and successful businessman, has always felt that giving back was very important. “The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation is an excellent way to give back to the community and I would strongly encourage everyone to take time and talk to the amazing people at the Foundation. No one has ever become poor by giving!”

The Education Foundation is humbled and grateful for the benevolence of Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds. Their gift is a profound demonstration of trust and commitment to the mission of the Education Foundation. The impact of the Reynolds’ astounding generosity on the education of Rock Island-Milan students will be felt for years to come.

"Score" for Education



The leading provider of Quad Cities high school sports play-by-play, QCSportNet.com, will livestream each of the Rocky football and all girls & boys basketball games with big benefits for the Education Foundation!

For every point scored by Rocky's football team, the Foundation will receive \$1. For every 3-point play scored by the girls or boys basketball teams, the Foundation receives \$3!

Chris Elsberg State Farm Insurance and QCSportsNet will guarantee a minimum of \$1,000 to the Foundation whatever the total score.

Go to QCSportsNet.com & support your Rocks as QCSportsNet supports our mission!

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation was formed in 1986 to solicit and receive funds to support academic programs in the Rock Island-Milan School District. A board of directors, composed of volunteer professional, business, and community leaders, governs the operations of the foundation.

Monta Ponsetto, Executive Director

DIRECTORS

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ROCK SOLID: Our History



Rock Solid: Our History

Alumni Doug Frazier, Rick Miers, and Dave Sebben have authored a book of the history of Rock Island High School. **Rock Solid** is filled with stories and photographs collected from countless school newspapers, yearbooks, and the archives of the high school, Rock Island Library, and

Rock Island County Historical Society. The

230-page book is loaded with interesting Rocky facts, bios of some more famous Rocky grads, military service of graduates, and more. **Rock Solid** would make a terrific gift for anyone who walked the halls of RIHS!

The authors are generously donating all the proceeds from the sale of the book to the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation.

Rock Solid: Our History is available for \$30 and can be purchased online at: www.amazon.com

Be a Rock

This year, the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation awarded over \$150,000 in scholarships and grants to RI students, teachers and schools. The RIMEF is able to fulfill its mission to "provide for expanded academic opportunities for student success" only through the generosity of every individual, family, or business who sends a check, donates online, supports a program, buys a Major Saver card, or establishes a scholarship. Our "Rocks" make this all possible!

Be a Rock – donate by cash, check or online at any level to support one or all our programs.

Be a Rock – make a memorial or honorary contribution for a friend or family member.

Be a Rock – make a more substantial gift through planned giving in a bequest or will.

Be a Rock and support the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation so every student in the Rock Island-Milan School District has the opportunity to achieve academic success!